

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1869.

MASONIC DISCIPLINE.—XI.

BY CRUX.

Many brethren may be inclined to urge that the examination test might be conducted by the members of each individual lodge, but there are many and weighty objections against such a measure. There are a few, a very few lodges in which a Master is not promoted to the chair, until he has passed an examination before a selected number of members, or board of P.M.'s. In the first place on principle this arrangement is defective, because the examining body is also in a great degree the elective one, and would therefore be able to ensure the promotion of the officer, whether he was in reality competent or not, to undertake the duties of the office.

It is not to be understood that the possibility of an incompetent officer being appointed, necessarily entails the occurrence of that circumstance, but the very fact that such a contingency is possible, leaves room for doubt, and the wise man observes "where there is doubt, there is danger." Again, it is well known that with the exception of the I.P.M. the P.M.'s as a rule, are not very well up in their work, and certainly scarcely qualified, in the majority of instances to act the part of examiners. This remark is not made in a disparaging sense, nor is it to be supposed that because an old P.M. may be unable to go through the three degrees, he was never an efficient W.M. Quite the contrary. The best W.M. that ever filled the chair, will unavoidably forget the ritual, the rites, and the ceremonies, after a few years of retirement from the duties of the office. Use preserves the steel that idleness rusts. It must also be borne in mind, that when a brother arrives at the rank of a P.M., he has virtually done his work, and is entitled to enjoy his *otium cum dignitate*. At the same time, we should be totally misunderstood, were the conclusion drawn from the above statement, that we consider the whole hope and object of a brother's Masonic career to terminate with "passing the chair." In fact, his real knowledge, and appreciation of the beauties of Masonry, of the vital principles of our noble Order, and the inner ideal mysteries of the Craft, only commence then. He has then leisure to actually study Freemasonry, to dive below the surface, to

investigate the origin of the ritual, to examine into the rationale of its composition, and to regard it as something more, than a mere assemblage of elegant phrases and nicely worded sentences.

While many brethren are content, having once arrived at the dignity of a P.M., to retire upon their laurels, and become "dining members," there are upon the other hand, abundance of examples where the attainment of the rank, looked forward to, as a haven of repose by many, is but a spur to further exertions. There are P.M.'s who like the warriors of old, are ever ready for action, and are as willing at any moment to get into the "chair" as their Masonic predecessors were to get into the saddle. These are the true bulwarks of the Craft; these are they who have been weighed in the balance and found *not* wanting. It is but natural that a brother should consider, as he is is certain to do without reflection, that if he can efficiently perform the ceremonies of the three degrees, he has nothing more to learn of blue Masonry. This is one of the most stupendous errors ever committed. A brother may be a most efficient W.M., may be endowed with the most brilliant powers of elocution, may possess great natural gifts which will enhance the execution of his duties, may perform them in a manner that defies criticism, and yet know absolutely nothing of Masonry. This statement may appear somewhat paradoxical, but it is notwithstanding perfectly true. Similarly, it is not an uncommon occurrence to meet with a case involving conditions of an exactly opposite nature. It is known that some people have an invincible repugnance to public speaking, although of a most limited description, and even when the audience may not exceed half a dozen in number. The poet Cowper was an instance in point. His unconquerable timidity and aversion to speaking in public, amounted to a direct constitutional infirmity. He renounced, in comparatively early life, a lucrative situation, from the sheer impossibility of his being able to merely read aloud, a declaration in the presence of a select number of the members of the House of Commons. This natural timidity, or nervousness, is not only apparent in the manner in which a W.M. conducts the ceremonies, but it also betrays itself by the effect it produces upon his memory. This is sometimes so powerful, as to amount to almost a complete extinction of that wonderful faculty. We have known a Master to be compelled to resign the chair to another brother

in utter desperation, and yet upon retiring immediately into the ante-room, to be able to repeat with fluency what, but a few minutes previously, the rack could not have extorted from him. Yet this brother was a profound Mason, a well read man, an able writer, and a sound authority upon all Masonic matters admitting of honest and candid discussion. To our younger brethren, some of whom are undoubtedly affected in this manner, we say, there is only one cure, but it is a certain one, "speak on every occasion? in public that you possibly can. Never mind so much what you speak; cultivate the habit of talking to an audience, clearly and distinctly; acquire fluency first and sense will come afterwards. Accustom yourselves to rise at a moment from your seat and launch out into some general remarks, which will give you time to collect your thoughts, and come to the point you desire.

Although we think sufficient reasons have been given, to demonstrate that the practice of conducting the examination of officers, should be vested in the hands of the supreme authority, rather than confided to the heads of separate lodges, yet there is another which possesses urgent claims in favour of the plan we have alluded to. It is, that complete unanimity, the one requirement needed to render Freemasonry perfect, would be thus ensured. It is evident that so long as each individual lodge retains in its own hands the education, so to speak, of its members or officers, so long will the present discrepancies in their separate workings continue to exist. Can there be anything more absurd than the statement repeatedly put forward, that such and such a lodge works according to so and so? Every brother must feel that the common remark, "our lodge does not work like yours, we work according to so and so," is a self contradiction of the boasted universality of the Craft. Imagine one regiment of the line being drilled according to one fashion, and another in a different manner. Consider how derogatory it is to our ancient and honourable Institution, that it can be truthfully said, we do not work all our lodges in accordance with any abstract immutable Masonic principles, but that the ritual and ceremonial routine vary in each lodge, accordingly as it adopts the system of Jones or that of Robinson, or of some one else. The absence of a fixed standard, of a definite and unalterable code of instructions, and of a proper degree of surveillance is thus rendered painfully manifest. The same evil is perpetuated by the

lodges of Instruction, since they also are worked after different fashions. This is undoubtedly one reason that they are not better attended, for it is clear that there is little or no use in a brother going to learn his duties in a lodge of instruction, that works on a principle different to the one employed in his own lodge. Thus it frequently happens that a brother does not attend a lodge of instruction simply because he would have to unlearn a great portion of what he acquired there. He can of course always find a lodge of instruction which is conducted upon a system similar to that of his own lodge, but in many instances it may be so remotely situated as to cause him great inconvenience to attend. Having laid down the proposition, that it is incumbent upon the supreme authority to institute some method of improving the Masonic education of the members of the Craft, so as to afford to those who are desirous of being working, not playing Masons, the opportunity of obtaining accurate and uniform instruction, we may now proceed to discuss the matter a little in detail.

MASONIC LIFEBOAT FUND.

We are glad to say that this fund at length promises to be a success, and we trust that so soon as the committee is formed, proceedings will be taken to put our boat in water. We cannot however conceal the fact that there has been a want of that lively interest in the matter, which is generally not the case with the fraternity. We still think that this indifference springs, not from a real want of interest in the subject, but rather from the fact that the fund has not been brought before the Craft in such a manner as to attract attention. This, doubtless will be remedied, and the National Life Boat Institution's hands be strengthened by the present of the Masonic Life Boat.

It will be seen from another part of the MAGAZINE that the Merchants of Mincing-lane, London, have presented the National Life-Boat Institution with the magnificent sum of £1,000 to defray the cost of a new Life Boat at Montrose. Surely for the credit of the fraternity, the Freemasons of the British Isles, will no longer be backward in the cause of the fund.

BALUSTRE.—All documents issued by the Sovereign Inspectors or Supreme Councils of the thirty-third degree, Ancient Scotch rite, are called "Balustres."—*Mackey.*

INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE MASONIC
ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, UPON
FRIDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 1869.

By HYDE CLARKE, *Corresponding Member of the American Oriental Society, Member of the German Oriental Society, of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen, of the Society of Engineers of Vienna, of the Byzantine Philological Society, Fellow of the Ethnological Society, of the Statistical Society, &c.; D.D.G.M., of Turkey.*

IN laying the foundations of a new institution it is useful to consider our motives, so that we may ascertain how far we have practical scope for our exertions. Freemasonry exercises an attraction not only on its own members within, but on others without, on those who become candidates, on those who abstain from doing so, on the student of ancient mysteries, on the political inquirer. It is not so much because it has of itself the aspect of mystery that it is sought and inquired into, but because it is regarded in its connection with a phase of the human mind, recognisable in all ages.

It is this which gives the human interest to Freemasonry, because it responds to a feeling of man exhibited in all ages. Hence there is an archaic character communicated to Freemasonry, because, if not the descendant, it is the representative of ancient institutions, like some dynasty ruling over a great and ancient empire, still called a Pharaoh or a Cæsar when the blood of the Pharaohs and Cæsars has long departed, and a name alone remains. There will be those eager to believe that a dynasty can never wholly perish, but that some descendant, some female offspring, will preserve the ancient line. There are others, again, who deny to the new monarch all claim on the pristine stock. The ancient kings of Persia were reputed and believe to have transmitted their royal descent to the kings of Parthia, and afterwards of Armenia; and these, again, to have given origin to the family of Basil the Macedonian, Emperor of Constantinople. Basil, also, in the female line, claimed alliance with the house of Constantine the Great, as Constantine did with the Gracchi and the Æmilii, and hence with the founders of the Roman State. How much of this is true it is left to the individual believer or doubter to decide, for the evidence is so remote that the result is a matter of faith.

So it is at present with regard to Freemasonry. It is affiliated on ancient systems, and a line of descent is provided for it by means of Rosicrucians, Templars, oriental societies, colleges of Rome, and mysteries of ancient temples, carrying back its claims to the remotest times, and to the origin of society and of nations. Amid much that is not only uncertain, but must be impossible, there are still in the present constitution of Freemasonry many elements, undoubtedly old, belonging certainly to the middle ages, and suggestive of something farther back than the seventeenth century. It may be like a mediæval or Byzantine fortress in the East, made up of fragments of all ages, built up together haphazard—here a stone from a Christian basilica, bearing a cross, there the bench of a theatre, again a marble with archaic carvings of undefinable date.

In determining the constitution of the fabric or Freemasonry, there must be, and there will be,

diversity of opinions; but for the very purpose of exercising this diversity of opinions many men are prepared to assemble, each expecting to arrive at some definite result. Whether any absolute result will be achieved remains to be seen; but the honest search after truth always furnishes its own reward.

The very course of Freemasonry in the last century and a half has been unfavourable to researches. On its reorganisation in England with a Grand Lodge, and its diffusion abroad, it started with great pretensions to antiquity, perhaps justified by its real claims, but, at all events, exaggerated by the false schools of archæology ruling in the first half of the last century, and not yet extinct. With some men to suggest a coincidence is to establish identity. The adoption of any geometrical symbol, as the triangle, for instance, which is common to the sentiment of all ages, becomes a means of establishing a connection with all nations and systems that have ever used a triangle, or that have ever had reference to the number 3. It is quite sufficient that in any part of Freemasonry such reference to 3 should be adopted and developed to enable the credulous and the enthusiastic to establish identity with any sect or body or society of Mussulmans or Chinese who make symbolic use of the same number. Credulity is catholic and universal. The Mussulman Dervish, or the Chinese member of a Triad is equally ready to acknowledge the common claim of the Masonic symbol. It is a kind of compliment to himself and his society that the member of some other Dervish or Triad Society should be present from the far west. Neither can understand the language or system of the other; but each votary is ready to believe that if he could understand thoroughly it would be found all right, and that the respective systems can be conciliated on some ancient and common basis.

It is not alone the flux of time which has so encumbered Freemasonry, but each country in which it has been practised has contributed something to these adventitious appendages. It is indeed injurious to Freemasonry that many are drawn to it by the promise of these outside trumpetings of mystery and marvel, and of which the initiate finds no performance. For him there are no explanations or applications of the Cabbala, no direct elucidation of the Eleusinian mysteries, no light thrown on Templar history, no realization of the Rosicrucian system. Not finding what he looked for, the aspirant is disappointed with what exists. In vain he tries degree after degree, lured by the lavish praises of professors, who hint at its perfections before initiation and dilate upon them afterwards. The neophyte has not attained to that perfect faith in the idol, and the ceremonies received with so much applause by their votaries do not charm the more by their repetition, but pall the more, and, in the end, he leaves in disgust.

The ceremonies themselves, often curtailed, insufficient even when given in full, seldom satisfy the ardent inquirer in the prosecution of his studies, nor does he find any private help. The best-informed persons are commonly those best practised in the performance of the ceremonies, and least acquainted with them, brimful of faith and admiration, and never able to go beyond some stereotyped formula, which, to the educated man, of itself requires explanation. As to

books, under the plea of decent reserve as to mysteries, they are only expansions of the same inanities, with long declamations on the beauty of the system.

Now, as the real aim of the best men is the acquirement of knowledge and their own improvement, it is not surprising that such men become greatly dissatisfied, nor can all the exhortations of the most steadfast maintain them within the pale; for what to the mass of men is a great promotion and a great enjoyment is to them a most serious loss. The constant performance of the same ceremonies in a stereotyped abridgment is one of the greatest trials of human patience, and no extent of laudation suffices to make it palatable. The chance of participating further as a celebrant is seldom an adequate temptation. In vain are the virtues of charity set forth, and the merit of those excellent establishments, the Masonic benevolent institutions. It is difficult to persuade the professional man, who has his own provision for decayed members, widows, and orphans, that a great aim and end of life is the stewardship or governorship of the three Masonic charities. The member contributes, it may be, but he foregoes his membership.

The loss of members takes place at each stage of the career. Some drop off after initiation, some persevere to several degrees, some retire after serving office, and then, thinking they have paid all fees and discharged all duties, bid farewell to Freemasonry, with a kindly feeling, but with a fixed determination to devote no more time to its proceedings. Eating and drinking are strong inducements to some men but feeble barriers to keep in those who yearn for better things.

Thus it may be said without disguise that although Freemasonry enlists all ranks of society, there is a constant departure of its best members, through the stage of indifference to that of absenteeism and thence to total alienation, while there must in the nature of things be a residuum of the great mass of members, who are less desirable and less valuable. There is, consequently, ever among us a majority, inert for intellectual advancement, however laudably zealous in the maintenance of the fabric of Masonry and in noble devotion to its charities.

The several degrees and orders, other than those of the simple craft degrees, do not materially affect the course of events, although they may entangle some members for a time in their administration. It may safely be said that they neither explain their own relations nor those of the craft degrees, and rather augment the perplexities of the enquirer and feed his dissatisfaction.

It is under such circumstances that we find inside and outside of Freemasonry those who hold that it is a profitless employment of time, and that it has nothing worthy of consideration. It is to be remarked, on the other hand, that, notwithstanding all such expressions, for above a hundred years Freemasonry has constituted a great and growing organisation in all countries, enlisting men of all nations and religions. If in this country a consistent and conscientious abstinence from political or sectarian influence diminishes its social and political importance as an organisation, this is by no means the case in other countries, and the consideration of Freemasonry as a whole exhibits it as an institution exercising very great influence on society. Its real history con-

nects it with the secret practices of many bodies of craftsmen, and with the most ancient forms of association for mystic celebrations. Treat it as we will, strip it of all legendary claims, and of all pretension unjustified by the strictest evidence, we have to deal with it as a great fact, and with its relations to some very interesting portions of human history.

The examination of the various subjects connected, directly or indirectly, with Freemasonry will open a new field of exertion for the members of the body. This may not give every one the solution he wishes, because, in many cases, from the want of evidence, the truth will evade our grasp, but we must nevertheless arrive at some solid conclusions of interest, not only to ourselves, but to men of learning outside our body.

The moment is particularly favourable. Public attention is extended to Freemasonry even in the highest ranks. This is the twenty-fifth year of the Grand Mastership of the Earl of Zetland. Grand Lodge has at length provided a building for its members apart from the tavern, with which Masons have been too long connected in their own notions and in those of the public. The appropriation of the hall to Masonic purposes necessarily ensures the establishment of the library. There are in the possession of Grand Lodge a number of records and documents, the study of which will be of much service, and once the attention of members is called to the subject there will be large accumulations of books and other collections of this description. In our short existence we have already lost one of our earliest supporters, the late Wm. Gray Clarke, Grand Secretary, who was a cultivator of Masonic studies. Of those connected with Grand Lodge, no better testimony can be offered than that of our meeting this evening within the precincts of the building, as a liberal acknowledgment of the cultivation of learning. Another example of the spirit of the time is the formation of a library by the Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

In most respects, however, everything has yet to be done. The greatest zeal has been displayed in those countries where it can produce the smallest fruits. That great branch of the English nation established in the United States early accepted from our Grand Lodge the systems of working, and they have carried out the organisation to a wide extent. American Masons have printed much, but their own records, in the nature of things, afford them little, and they have chiefly republished, or worked up, the defective material from here. The same state of affairs has impeded the efforts of the German writers. The want of accurate knowledge of this the central country of Grand Lodge Masonry has not only embarrassed the German enquirers, but exposed them to be deceived by spurious documents. The French authors have devoted themselves chiefly to the internal and personal history of Masonry in France, supplemented by the various growths of imposture and false philosophy.

The elements of Masonic history have not as yet been sufficiently supplied. We want a large knowledge of the personal history of the persons engaged in the building up of the system; we want a collection of stray passages in newspapers, books, and letters; we want internal materials and all the evidence as to the external influences affecting the organisation of the system. In default of these, we have been exposed

and shall be exposed to the raw attempts of unskilful writers at theorising on the history of Masonry, giving us a small amount of facts, not even analysing or testing these, admitting every falsification of history, each forged charter, each scrap of exploded erudition, and overlaying the whole with theoretical dissertations commenting on the undigested mass.

The last century was peculiarly fertile in literary forgery and imposture, and Masonry did not escape its influence. It is sufficient to cite Macpherson's Ossianic epics, Chatterton's Rowley poems, and Ireland's Shakspeare forgeries, or, to extend the circle, George Psalmanazar's Formosan language, the Abbe Vella's sham Arabic MSS. in Sicily (H. W. Freeland's Lectures), and the arch charlatan, Cagliostro. This spirit is not yet extinct in this day. Witness Klaproth's imposition on the English and Russian Governments of a fabricated geography of High Asia, the Greek MSS. of Simonides, and the Book of Mormon. In the last century forgery was rife, and the narrow field for critical inquiry gave it considerable scope. It was only by chance, and after a time, that the criminal was laid hold of in the open literary world; but in Masonry he had the sanctuary of its mysteries to protect him, and each wonderful record and impossible charter was received without contradiction and with applause.

It is strange that some of these sham MSS. are less ancient than the real records discovered by J. O. Halliwell and Matthew Cooke; but the difference is that in the latter case we get evidence which can be used safely and in extension of our knowledge; but with spurious data, we only accumulate unsafe material. One piece of work for this Institute will be the examination, from time to time, of alleged ancient records, and the removal of those that are proved to be false.

The history of the ceremonies within the historical period of a century and a half has to be examined and ascertained, so that we may know what is old and new within that period, and what are the remains of the really ancient. This can only safely be done in a society like this. Hence we arrive at a double form of our labours, one common to us with the learned world at large, and which we can safely publish in "transactions," and one which can only be pursued among ourselves and not published. The great mass of our proceedings will, however, be accessible to Masons in general and the world at large, but yet, among ourselves, we shall have restrictions. There will be only the simple degrees which we can discuss in common, one degree beyond, and common propriety dictates that the consideration must be restricted to those who have participated in the ceremonies of the degree. These cases, however, will be rare in comparison with the general subjects, which form the scope of such an institution, and indeed they will not furnish the matter of ordinary, but of extraordinary, meetings. On the other hand, the whole historical matter of these degrees and rites is open to us as to the rest of the world.

The formation of the Grand Lodge of England and the reconstitution of Freemasonry, which was its consequence, are fertile in topics of enquiry. At that period there was a mania for societies of pretentious antiquity and mystery—the Gormagons, the Gregorians,

and others—the annals of which have not been investigated, nor has any attention been given to the circumstances that encouraged their production. It is by no means impossible that some of these societies may have been Hanoverian or Jacobite, that is, political; as Freemasonry is said to have been in England during the Civil Wars, and as it is said to have been afterwards under the first Grand Lodge in France. This observation may be made, which is not undeserving of being followed up, that the chiefs of the English Freemasons were men favourable and acceptable to the reigning government of the House of Hanover, and it may have been this fact which led to the encouragement of the revived society by political persons high placed, and, consequently, to its rapid development. We want, therefore, in this case likewise, more of the personal history of the leaders of the Freemasons and the contemporaneous societies. A society like that of Freemasonry, which inculcated loyalty and obedience, was very acceptable to a government by no means firm. It is deserving of investigation how far Jacobites could and did comply with the ancient charges.

The whole history of the revival and of the Lodges anterior to the Grand Lodge may yet be susceptible of further elucidation. Whether the founders of the Grand Lodge took up or inherited a system of working, yet in the main it was one of Craft Lodges, as the former Lodges are seen to have been Craft Lodges. There could have been very little comparatively of the essential parts of the ceremony or organisation invented by the founders of Grand Lodge, although they and their followers developed it, but the elements of the system existed in England and Germany in craft guilds. Although there are so many points of resemblance between Freemasonry and the London Company of Freemasons, yet this company cannot well have afforded the exemplar, because the difference in its organisation in some degree differs, and it cannot have preserved the ceremonies of the working man, from whom its ruling body was practically dissevered. Nevertheless, the records of the Masons' Company may yet throw light on some general and personal details. It is, however, in some provincial guild of Masons we shall most likely find the examples followed in the seventeenth century. The whole of mediæval Masonry, with its guilds, customs, and masons' marks, affords good scope for exertion.

The influences which led to the adoption of craft forms for organisations of philosophic speculators have yet to be investigated. These may possibly be found in the necessities for political organisation, but it is much more likely that they were fostered among us by the spirit for such associations long developed among students on the Continent. Of these, the Rosicrucians are an example, and the initiations of artists in Italy another; but research will display to us many instances of such societies.

Every possible clue will be traced as investigations proceed, and facts accumulate, enabling us to apply a sounder criticism to the examination of old and new facts, and hence we may in time obtain more satisfactory theories. The ardour of some to advance their own special studies will promote the work. Hence we shall have votaries of the Templars, of Mussulmans, of Gnosticism, and eastern initiations and mysteries,

and of those of ancient times, all pursuing their several courses of research. Thus too we shall accumulate facts with regard to all nations, the *Tried* and other Societies of the Chinese, the practices of American Indians, as described by our member, Mr. Hepworth Dixon.

Each of these again contributes to auxiliary branches of study. Symbolism admits of practical illustrations, and can be traced among many widely-separated nations. The main history, however, is that of the human mind in all ages, exercising a general influence on the destinies of mankind, constantly repeating examples of the same phenomena, and illustrating ancient continuity even in what appears to us a new development of later times. To a certain extent, the history of Freemasonry must be the history of philosophy.

The consideration of these topics will not admit of their prosecution simply by dissertations, dry or amusing; they will depend much on discussion and the communication of auxiliary or corrective facts from individual observers; more, in fact, on discussion than on exposition. The collection of manuscripts, drawings, engravings, paintings, caricatures, seals, clothing, and every detail illustrative of the various topics is essential to their proper treatment, and will contribute to its interest.

In fact, what has been seen in the lodge-room will give a very inadequate idea of what may be accomplished in this Institute; but yet it must be under much the same moral circumstances, there must be the same forbearance, the same brotherly feeling, the same common desire to promote the cause of good. In accomplishing this design, much must be left to the result of experience, and too much cannot be expected at first. Much, too, must be left to the discretion of the Council, for it is not easy to frame rules at once. Thus, even with regard to the admission of visitors, no certain law can be laid down at first. If we are to have profitable and pleasant discussions, we shall have to train our members, and to use discretion in the invitation of strangers. Masons, not members, who have a special knowledge of a subject, are desirable co-operators, and will have to be sought for.

In adopting for this Institute the same basis as the other archaeological societies, and with a small subscription, it is hoped that it has the like prospect of practical success. At all events, this question is already settled, that not only are there numerous topics available, but that there are those competent and willing to deal with them, whether by the way of proposition or discussion. Here, again, we must narrow our expectations. Some, from native zeal for a good cause, will readily come forward in the first instance; but there are many who will naturally wait to see that their contributions are not thrown away, and some of these loiterers will be among the most valuable co-operators. Thus there are many who have private collections, which they may give us in the course of time, but which they naturally do not wish to risk on an early venture. The more we persevere, and the more safely we proceed, the more assured shall we be of greater and greater success.

In the progress of such a society, if properly conducted, we shall find new resources for the advancement of Masonry. What Lodges and Chapters of

Instruction are for the routine, what the *Lodge of Emulation* is, now meeting in a neighbouring room, this Institute will become for the higher functions of Masonry. It will be a necessary supplement to all degrees, a repertory of information on all subjects with which the time and organisation of Lodges of Instruction cannot cope, and yet which will send many a member with new zest to Lodges of Instruction to master the detail, feeling a greater interest in the principles. It cannot fail, by communicating a greater interest in Masonry, to induce many esteemed members to adhere more steadfastly to their Lodges, and we may win back some of those who have left.

It may, too, have this good effect, that it will constitute a new career in Freemasonry, now restricted to the administrative career, which is not sufficient for all. From circumstances, some find sufficient inducement in the performance of Lodge and Grand Lodge offices, and in the management of our charities; but this cannot satisfy all. There is no reason why this Institute should not supply constant subjects of interest, nor is it to be feared that it will want attractions for men of science, because it will not be narrowed in its investigations to Freemasonry in its technical limitations, but extend to such scope as to afford the most liberal treatment and discussion of many great questions.

In dealing with the relations of an organisation which embraces above a million of men in all regions of the globe, we may be useful, and must become contributories to the advancement of learning, it may even be by carrying out a legitimate work of Freemasonry in dissipating error, as in the detection of unauthorised legends. It does not, however, necessarily follow that, on determining that the relative antiquity of a practice or legend is less than was assumed, we should at once proceed to its abolition. We may retain that symbolically which is no longer required to be used by us as an actual tool or material. It must be that, while ever destroying what is false or ill-founded, we shall contribute to the building up and maintenance of what is true. At all events, we know this, that, in destroying anything that is false, we shall never undermine the great principles of our association, and that, combined together in the worship of the Great Architect of the Universe, it is our duty to maintain the principles of truth and virtue, and to apply them for the welfare of our fellow-men.

In bringing all things here discussed to these standards, in considering the past and preparing for the future, we may draw lessons from the experience of former ages, learn to avoid the errors of those who have gone before us, and to profit by their good teaching. Thus will the intellectual aspect of Freemasonry conform to its moral pretensions, and thus may it attain its real elevation. In this endeavour we shall be engaged in dispelling prejudices, and in cultivating reason, and where we can do no evil we must by active exertion achieve good. If we effect anything useful, the benefit will not be confined to ourselves; it will be no monopoly of ours, but a boon freely diffused, as indeed Freemasonry itself has been. Here we are so fused together by the practice of tolerance, confirmed and promoted by Freemasonry itself, that we scarcely appreciate the advantages of Freemasonry; but on looking at it in its relation to the world at

large, we recognise the example it has given of men of all sects, all nationalities, and all political parties, associated together under the invocation of One God of All, to maintain harmony with each other, to advance the moral interests of all members, and to inculcate their duty labouring for the amelioration of mankind in general. Where society is most in harmony with the principles of Freemasonry, as here or in the United States, its greatest qualities are in abeyance; but let civil or foreign discord invade even the community, and Freemasonry at once becomes an operative system. It is in those countries of India and the East where diversity of creed and race sever man from man in ordinary society that Freemasonry is doing its greatest and noblest work; and as no man enters the body for individual advantages, to be conferred on himself alone, but for the benefit of his fellow-men, so do many remain enlisted in Freemasonry for the sake of the great work it is doing in other lands, and in promoting the amelioration of mankind and their advancement to the common enjoyment of the blessings of matured knowledge and of progressive well-being.

Such are what we acknowledge as the true purposes of Freemasonry; and if we succeed by means of this Institute in cultivating these, we shall have attained an ample inducement to exertion and a legitimate justification for its foundation and maintenance.

EMBLEMS FOR SHOW.

A perfect fury appears to rage wildly through the American Press, against the display of Masonic jewellery. Undoubtedly, as the *Craftsman* says:—

“One of the most fruitful sources of evil to the Masonic institution and most inconsistent practices of its members, is the display of Masonic emblems in the form of jewelry, conspicuously placed on their persons to attract the attention of the community.” One might suppose, from its prevalence among the fraternity, that so soon as you are inducted into the Order, it is obligatory to publish to the world that you are a Freemason. Indeed, to such an extent does this practice prevail, that almost every other young man you meet has either a Masonic pin in his neck tie, or his watch chain borne down with the weight of Masonic jewels. Nor does the display stop here, but some more zealous of the Craft have these emblems printed on business cards, painted on sign boards, on bar-room windows; and we have even heard of them being engraven on dog chains; this last application of them is, we presume, designed to insure the life of the dog. Whenever we see a profusion of these emblems displayed upon the person, we cannot help the conclusion

that it is either done through ignorance, a misapprehension of the nature of our institution, or from sinister motives, and a desire to speculate upon Freemasonry.

There is no language too strong to express the condemnation by the true spirit of Freemasonry of this prostitution of its privileges, or this perversion of its sacred emblems. Masonry is a secret institution, and the great responsibility that rests upon every member to keep sacred and inviolable the secrets that are committed to him, should keep them ever mindful of the injunction, never to let fall the least sign, token or word, whereby the secrets of Masonry might be unlawfully obtained.

Let no one imagine that because he has passed through the ceremonies of the several degrees, and become a Templar Mason, that Masonry has done its work upon him, and that, therefore, he is bright in the noble art, and that all that remains for him to do is to adorn himself externally with Masonic emblems, and proclaim to the world that he is a luminary in its sacred temple; but rather let him seek to adorn his mind and heart with its noble principles and generous affections, by studying its moral teachings, and expending the money wasted on those expensive emblems in drying the tears of the widow and orphan, cheering the heart of the desolate, so that when he knocks at the door of the Grand Lodge above, our Supreme Grand Master will say, “Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in.”

ECLECTIC MASONRY.—This was an order or rite established at Frankfort, in Germany, in the year 1783, by Baron de Knigge, for the purpose, if possible, of abolishing the *hautes grades*, or philosophical degrees, which had, at that period, increased to an excessive number. This “Eclectic Masonry” acknowledged the three symbolic degrees only as the true ritual, but permitted each lodge to select at its option any of the higher degrees, provided they did not interfere with the uniformity of the first three. The founder of the rite hoped by this system of diffusion to weaken the importance, and at length totally to destroy the existence of these high degrees. But he failed in this expectation; and while these high degrees are still flourishing, there are not a dozen lodges of the Eclectic rite now in operation in Europe. Into this country it has never penetrated.—*Mackey.*

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

SEIGMUND SAX.

The brethren will be glad to learn that this *speculative* brother's career is not likely to prove successful in America; for, through the letters published in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, the Masonic journals across the Atlantic have taken him up, and posted the Craft against his craft.—A.B.

COMANCHE MASONRY.

To those who are fond of speculation, we present the following authentic story, as told by our venerable Bro. Henry King, of Perry, Indiana, relative to Bro. E. W. Taylor, P.G.M. of Texas:—

“Grand Master Taylor was speaking of the fact that among the aborigines of America, there existed individual chiefs, who had an imperfect acquaintance with Masonic mysteries. To illustrate his averment he related the following adventure:—Some time before, himself and one companion went one day some distance beyond the ‘settlement’ to hunt buffaloes. They anticipated no danger, and therefore, were completely surprised to find themselves suddenly surrounded and made prisoners by a band of hostile Comanches. A grand pow-wow was held over the captives, and soon it became evident, from the movements of the savages, that they had been doomed to the stake. The preparations were nearly completed, before Grand Master Taylor, in his distress bethought himself of the Masonic talisman which he carried with him. With no ‘great expectations’ to encourage him in its use, he yet determined to try it; and, accordingly, slowly and impressively, gave the G.H.S. Instantly one of the chiefs who had been superintending the arrangement of the faggots, sprang to his side, and grasped his hand, and, although unable to speak English, gave him to understand by signs, that his enmity had miraculously been converted into effective friendship. Returning to his companions, the noble keeper of his troth plead long and earnestly for his white brethren, and finally carried his point. The captives were released, hospitably entertained, and finally started homewards on their own mustangs, which their Indian frater had succeeded in reclaiming for them.” The incident is an interesting one, and Bro King vouches for its utter truthfulness.—U.S.

DNALXO AND FREEMASONRY.

I desire to express my opinion that the question as to Freemasonry being Christian, or simply Theistical, when viewed on its universal aspect, is one of vital importance. Bro. H. B. White is an able exponent on the side of the Christian character, and “Dnalxo” appears equally capable of supporting the other side. I, for one, should like to see the subject well considered in “Notes and Queries,” and promise, ere long, to write a series of articles on “Freemasonry and Christianity before and after the Union of A.D. 1813.” In the present day the Craft should be unsectarian, although before 1813 it was not.—W. J. HUGHAN.

BRO. HYDE CLARKE AND FREEMASONRY.

Whilst sympathising with the remarks by Bro. Hyde Clarke relative to the necessity of collecting more facts respecting Freemasonry before “we build

up theories,” I must at the same time express my regret that so accomplished a Mason as he, should be obliged to refrain *directly* from the study of Masonry. Many brethren look to Bro. Clarke for facts relating to the Craft, and theories also. In the past, his various contributions have been esteemed and deservedly valued. Let us hope, then, the future will witness the same result. Masonic investigation may be said to have only lately commenced, and much of the evidence of the nature of the Craft lies buried in forgotten and neglected records. Let those willing to aid in the study, search for something like data, and not seek to prove vain notions.—W. J. HUGHAN.

A MASON.

The name of a Mason is not to be in the contracted implication of a builder of habitations, but figuratively pursuant to the method of the ancient society on which this institution is founded; and, taken in this sense, a Mason is one who, by gradual advances in the sublime truths, and various arts and sciences which the principles and precepts of Freemasonry tend to inculcate and establish, is raised by regular courses to such a degree of perfection as to be replete with happiness to himself and extensively beneficial to others.—L.M.H.

“CRUX” ON BRO. SLACK’S LETTER TO THE PRINCE OF WALES (p. 109).

“Crux” hits the nail on the head when he says:—“Let Bro. Slack defend himself.”—COMMONSENSE.

SCOTTISH MASONIC CHARTERS, &c.

In connexion with the above subject, I consider it to be my duty to give the following valuable extract (which is the principal contents) of a letter (dated Jan. 28, 1869) which I received from Professor Cosmo Innes, V.P.R.S.E., &c. He has, indeed, been very kind in affording me this as well as other similar valuable information.—W. P. BUCHAN.

“I cannot advise you to put your faith to the document you showed me, either as an original charter or a copy, or a translation of any charter that could ever have existed—either of Malcolm IV., or of Malcolm Canmoir, or of any other King of Scots. It is simply a forgery or trick, and those who meddle with it in the way of supporting its authenticity, will not only dirty their hands in the foul mess, but will be well laughed at.

“I may say further, that no Mason’s lodge in the world can have (or can have had) a charter from any Malcolm, King of Scots. That is a mere delusion.

“If, indeed, you could connect yourselves with the brotherhood (*fraternitas*) founded by Bishop Jocelin in your city, and which evidently had an existence and action under William the Lion, it would be a fine pedigree to put forth.

“Whether your records, or the records of your city, will enable you to do so, I must not pronounce. But, to show you better what I mean, I will enclose a pretty literal translation of William’s Charter. The Charter standing in the old Register of the Bishopric of Glasgow would make faith in any court of law.

“If you won’t retort upon me that ‘the Sutor shouldn’t go beyond his last,’ I will venture a sug-

gestion. Honest Freemasons, who wish to avoid the reproach of trifling—even childishness—which the ignorant (uninitiated) throw on some of your proceedings, will avoid fables and fabulous pretence of antiquity. But for choice, they should take their Charters from Solomon rather than Malcolm of Scotland. The one passes like an Arabian Night's tale—people treat it as a harmless invention. But a Charter by a Scotch king who did or could give Charters, has a nasty resemblance to forgery and fraud. Pray forgive my lecture.

"Faithfully yours,
"C INNES."

'LUPUS' ON THE LODGE OF GLASGOW ST. JOHN
(page 108.)

"Lupus" must be an English Mason, or he would know that in some parts of Scotland we are neither very particular about "Masonic Discipline," nor Masonic efficiency either. He may, therefore, understand that the fact of Bro. Baird's never being a Warden was no bar to his getting the chair. Further, it would seem (at least, so far as the practice hitherto in 3 bis is concerned), that it is not considered quite respectable, nor is it necessary for the R.W.M. to condescend to work. It cannot—*e.g.*—be said of Bro. Anderson that he wasted his valuable time in posting himself up to work the degrees when he was in office. His master did not do it—*ergo*, neither would he.—X.Y.Z.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE LODGE 3^d GLASGOW.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I am very much amused at your report of the meeting of this lodge upon the 19th ult.; and at the teacup tempest of its R.W.M. I also laugh enjoyingly at the verdant innocence of James Anderson. The whole matter resolves itself into this: The Glasgow Lodge have *bounced* for too long a time about their antiquity as founded upon Charters, one of which is a forgery, and the other has nothing to do with the Craft in general, and the 3^d in particular. Bro. Buchan loves truth better than he loves the legends of his Mother Lodge, therefore Bro. Buchan must be kicked, stoned, spat upon, and finally cast out from the midst of his *believing* brethren. Bro. Anderson's reason for sticking to his mother's twaddle, puts me in mind of the saying, "what is, must be right."

There can be no apology offered for Bro. Slack. He was Secretary, and as such bound to correct any departure from Masonic rule. When I had the honour of being an active member of a lodge, the first question put to a candidate before he signed the Petition Book, was, "Do you come here of your own free will and accord, unbiassed by the solicitation of friends or others, and uninfluenced by improper motives?" If Bro. Slack was not the guilty party, why, in the name of every thing sensible, did he rush into print with the letters?

I do not like sweeping denunciations, but I think that the Lodge 3^d would be none the worse of being renovated, like the "Highlander's gun," with a new stock, lock, and barrel.

Yours fraternally,
AN AGED P.M.

MASONIC CHIVALRY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have made an alarming discovery. I am not fully prepared now to divulge the extent of it, but briefly I may state that Noah founded the Order of the Garter, Nebuchadnezzar the Thistle, and Herod that of St. Patrick. It is a popular delusion that the Apprentice is the first degree, it is the 33rd. The Red Cross of Constantine is the 29th, and the Knight Kadosh is the first. I may state that there is no use for any brother to answer me, or attempt to prove that I am wrong. I am open undoubtedly to conviction, but I should rather like to see the man who is able to convince me.

Yours fraternally,
DEEP IN THE PAST.

BRO. FINDEL AND BRO. MORRIS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—There cannot be any doubt that it is not agreeable for me to have anything to do with Bro. Morris. Nevertheless, I feel it my duty to answer the article in the *Freemasons' Magazine* of 30th January, p. 82, not with the intention to set to right Bro. Morris and his friends, but only to repudiate the untrue assertions issued therein.

Relative to my "History of Freemasonry," I need not "claim great merit" for it, as I am in the happy position to be able to point to the judgments of the impartial Masonic press all over the world, even in America. In France, one of the ablest Masonic writers, Bro. J. G. Jouaust, at Rennes, author of the excellent "Histoire du Grand Orient," has reviewed my work in the "Bulletin du Grand Orient de France," and spoken of it in quite as eulogizing terms as has done the learned editor of "Le Monde Maçonnique," Bro. Franz Favre.

As Bro. Morris thinks fit to point to a review in the *New York Dispatch*, as having not left a peg for my history to hang upon, I am happy to point to another review in the *same* paper of February 9th, 1868, where the author says:—

"After having been surfeited so long upon Egyptian mysteries. Pagan rites and Heathen ceremonials, and lectured upon the general science and progress of architecture, it is really refreshing to have at last a history of Freemasonry, in which truth is the principal ingredient. All honour, then, to the faithful, plodding German, who has dealt so honestly and conscientiously with the facts of Freemasonry; who has had the courage to sweep away the historic cobwebs in which it has been enveloped: to drive fables to the nursery, and high-sounding titles and tawdry degrees to the admirers of cheap melodrama; who has not hesitated to tear down and trample upon some

of the literary gingerbread-work with which the institution has been so fantastically tricked out by well-meaning, but weak-minded brethren; who has boldly confronted those terrible fellows with the tremendous titles—those “Knights,” “Chevaliers,” “Princes,” “Sovereigns,” and other individuals of that ilk, who hold their secret cabals in the “Valley of New York” (?) latitude 42deg. 40m., or elsewhere.

“Let us then welcome the contribution of the industrious German to the literature of Freemasonry, for his honest endeavour to clear away the rubbish and reveal the glittering jewels of Masonry in their pristine brilliancy. Surely an institution which contains inherently so much of the good and the true and beautiful, which, in its severe simplicity, speaks to our best and highest feelings, which wipes away the tears from so many eyes, which pours the balm of compassion into so many bleeding hearts, which teaches so many sublime lessons, and leads the wandering soul heavenwards, needs not the vain claims of antiquity, nor the puerile ornamentation of the pedant or the trifler.”

The Boston “Masonic Monthly” (February, 1868), remarks:—

“It is but seldom that we have the opportunity to peruse a book on Masonic History which produces in us so much general satisfaction as has the work before us. While confessing that we cannot help thinking that the work of translation might have been better done than it has been done, we are pleased to be able to say that to the Masonic reader there is no extant work which will better repay an attentive perusal than Findel’s History.”

And the (London) *Freemasons’ Magazine*, 1868, Nos. 3 & 6, says:—

“We cannot speak too highly of its merits. We can conscientiously recommend not merely the perusal, but the study of this work to everyone of our readers. A new world is produced before his eye.”

That my work in the first edition is not and cannot be free from some errors and defects, I must concede. The task was too difficult, and the labour too great, to make the work perfect at once. I hope the second edition will prove more correct and more complete. That I “disrespect” the regulations of some American Grand Lodges is true, I am sorry to say, so far as they are unmasonic, irrational, and opposed to the true welfare of the Craft; but I am the first to respect them when in accordance with the spirit, the traditional laws, and when they are to the benefit of the Fraternity.

It is wholly untrue when Bro. Morris asserts,—“He (*i.e.*, I) ignores all the time-honoured traditions of the Craft; rejects the Holy Writings as part of the furniture of the lodge; changes the O.B. to a mere pledge of honour, and abandons all the ground, for which the wise and good men,” &c.

I *don’t* ignore the traditions of the Craft, as my work proves; but I can only acknowledge them as traditions, not as historical facts. I *don’t* reject the Holy Writings as part of the furniture of the lodge, as everybody knows in Germany, but, seeing that the Grand Orient of France—not a clandestine Grand Lodge—has put on the altar the Book of Constitutions for the Bible, I must for many grounds concede that it would, perhaps, be better for an association of good men of all creeds to put on the

altar a collection of moral truths and precepts of the Holy Writings of all creeds (Bible, Koran, Vedas, Zendavesta, &c.) I *don’t* change the O.B., but I have already found out the charge at my initiation to be a reform of some German Grand Lodges. Bro. Morris will allow me to say that an oath has its legal scruples (reflexions) in a secret society, and that the O.B. is tasteless and more fit for sailors than for Freemasons. To put aside the O.B., which has even no historical right, as its present form was not usually the same at all times, is, in my opinion, a wise and good reform of our German Grand Lodges, and is worthy of imitation.

Relative to the American negro-lodges, it is without doubt that there are some in America with a quite lawful warrant from Grand Lodge of England, as I have proved in my work. And the two lodges at New York, warranted by the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, “Bro. Findel’s favourites,” they may be clandestine in the eyes of American brethren, but they are everywhere acknowledged as perfect and regular lodges, like the □ zur aufg. Morgenrothe at Frankfort under the Grand Lodge of England. The so-called right of jurisdiction, taken from political affairs, and not at all founded on the Universal Masonic law, is an American prejudice, unmasonic, and quite absurd and ignominious in a Fraternity. In the Craft, every regular and good working lodge, composed of true brethren, must be welcome to every brother and to every Masonic body when warranted by any acknowledged Grand Lodge.

To finish, I declare that I am not inclined to answer further attacks of Bro. Morris. I desire to give a most loyal opposition to all prejudices, fables, and unsupported pretensions. I fight for the glory of the Craft, for pure, genuine Freemasonry; and my banner bears the inscription—“*Meliora praefero!*”

Yours fraternally,

J. G. FINDEL.

KING WILLIAM THE LION’S CHARTER.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have delayed a communication on this subject, as I am wishful to consult one of the greatest authorities on early and mediæval charters existing. He is, however, too ill to give me his valuable opinion, and I can only venture to put forward my own.

I believe that the Charter is a confirmation of an existing “fraternity” engaged in constructing the fabric, with a license to collect money for the purpose. The King would not confirm any Monastic fraternity, at least such fraternity required no confirmation at his hands. But an operative brotherhood established by Bishop Joceline, would require Royal authority, in order to send out its collectors with the authority of a Royal brief. With due submission, to Bro. Oneal Haye, the terms of the Latin could not be satisfied with merely an authority to collect money.

I am certainly of opinion that the Charter may be quoted as proof of the existence of an operative fraternity founded by Bishop Joceline in the construction and repair of the Cathedral.

Yours fraternally,

A MASONIC STUDENT.

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.—This useful and comprehensive publication is now issued. It can be obtained at the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, or in Glasgow, in addition to the regular agents.

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.

MASONIC LIFE BOAT FUND.—We are requested to mention that a committee is about to be formed for carrying out the purposes of the fund, and the Secretary (Bro. Anthony Oneal Haye) will be glad to receive the names of brethren willing to serve upon it. When the committee is formed, a list of subscriptions received will be published.

MASONIC ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—On another page will be found Bro. Hyde Clarke's address on the occasion of the inaugural meeting upon the 29th ult. The next meeting will take place upon Friday, the 26th inst., when Bro. George Lambert will read a paper upon "The Ritual of the Three Degrees, used by King Frederick of Prussia." Bro. Besant is to read a paper in connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund, illustrated with diagrams, on Tuesday, the 23rd March next. Applications for cards of admission by non-members, must be sent to the Honorary Secretaries not later than Saturday, the 20th inst. Brethren who may wish to exhibit MSS., &c., at this meeting, are requested to intimate their intention to the Honorary Secretaries, also by the 20th inst.

We regret to notice the death of Bro. John Crossby, Mayor of Sunderland, which melancholy event occurred on Friday, the 20th ult. Bro. Crossby, who was in his 65th year, was one of the most prominent Freemasons in Sunderland. He was three times Master of the St. John's Lodge (No. 80); he was also a P.M. of the Palatine Lodge (No. 97), and was the first W.M. of the Fawcett Lodge, Seabam Harbour (No. 661). He was also a P. Prov. S.G.W. of Durham, and a P.Z. and member of the Prov. G. Chapter of Durham. Bro. Crossby was universally respected, and his loss will be lamented by a large circle of the brethren of Durham, as well as by his numerous friends without the tessellated border. R. I. P.

MUNIFICENT GIFT TO THE NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION.—The merchants of Mincing-lane, London, through E. T. Keeling, Esq., E. D. Brown, Esq., and other gentlemen, have just presented to the National Lifeboat Institution the magnificent sum of £1000, to defray the cost of a new lifeboat at Montrose, N.B., and to assist in maintaining it in perpetuity.

In Iowa there are 114 working Masonic lodges and 9764 members.

METROPOLITAN.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—This excellent lodge held its usual monthly meeting on the 2nd inst., at the Freemasons' Hall. The lodge being opened in the first degree, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, after which a ballot was taken for the initiation of Mr. W. C. Vine, of St. Paul's-road,

Camden-town. The result of the ballot being satisfactory, that gentleman was introduced and received as a brother of the Order. Lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Solomon having satisfactorily answered the necessary questions, was duly raised M.M. Bro. James Burton, P.M., Sec., read a letter from Bro. Charles Sloman, soliciting the support of No. 9 in his application to become an annuitant in the Royal Benevolent Institution. The brethren unanimously promised their support. Bro. Fouchard having shown efficiency in the E.A. degree, was passed to that of F.C. Other matters of business were gone through of interest to the lodge; among which was a notice of motion by Bro. Albert, that a sum of five guineas be added to the list of Bro. Baylis, J.W., who has kindly consented to represent the Albion Lodge at the forthcoming festival of the Boys' School. Bro. Donaldson tendered his resignation as a member of the lodge, he having to leave England for some time. The brethren accepted the resignation with considerable regret, hearty good wishes being expressed for the future prosperity of Bro. Donaldson. The lodge was then closed in due form.

THE ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This old and influential lodge held its last meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, on Monday, the 1st inst., under the Mastership of Bro. John P. Bley, who, being about to retire from the duties of W.M., after a prosperous year's working, opened the lodge at four o'clock punctually, all his officers being in their places. It being the night for installing the W.M. elect, and for the appointment and investiture of the officers, a large number of members and visitors attended to do honour to the occasion of the installation of Bro. Herbert Dicketts, the W.M. elect. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read, Bro. Jones was introduced and examined previously to being raised. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and Bro. Jones was raised M.M. On his retirement the lodge was closed down to the second degree, when the S.W. and W.M. elect, Bro. Dicketts, was presented to the I.M. by the Dir. of Cers., and the usual introductory proceedings having been gone through, all the brethren below the rank of W.M. retired, and a Board of Installed Masters having been formed, the W.M., Bro. Bley, further proceeded with and concluded (in the presence of a large number of P.M.'s, and in a manner highly creditable to him) the ceremony of installation; after which the Board of Installed Masters was dissolved. Upon the readmission of the members of the lodge, Bro. P.M. Bley made the usual announcements to the brethren, who thereupon saluted the W.M. in the several degrees. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint and invest the officers for the year, who are as follows:—Bros. Charles A. Long, S.W.; Wm. S. Adams, J.W.; John E. Welch, P.M., Treas.; John W. Lyon, P.M. Sec.; Thomas Arnold, S.D.; Thomas Wingham, J.D.; Edwin W. Long, I.G.; Thomas A. G. Powell, C.S.; W. Watson, P.M., and John Dyte, P.M., as W. Stewards. The I.P.M. then delivered the usual addresses to the officers and brethren. The W.M., Bro. Dicketts, then proceeded to initiate the only candidate present, Mr. Charles Potter, and performed that ceremony in a style which we have rarely heard equalled, and never heard surpassed, for correctness of ritual, impressiveness of manner, and clearness of tone; and the ceremony having been completed, the Zetland Commemoration Fund was brought before the lodge, and several additional promises of support were then given to Bro. J. W. Lyon, P.M., the indefatigable Secretary of the lodge. The Masonic Life Boat Fund was then brought before the lodge, and a handsome donation agreed to be made. After the business was concluded the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet shortly after seven o'clock. The newly-installed W.M. presided in an admirable manner, and was ably supported by his officers and a large attendance of members and visitors. Amongst the latter were—Bros. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst.; Wm. Ough, Assist. G. Purst.; W. H. Warr, P.M. 23, P.C.S.; Wm. Smith, C.E., P.M. 26, 33, 840, W.M. 1238, P.G.S.; E. Spooner, P.M. 201; Bourne, W.M. 749; F. G. Baker, P.M. 753; Thomas White, 22; Samuel May, W.M. 101; F. H. Newer, W.M. 975; A. Joren, 902; John Boyd, P.M. 145; M. Sarson, 742; Charles Chard, W.M. 907; W. Hamilton, 34; Joseph Perry, 224; David Steer, 889; Charles Duke, S.W. 40; George F. Wood, J.D. 40; Frederick Gilbert, 534; T. J. Fenton, 275; Alfred Stedman, 73; Charles Sherriff, 338; T. Durkin, 72; James Hesu, 384. The following brethren were engaged, and sung several songs:—Bros. G. F. Carter, P.M. 383; Wm. Dawson, 186; Thomas Lawler, 92; William H. Bayne, 25, presided at the piano. The following members were also present:—Bros. F. W. Hartley, P.M.; W. B. Newland; Ed-

ward Moss, Charles Webber, John I. Wilson, E. W. White, James Lord, M. Durlach, Thomas Dixon, Charles Pavely, Phos. Munday, C. A. Luker, G. A. Edwards, Robert Harris, George Hawkins, G. F. Ford, W. H. Ward, A. Crawford, Thomas Wingham, jun.; J. Saqui, A. W. Harrison, W. Berment, D. N. Davies, W. F. Fenton, C. Kirby, F. W. Spencer, F. W. Farmer, J. Barnett, J. Gray, J. B. Axford, W. H. Bayne, E. Brown, H. T. Shilloto, Charles Sloman, P. Wilson, J. H. Pearce.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 27).—This lodge met on Thursday, February 4th, at Andersons' Hotel, Fleet-street, Bro. John Coutts, W.M. in the chair, Mr. W. Sutherland having been duly balloted for and accepted, was initiated by the W.M. This being the night for installation, Bro. W. H. Libbis was presented to the lodge for the purpose of being installed. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Savage, P.G.D. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. Poole, S.W.; T. Sheppard, J.W.; B. Todd, was elected Treasurer, Buss was re-elected Secretary, having served that office 18 years, Bros. Palmer, S.D.; Harrison, S.D.; Cogger, I.G.; Ryley, Tyler. The brethren then adjourned to a very splendid banquet. The usual toasts on such occasions were given by the W.M. in a very appropriate manner. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors, who were as follows: Bros. Savage, P.G.D.; Henry, 715; Ough, A.G.P.; W. Naylor, 720; G. Palmer, 11; G. Stacy, P.M. 209; J. Gaywood, 206; Pendlebury, P.M. 1,056; E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; R. Wentworth Little, P.M. 975; W. Dodd, 1,194; E. P. Albert, P.M. 188; H. M. Levy, P.M. 188; W. Watson, P.M. G.S. Lodge; J. Smith, P.G.P.; L. H. Isaacs, P.M. 795; Moutrie, P.M. 11; Garrett, 704; J. A. Cooper, lata 27. Bro. Watson returned thanks for the visitors followed by Bro. L. H. Isaacs. Bro. John Coutts then proposed the health of the W.M. whom he said he had had the pleasure of seeing him perform the duties of the chair he had occupied with such satisfaction, that the brethren might be congratulated on the selection they had made. The W.M. in a few but expressive words returned thanks. Bro. Buss, P.M. rose for the purpose of presenting Bro. John Coutts, P.M. with a very elegant gold jewel of elaborate design, with a suitable inscription on it, a P.M.'s apron with an entirely novel design, a Past Master's collar with jewel attached—a portion being given from the funds of the lodge and the remainder from private subscriptions of the brethren—for his able working, and the high estimation he was held in, by every brother during his occupation of the chair, for two successive years. Bro. Coutts who was overpowered by his feelings, at the expressions manifested by the brethren, said, in carrying out those tenets of Freemasonry, he had only one object in view, namely the good of Freemasonry in general. The various charities connected with that grand order, and that lodge the Egyptian—in particular, and its welfare would always be his particular study and care. Bro. Coutts at the conclusion of his very able speech was loudly applauded. Bro. Buss, P.M. then proposed the toast of the Masonic charities, coupling with them the name of Bro. Patten, Secretary of the Girl's School. Bro. Patten in returning thanks for that noble charity, stated that he had to thank the lodge for the sum they had voted from their funds, but a debt of gratitude was due to Bro. D. H. Jacobs, P.M. who had kindly consented to become a steward to that excellent institution, and he hoped to see brethren following the example of one, who, was so energetic in the cause of so good a charity. Bro. Jacobs in the course of a few expressive words, returned thanks. During the evening, some very excellent songs were sang—more particularly one by Bro. D. H. Jacobs, P.M., entitled the "Hawthorn Tree," the words by Bro. Berri, P.M., by Bros. Buss, J. Cooper, Brewer and Gardner. The brethren then separated after spending a delightful evening.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 101).—This numerous and excellent working lodge met on the 2nd inst., at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, Bro. S. May in the chair. Mr. Alexander Yates having passed the ballot, was initiated. This being the night for installation, the W.M. Elect, Bro. Tanner, was presented to the lodge and installed by Bro. May in a very impressive manner. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows:—Bro. Cox, S.W.; Grimby, J.W.; Torret, S.D.; Reynolds, J.D.; Prince, I.G.; Hastelow, D.C. The brethren then adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Painter. Some good speeches were made in the course of the evening. Bro. Ough, A.G.P. of the G.L. of England, returned thanks for the Deputy G.M. The visitors were—Bros. Ough, A.G.P.; Raymond Stewart, W.M. 12; Hayworth, P.M. 15; Turner, P.M. 206; Shaboe, 143; Hollingsworth, 1185; Haywood, 21; Smith, 49;

Berry, 256, and Driver, 905. The evening's amusement was greatly contributed to by some very beautiful singing by the W.M., Bros. Yates, Driver, Aston, and Farthing, P.M., the latter brother accompanying himself on the piano.

LION AND LAMB LODGE (No. 192).—The usual monthly meeting of this flourishing lodge was held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Thursday, the 4th inst., Bro. Charles Hosgood, P.M., in the chair of K.S., in the absence of the W.M., Bro. E. King, through illness. All the officers being present (among them Bro. W. Goodyer, the worthy Treas., who occupied his usual seat, which he has done for so many years, much to the gratification of the brethren), the acting W.M. duly opened the lodge, and the minutes of last meeting being read and confirmed, the business of the evening was proceeded with, viz., the raising of Bros. Glinnan and G. Baker, also the passing of Bro. Cobu and initiation of Messrs. S. Haynes and E. Taylor, the whole of the ceremonies being worked in Bro. Hosgood's usual very admirable style. After some business connected with an alteration in the monthly meeting nights had taken place, the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to a sumptuous repast, served up in Bro. Spencer's usual first-rate style, the whole giving great satisfaction to all present, nothing, however, unusual, at this establishment, the indefatigable manager always doing his best to oblige his patrons. After the cloth had been removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and some capital harmony having been rendered by Bros. Gardner, Wright, Vernon, and Haynes, the brethren separated, it being generally remarked that this meeting was one of the happy and successful *réunions* of the lodge. During the evening a P.M. jewel, value ten guineas, was voted to Bro. J. G. Marsh, in testimony of his efficient services during his year of office, and suitably acknowledged. The jewel was manufactured at Bro. George Kenning's manufactory, and well deserved, from its execution and design, the admiration it received from the whole of the brethren who inspected it. Visitors present—Bros. J. Gilruth, W.M. 55; Brett, 28; States, P.M. 49; G. King, and J. Linsdell.

STABILITY LODGE (No. 217).—This lodge met at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Wednesday, 3rd inst., at 5-30, Bro. G. A. Taylor, W.M. in the chair. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last regular lodge meeting and the emergency were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Siliffant, P.M., acting as Dir. of Cers., presented Bro. E. Hughes, S.W. (who was elected W.M. in December) for the benefit of installation. The lodge was opened in the third degree and a board of installed Masters having been convened, Bro. Hughes was duly inducted to the seat of K.S. according to ancient custom. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Taylor in a most impressive manner, which called forth the thanks of the newly installed Master and the praises of the guests at a later period of the evening. The lodge was then resumed in the second and first degrees, and the following appointments were made and the respective officers were invested with their badges: Bros. James, S.W.; Truscott, J.W.; Brodie, P.M. Treas.; Taylor, P.M. Hon Sec.; Hart, S.D.; Drummond, J.D.; Belcher, I.G. and Grant, Tyler. Various subscriptions having been voted the lodge was closed in due form with solemn prayer. The brethren then adjourned to banquet, and the evening was much enlivened by the vocal abilities of Bros. Marshall, Taylor, Belcher, Hart, &c.

ST. JAMES'S LODGE (No. 756).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, the 2nd inst., at the Leather Market Tavern, Bermondsey, and was numerously attended. The W.M. took the chair at seven o'clock, every officer being in attendance, viz.: Bros. Robert White, W.M.; Montague Scott, I.P.M.; G. Hyde, S.W.; D. Boyer, J.W.; G. Aldridge, Treas.; Dr. W. Parker, P.M. and Sec.; R. P. Hoston, S.D.; Thomas Neville, J.D.; and Wm. Jones, I.G. There were also present—Bros. F. Child, T. Belling, B. G. Phillips, John Broderick, John Sayers, P. McCullum, W. Kennedy, Francis, J. Besley, R. Winter, Reader, Brock, T. Butler, C. W. Pridmore, Manson, &c. There were several visiting brethren, including Bros. C. A. Smith, J.W. of the Rose of Denmark Lodge, 975; Legg, 193; Schofield, &c. The Master's post on this occasion was of an arduous nature, he having to perform the following duties:—First, to raise Bro. W. Kennedy to the sublime degree of a M.M.; secondly, to pass Bro. Robert Winter to the degree of F.C.; and lastly, the ballot having proved successful in favour of three gentlemen who were candidates for initiation, and two of those being present, to initiate Mr. Edwin Chalwin and Mr.

Henry Jolly in the first degree; all of which were most efficiently done by the W.M., and to the entire satisfaction of the lodge and the gentlemen more particularly concerned. The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room.

BRITISH OAK LODGE (No. 881).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 25th ult., at the Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile-end-road. Bro. Charles Heckell, W.M., presided. The minutes of the preceding lodge were confirmed. Bros. Jachtman and Bigg were passed F.C., and Bro. Johnston was raised M.M.; after which the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. Kelly, was proceeded with. The retiring W.M., Bro. Heckell, returned thanks to his officers for the great assistance they had rendered him during his year of office. The W.M. then called upon James Brett, P.M., P.Z. 177, to officiate as Installing Master, and Bro. W. Kelly, S.W., was duly installed in the chair of K.S. The W.M. elected the following as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Ovitt, S.W.; Barnett, J.W.; Heckell, I.P.M., as Hon. Sec.; Spoerer, S.D.; William, J.D.; Hackwell, I.G.; Hoare, Tyler. The lodge was favoured with the presence of several visitors, amongst them were—Bros. Scurr, P.M. 933; Stevens, P.M. 557; Davidson, W.M. 898; Finch, P.M. 217 and 898; Paget, P.M. 829; Justice, 147; Brough, 582. A vote of thanks was proposed to Bro. James Brett for his able and excellent working that evening. It was also proposed that a P.M.'s jewel should be presented to Bro. C. Heckell, as a token of the lodge's high esteem for the efficient manner in which he had conducted its affairs during his year of office as W.M., and for the zeal and ability he has evinced for the interests of Masonry in general, and this lodge in particular. This brother is the only one of the founders of the lodge now surviving. The lodge having been closed, the brethren partook of a banquet, served up in Bro. Henningway's celebrated style. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, and the brethren separated, after having passed an evening in true fraternal love and harmony.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

RUNCORN.—Ellesmere Lodge (No. 758).—The annual general meeting of the members of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Bridgewater-street, on Wednesday, the 27th ult. The lodge is in a very prosperous condition, and the attendance of members and visiting brethren was good. The officers present were—J. Mason, W.M.; Wm. Roberts, S.W.; J. Nicholls, J.W.; C. C. Imison, P.M. and Treas.; Wm. Rigby, P.M. and Sec.; the Rev. E. D. Garven, P.G.C. Amongst the visiting brethren present were—Wm. Bulley, P.M. 537, P. Prov. G.J.D.; Thomas Platt, P.M. 537, P. Prov. G.J.D.; Nosworthy, 537; Edward Littler, 537. The lodge having been duly opened, Bro. Alfred Buck was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, the installation being performed in a highly creditable manner by Bro. Wm. Bulley, P. Prov. S.G.D. The W.M. then appointed the following brethren officers of the lodge during his year of office:—The Rev. E. D. Garven, S.W. and Chap.; Matthew Bower, J.W.; Robert Rigby, S.D.; Robert Hanham Mouritz, J.D.; C. C. Imison, Treas.; Wm. Rigby, Sec.; Albert Edward Ackerley, I.G.; A. Mackintosh, Org.; and Wm. Blake, Tyler. After the conclusion of the usual business of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to the house of Bro. G. J. Higginbottom, the Royal Hotel, where they partook of a sumptuous banquet, provided and served in first-class style. The wines were of the finest quality and vintages. The usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the company adjourned to the public hall, where a grand ball was held in aid of the funds of the Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution. The hall was very gaily and tastefully decorated for the occasion by Bro. W. E. Ackerley with a profusion of flags, paintings, mottoes, &c., which were arranged in a manner highly creditable to his taste and skill. The company began to arrive a little before nine o'clock, shortly after which hour dancing commenced, and was kept up with vigour until four o'clock on Thursday morning. The brethren appeared in full dress Masonic clothing, with the jewels and insignia of their rank and office, which added materially to the brilliancy of the scene. Bro. Henry M. Molynaux, P.M. 241, professor of dancing, of Liverpool, officiated as M.C., and the Stewards were Bros. John

Mason, W. Roberts, Richard Roberts, A. A. Ackerley, Robert H. Mouritz, M. Bower, G. J. Higginbottom, and A. Mackintosh. The music was supplied by Mr. James Martin, of Liverpool, and gave great satisfaction. The Treasurer informed us that F. Farrall, Esq., agent of the Bridgewater Trustees at Runcorn, being unable to attend, had forwarded a guinea as a donation to the funds.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

WHITEHAVEN.—The usual annual gathering of the brethren of "the mystic tie" in Whitehaven, took place at the Freemasons' Hall, College-street, on Friday, when the festival of St. John was celebrated with all the honours incident to the occasion. The first business of the day was the installation of Bro. John Spittall, Prov. J.W., as W.M. of Lewis Lodge, 872, for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened by Bro. C. Morton, W.M. for the past year, supported by Bros. Fisher, Slade, McKelvie, &c. The officers of 1868 in attendance were—Bros. Holme, S.W.; Spittall, J.W.; W. W. Whittle, J.D.; R. Foster, I.G.; and G. Fitzgerald, Tyler. Some preliminary ceremonies having been gone through, Bro. Morton, assisted by Bro. Kenworthy, took the chair as I.M., and a Board of I.M.'s having been formed, the installation of Bro. Spittall was proceeded with. Having been duly installed, the W.M. invested his officers for the year as follows.—Bros. Morton, P.M.; H. Fisher, Treas.; W. W. Whittle, S.W.; R. Forster, J.W.; Rev. T. R. Holme, Chap.; J. Ellis, S.D.; J. Brindle, J.D.; W. Gill, I.G.; G. Fitzgerald, Tyler. This concluded the business of the lodge, which was closed in the usual form by the newly-installed W.M. and other officers. Soon after the lodge had been closed, the brethren repaired to the banqueting hall, where an excellent dinner was provided by Mrs. Todhunter, of the Albion Hotel. Bro. Major Fletcher, P.M. of Lodge 119, presided, and was supported on his right and left by Bros. Paitson, Morton, Holm, Barr, Spittall, McKelvie, Kenworthy, T. Slade, Fisher, Gibson, Yeates, &c. Bros. E. Fearon, S.W. 119, and W. W. Whittle, S.W. 872, occupied the vice chairs, and were supported by Bro. the Rev. Joshua Tyson, Chapl. 119, Dr. Heury, Dr. Horan, J. Mayson, &c. Among the visitors were—Bros. Banning and Porter, of the "Concord" Lodge, Preston, W. Gaspey, Keswick, and others. In the body of the hall were, among others, the following brethren:—P. Quinn, James Robertson, D. Robertson, Welsh, Smith, Hadwin, Gill, Bryden, Brunton, Mitchell, Atkinson, Steel, Brindle, Heatley, Sandwith, Conthard, Bell, McCormick, Cowie, Danson, Curtis, Joseph Morton, Hughes, Hastwell, Bragg, Bowman, and Foster. Bro. Cooper, Prov. G. Org., presided at the piano-forte, and Bros. Hughes, Heatley, Casson, Brunton, Fearon, Banning, Gibson, and Fisher contributed largely to the conviviality of the evening by diversifying the speeches with glees, songs, choruses, &c. After enjoying a very pleasant evening, the brethren separated at an early hour.

KIRKBY LONSDALE.—Underley Lodge (No. 1,074).—Installation of the W.M. and Festival of St. John the Evangelist.—The annual meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Friday, the 22nd ult., at three o'clock p.m., at the concert hall. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Captain Braithwaite, Prov. G.S. Deacon, assisted by Bros. John Bowes, P.M., P.Z., P. Prov. G. Reg., as S.W.; Edward Friend, W.M., 1,013, as J.W.; Edward Busher, P.M., P.Z., P.G. Sword Bearer of England, Prov. S.G. Warden, as P.M.; Henry Davis, Prov. G.S.B., W.M. elect; Rev. H. Ware, P. Prov. G. Chaplain; Garnett Braithwaite, P.G.D., Cambridgeshire; William James, Treas.; William Dodd, Hon. Sec.; Rev. R. C. Garnett, Chaplain; R. Morphet; Thomas Wearing, I.G.; T. Anderson, Tyler. Visitors:—Bros. Captain Mott, P.M., Prov. G.S.D., West Lancashire; Joseph Fawcett, 554; Jesse Banning, J.W. 343; John Pearson, Past S.W. 1002; Thomas Webster, P.M. 129, &c. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, when Bro. Capt. Mott was invited to take the chair as Installing Master, and W. Bro. Busher presented Bro. Henry Davis, the W.M. elect for the benefit of installation. The former part of the ceremony being concluded, the majority of the brethren withdrew, and a Board of Installed Masters was duly formed by Bros. Mott, Busher, Bowes, Friend, Braithwaite, and Webster, and Bro. Davis was duly placed in the chair of K.S., when he invested Bro. Capt. Braithwaite as I.P.M. The brethren were then admitted, and the W.M. was duly proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees according to ancient custom. The W.M. then proceeded

to appoint and invest his officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. W. Dodd, S.W.; W. James, S.W.; Thomas Wearing, Hon. Sec.; Rev. H. Ware, S.D.; Rev. R. C. Garnett, J.D.; T. Anderson, Tyler. Some routine business having been concluded, the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served up at the Royal Hotel, in Mr. and Mrs. Dawson's best style. The chair was occupied by the W.M., who was supported by all the brethren present at the lodge. After the cloth was withdrawn, the ordinary loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to. Bro. Bowes proposed "The M.W. G.M., the R.W.D.G.M.," and the Grand Lodge of England," and referred in appropriate terms to the G.M. and the "Zetland Commemoration Fund," to which the Underley Lodge had so handsomely contributed that day. Earl De Grey and Ripon, the speaker said was an accomplished Mason, and ever ready to help forward any good work. Such being the heads of the Grand Lodge, it was not difficult to judge the character of the subordinate officers. They were favoured that evening with the presence of a P.G. Officer, a brother to whom the Province of Cumberland and Westmoreland owed an everlasting debt of gratitude. He referred to Bro. Busher, P.G.S.B. of England. It mattered not what Bro. Busher took in hand, it was sure to prosper, and this had been eminently the case as regarded Freemasonry in that province. Bro. Busher responded at some length, and referred to acts of the Grand Lodge from the G.M. downwards, and said that he was sure every member wished to promote the best interests of the Craft. As to the personal allusions which Bro. Bowes had made to himself, he could only say that he had simply done his duty, and he trusted that while he lived he should continue to do the same. Masonry had certainly made great progress in their province, and was still continuing to do so, and he hoped that he should never be found wanting when his assistance was needed. The W.M., in responding to his health, said that he felt a very deep interest in Masonry, and that, having launched the bark at Kirkby, he has been and was most anxious that its progress should be steady and real. Himself and his Wardens went to some trouble to bring the Craft to their own doors, and they had been successful in their endeavours. The spirit that had animated the Underley lodge from the first was still manifest, and he did not doubt, that such being the case, his year of office would be both successful and pleasant. Bro. Banning proposed "The P.M.'s, Wardens, and Officers of No. 1074," which was responded to by Bros. Braithwaite, W. Dodd, and W. James. Bro. W. Dodd, S.W., proposed "The Masonic Charities," and in doing so gave utterance to some valuable, because practical, suggestions on the subject. Bro. Busher responded in a lengthy and eloquent speech. He pleaded especially and very forcibly for the Boys' School, detailing the wants of that excellent Institution, and we were very glad to witness the ready response that was made to the claims so ably set forth. The Tyler's feast having been drunk, a very pleasant day was brought to an agreeable termination, and thereby the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, 1869, will not be soon forgotten by the Underley Lodge. We must, however, not omit to mention that the W.M. and brethren wish to express their obligations to Bro. Jesse Banning for his valuable services on the harmonium in the lodge, and the piano in the banquetting-room, as well as for his vocal assistance.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge*, (No. 710).—The monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, 28th ult., and soon after 5 p.m. the lodge was opened by Bro. George Heath, W.M., assisted by Bros. Dr. Hopkins acting as I.P.M.; Pridham, S.W.; Cuming, J.W.; Niner, S.D.; Stafford, J.D. acting as I.G.; Watson, Treas. acting as Sec. Bros. Northam and Shopland, who were initiated in November last, received the charge on the 1st degree and the lecture on the first Tracing Board, for which there had not been time at the previous meeting, and which at the request of the W.M. were given by Bro. Dr. Hopkins. These having been concluded, the W.M. examined the candidates as to their knowledge of the first degree and entrusted them, after which they retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the second degree, Bro. Dr. Hopkins then took the chair, and on their return duly passed the candidates to the second degree, after which he gave them the charge appertaining to it and the explanation of the second Tracing Board. The W.M. having again taken his chair, the lodge was resumed in the first degree. The secretary not having arrived, the treasurer read the minutes of the previous lodge, which were duly confirmed. A ballot was taken for the admission of Bro. Joseph Earle and also of Bro.

Seacombe as joining members, which in both cases proved unanimously in favour. In accordance with a notice given by Bro. Pridham at the November meeting, he brought forward a proposition for the purchase of four copies of the Craft Lodge Music prepared by Bros. C. Johnson and Dr. Hopkins, and published in book form by the proprietor of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. It was seconded by Bro. Watson, P.M. and carried, though an amendment was proposed that at first only one copy should be obtained, some alterations in the by-laws were brought forward by Bro. Niner, S.D. and seconded by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, for discussion at the next meeting, the object thereof being to define more clearly the manner in which the ballot for W.M. shall be taken at the annual election, and to make some changes in regard to the Audit Committee. The Tyler's bill for the last year was ordered to be paid. A circular from the Prov. G.M. having been read, soliciting pecuniary help towards the fund now being raised for the purchase of a Masonic Life Boat, Bro. Dr. Hopkins gave notice of his intention at the next meeting to propose a grant of £2 2s. towards this object, which was seconded by Bro. Pridham, S.W. Another circular having been read in reference to the Zetland Commemoration Fund, the W.M. proposed, and Bro. Bartlett, P.G.A.D.C. seconded a donation of £1 1s., to be considered at the meeting in February. No other business offering, the lodge was closed at half-past 7.

TEIGNMOUTH.—*Benevolent Lodge* (No. 303).—The first meeting under the new W.M. and his officers was held on Monday, the 1st inst., at the Masonic Hall. The lodge was opened at 7.30 p.m. by Bro. H. M. Burtlett, W.M., assisted by Bros. Capt. Walrond, P.G.J.W. and I.P.M.; Burden, S.W.; Hallett, J.W.; Coles, S.D.; Taylor, J.D.; Toms, I.G.; Richards, Steward; Haggerly, Tyler. There were also present—Bros. Dr. Hopkins, P. Prov. G.S.W., P.M., &c.; and A. Niner, S.D. 710. Owing to the absence of the Secretary, the reading of the minutes and their confirmation was necessarily postponed. A ballot was taken for Mr. Thomas Morris as a candidate for initiation, which was unanimous in his favour, but as he was unavoidably detained by business, the ceremony was deferred. Mr. Thomas Newman, who had been previously admitted by ballot, having complied with the usual preliminaries, was introduced properly prepared, and, considering that it was the first time that the chair was filled by the new W.M., very creditably initiated into the order. The latter part of the ceremony was conducted by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, who had been specially invited over to render assistance. He also subsequently delivered the customary charge, and gave the lecture on the first tracing-board. As in the absence of the Secretary, the J.D. took the place at his table, by the request of the W.M., Bro. Niner very ably performed the duties of his office, one on whose exactitude the efficiency of the ceremony so much depends. It may be added that all the officers appeared well prepared, and that the proceedings generally afforded indications of a successful year. Discussions took place on several matters, such as applications for pecuniary aid to the charities, the introduction of gas into the Masonic rooms; but it was very properly considered that, however desirable, nothing could be done at present, until the discharge of all liabilities in connection with the erection of the hall only recently consecrated. Two gentlemen were proposed for ballot and initiation at the next meeting. The lodge was closed at 9.30 p.m. By invitation of the W.M. the brethren adjourned to the Queen's Hotel to partake of refreshment, and a very pleasant and profitable social evening was spent.

DORSETSHIRE.

BOURTON.—*Lodge of Science*, (No. 437).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, 28th ult., when the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. J. J. Luce, M.D., took place. The interesting ceremony was ably and efficiently performed by Bro. G. W. Parfitt, P.M. 876, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works of Somerset. The W.M. appointed his officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bros. J. Edwards, S.W.; T. Sherring, J.W.; Atwell, P.M. Treas.; G. Russel, Sec.; T. Matthews, S.D.; Frapwell, J.D.; J. Fry, I.G.; R. G. Hayter, Org.; J. Young, Tyler. Bro. Hayter ably presided at the organ. At the close of the ceremony the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served by Bro. Meaden in a highly satisfactory manner. The W.M. Dr. Luce presided, and was supported by the Installing Master, Bros. Parfitt, T. E. S. Jelley, P.M. 976, P. Prov. G.D.; Sopitt, W.M. 472, P. Prov. G.S. Works; J. W. Parfitt, W.M. 976; Moyle, Goldsborough, Hare, Miles, Wills, and other visitors. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to, and a very harmonious evening was spent.

DURHAM.

DURHAM.—*Marquis of Granby Lodge*, (No. 124).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, the 2nd inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Old Elvet. The lodge was opened in due form. Bro. C. Rowlandson, W.M. presided supported by several P.M.'s, and the usual officers of the lodge. After the minutes of the last general lodge had been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Mr. E. Hefferman of Spenny-moor, and Mr. William Fairbairn Hall, both of whom were declared to be duly elected. The candidates along with Mr. Thomas Robson who was duly elected at the previous general lodge, were severally introduced and initiated. Bro. W. Coxon being a candidate for the honours of the M.M. degree and having in a satisfactory manner shewn his proficiency was regularly entrusted and then withdrew. The lodge being opened in the third degree he was re-admitted and raised according to ancient custom. The lodge was then closed down to the E.A. degree when business of a private nature was considered and disposed of, after which it was closed in proper form. [It has been suggested that the necessity for greater punctuality in the assembly of the officers, is not fully understood in this lodge.—Ed. F.M.]

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—*Wear Valley Lodge* (No. 1121).—A lodge of emergency was held on Friday, the 5th inst., to initiate Edward Duncombe Shafte, Esq., of Brancepeth Rectory, and Lieut.-Col. Wood, of Howlish Hall, near Bishop Auckland. The officers present—Bros. George Canney, Prov. G.J.W., W.M.; the Rev. G. P. Wilkinson, Prov. G. Chap., S.W.; George Stillman, J.W.; the Rev. J. D. Mason, Chap.; Wm. Pawson, Sec.; W. Canney, S.D.; John Wyld, J.D.; J. Robson, I.G.; and Moore, P.G. Steward, acted as Tyler. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, the ballot was taken, and found unanimous. Mr. Shafte and Colonel Wood were then introduced and ably and impressively initiated by the W.M. Bro. John Wyld gave the lecture on the first tracing-board, and the W.M. gave the charge after initiation. The lodge was then closed in due form. This young and flourishing lodge (not yet three years old) already numbers 76 members, and has lost eight by death since it was established.

KENT.

DARTFORD.—*Lodge of Emulation* (No. 299).—The regular monthly meeting of this excellent working lodge was held on Tuesday, the 26th ult., under the presidency of Bro. G. W. C. Bonner, W.M., and was well attended. The lodge was opened and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot having been taken for Mr. G. F. O. Green, it proved unanimous, and he was regularly initiated by the W.M. in his usual very able and impressive manner. Some other business was disposed of, and the lodge was closed with solemn prayer. The brethren then proceeded to an excellent banquet, served in Bro. Bray's best style, which gave general satisfaction. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and some excellent speeches made. In addition to a large majority of the brethren of the lodge, there were present as visitors, Bros. Blakey, P.M. Pentagle, 1,174, P. Prov. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Burfield, W.M. 20; T. Pottinger, P.M. Freedom, 77; C. Relph, W.M. Joppa, 188; F. Green, 1,174 &c. The Tyler's toast brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

DOVER.—*Corinthian Lodge* (No. 1,208).—This flourishing lodge held its monthly meeting at the Royal Hotel, on Monday, the 18th ult., about thirty brethren being present, including the W.M. Lodge No. 199, Bro. A. Ayers. The officers present were, Bros. G. Adamson, P.M., W.M.; P. Thomson, P.M., S.W.; E. W. C. Laforest, J.W.; Popkiss, Treas.; Barton, Sec. *pro tem.*, in the absence of Bro. R. N. Marsh; Faho, officiating as S.D., vice Bro. Neal, absent; Tyler, J.D.; Prettle, I.G.; Rose, Tyler. The lodge was opened in due form at half-past six p.m., and the minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the second degree. Bro. Barwick having answered the usual questions satisfactorily, the lodge was opened in the third degree and Bro. Barwick was raised to the sublime degree. The W.M. then resumed the lodge to the first degree. Bro. Newing having answered the usual questions satisfactorily, the lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Newing was passed F.C. This being the day for the election of W.M., after the by-laws had been read the brethren proceeded to ballot, when Bro. E. W. C. Laforest was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Laforest acknowledged, in suitable terms, the high honour conferred. Bro.

Adamson, P.M., was duly elected Treas., and Bro. Rose was re-appointed Tyler. Bro. Adamson brought to the notice of the brethren the Masonic Lifeboat Fund. Bro. Laforest proposed the sum of one guinea should be given from the lodge funds. Bro. Popkiss seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. Bro. Adamson brought to the notice of the brethren the Zetland testimonial. Bro. Faho proposed the sum of one guinea be given from the lodge funds. Bro. Smeeth seconded, and it was carried unanimously. Nothing further being proposed for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony at nine o'clock. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment; the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly responded to. Several excellent songs enlivened the harmony of the evening and the brethren parted in that true Masonic spirit which has always characterised the Corinthian Lodge.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 279).—The first meeting of this lodge under the second year of the Mastership of the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., and was attended by an unusually large number of brethren. The lodge was opened by the P.M. punctually at seven p.m., when among the members present were P.M.'s Pettifor, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Buck, M.D.; Kinder, P. Prov. J.G.W.; C. Morris, P. Prov. G.J.W. and P. G. Sec.; W. Wear, P. Prov. G.D. and Treas.; and W. E. Stainton Stanley, S.W.; C. Streton (P. Prov. G. Reg.), J.W.; E. J. Crowe, Sec.; Thorpe, S.D.; Burton, J.D.; Hart, I.G.; and many others. Visitors—Bros. J. F. Klein, P.M. 21, G. Steward's Lodge; J. M. McAllister, 21 and 30, Scotland; and Duff, W.M.; Toller, S.V.; Buzzard, J.W.; W. Johnson, P.M.; Bethrey, P. Prov. G. Org.; Charles Johnson, P.M., Prov. G. Org., and P. Prov. G.S.W. Jersey; Sculthorpe, Sec.; Partridge, J.D. Sargeant, I.G.; Wardle, Challis, Richardson, and Baines, of the John of Gault, 523. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. James Astill, of Anstey, and Mr. Richard Wm. Widdowson, of Leicester, who was duly elected. Bros. J. Wright Smith, S. Jacobs, and A. Palmer, having previously undergone a satisfactory examination, were then passed F.C.'s. The lodge having been again closed down to the first degree, Mr. Wm. Henry Pegg (who was elected at the previous meeting) and Mr. Richard Wm. Widdowson were duly initiated into our mysteries. The W.M. read a letter which he had received from the P.G.M., Earl Howe, in reply to address of congratulation to his Lordship and Lady Howe on the marriage of their daughter, the Lady Mary Curzon, which had been adopted at the last meeting. His lordship wrote:—"May I request you to convey to our brethren what I must try to express to yourself, *i. e.*, the deep sense Lady Howe and I entertain of the kindness and good feeling which prompted you to remember the event that brought us so much happiness, when you assembled for matters of higher importance. I shall convey your good wishes to my daughter and Lord Hamilton, who, I am happy to say, is also a member of our Craft." The letter was ordered to be entered on the minutes. The W.M. stated that learning that Lord Hamilton is a Mason, he at once wrote to Lord Howe to inquire whether it would be acceptable to his lordship's son-in-law, and also to his son, Colonel Leicester Smyth (better known to the brethren by his family name of Leicester Curzon), to be elected honorary members of his lordship's old lodge; and that Lord Howe, in reply, stated that he "could not doubt for an instant that they would feel the full force of the compliment, and be much gratified at being made honorary members of St. John's Lodge." He (the W.M.) had, therefore, great pleasure in moving that Bro. the Most Noble the Marquis of Hamilton, M.P., and Bro. Col. the Hon. Leicester Smyth, C.B., Knight of the Legion of Honour, &c., be elected honorary members of the lodge. This was seconded by Bro. Pettifor, P.M., and due notice having been given in the summons, a ballot was taken, which was, of course, unanimous in their favour. A resolution was also unanimously adopted, expressive of the regret of the brethren at the lamented decease, after a long illness, of Bro. John Holland, for many years a member and a P.M., and formerly an active officer of the lodge, and a P. Prov. S.G.W. of the province, whose integrity of character and cheerful amiability of disposition had gained the respect and esteem of the brethren, who desired, by this entry on their minutes, to record their regret at his loss, and, at the same time, to offer to the widow and family of the

departed their sincere condolence in the heavy bereavement with which it had pleased the Great Disposer of Events to afflict them. A copy of the resolution, under the lodge seal, was signed by the principal officers of the lodge, for transmission to Mrs. Holland. The W.M. reported that, having remitted the contributions of the province to the Palestine Exploration Fund, he had received two sets of a series of interesting reports, and twenty-two ground plans, &c., of explorations in Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land, one of which he would deposit in the library for the inspection of any of the brethren who might desire to examine them. A circular letter was then read from the Committee of the Zetland Commemoration Fund, and another from the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation at the next meeting, and the lodge was then closed in harmony, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The ceremonies of the evening were accompanied by the musical chants of the first and second degrees, conducted by the original arranger of them, Bro. Charles Johnson, Prov. G. Org., and P. Prov. S.G.W. of Jersey, and added greatly to their impressiveness.

NORFOLK.

KING'S LYNN.—*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 107).—The annual Installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 4th inst., and was well attended. The lodge was opened by the retiring W.M., Bro. G. G. Sadler, at four o'clock. The ordinary business having been disposed of, a Board of Installed Masters was formed, and the W.M. elect, Bro. Jas. Thos. Banks, was inducted into the chair, the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. Merrick B. Burcham, P.M., assisted by Bro. C. T. Ives, P.M., as Dir. of Cers. The brethren below the chair having been re-admitted and saluted the W.M. in the customary manner, he proceeded to invest his officers, viz.: Bros. Sadler, I.P.M.; W. J. Pole, S.W.; T. R. Mills, J.W.; George Woodwork, S.D.; William Patrick, J.D.; R. Cruso, Treas.; James Green, Sec.; J. Chadwick, I.G., and Woisey, Tyler. Bros. C. Miller and R. Wells were reappointed Stewards; and the Rev. W. J. Onslow (absent on travel with the Prince of Wales), Chaplain. The work was then suspended; and at six o'clock the brethren, to the number of about 40, sat down to the very *récherché* banquet which had been provided by Bro. S. N. Marshall. The W.M. presided, and was supported on the right by the Installing Master, Bro. M. B. Burcham, P.M. Joppa Lodge, Fakenham; Bros. T. Aveling, W.M. Lodge of United Good Fellowship, Wisbech, and Prov. G.J.W. Cambridgeshire; G. T. Hessey, W.M. Franklin Lodge, 838, Lincolnshire; the Rev. H. H. Bridgewater, P. Chaplain, 107; H. J. Wigmore, P.M., and P. Prov. J.G.W. Cambs.; and on the left by P.M.'s G. G. Sadler, Prov. J.G.D.; C. T. Ives, P. Prov. G.S.; T. M. Kendall, P. Prov. J.G.W.; R. H. Household, G. Webster, and H. Ladbrooke. The visiting brethren, besides those already named, were.—Bros. A. Palmer, W.M. 1114, Fakenham; Gardiner, S.W., ditto; Syder, ditto; Catling, Scientific Lodge, Cambridge; T. S. Fanning, Whitby Lodge; Parke, Sec. 996, Dereham; J. Paton, 158, Scottish register; Thomas Page and John Walker, 400, ditto. The W.M. received letters of apology for non-attendance from Bros. J. Thorley (Mayor of Lynn); T. M. Wilkin, P.M.; Rev. George Thompson, P. Prov. G.C., Wisbech; T. Patrick and W. Groom, Wisbech; James Dunsford, H. J. Mason, and Richard Whitwell, P.M.'s, Norwich; A. Sheriff, London; J. Steven, W.M., Spalding; and H. Peade, P.M., Stamford. Grace having been said by Bro. Bridgewater, the toast list was proceeded with, and the W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Webster proposed "The Masonic Charities," and a collection was then made in aid of the Benevolent Fund. After the "Tyler's toast," the lodge was resumed, and closed in due form, and the brethren separated after an evening of much happiness and enjoyment, to which Bros. Dr. Reed, Cruso, Green, and others had greatly contributed by their vocal music, assisted by Master Hillam as soprano and pianist.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

HALIFAX.—*Lodge of Probity* (No. 61).—The usual monthly meeting of this ancient lodge was held at the Old Cock Hotel, on Monday, the 25th ult., at four o'clock p.m. The chief business was the installation of the W.M. elect, and the celebration of the festival of St. John the Evangelist. There was a large attendance of the members of the lodge, and amongst the

visiting brethren were Bros. R. R. Nelson, Prov. G. Sec. for West Yorkshire; J. Armitage, P.M. 705; Rodley, W.M., and Binks, S.W. 308; Lord, W.M., Ibberson, S.W.; Lupton, J.W.; Dolan, I.G. 448. The lodge was opened in the three degrees by Bro. Scratcherd, W.M., when Bros. Joseph Gaukroger and Geo. Henry Wavell were raised to the sublime degree. Bro. B. W. Jackson, the W.M. elect, was formally presented to the W.M., and a Board of Installed Masters was formed; the brethren below the chair then retired, and Bro. Jackson was installed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom. Bros. Booth P.M., and Scratcherd, P.M. 61; Nelson, Prov. G. Sec.; and Armitage, P.M. 705, taking part in the ceremony. On the brethren being re-admitted the usual salutations were given, and the W.M. proceeded to invest his officers for the year, as follows, Bros. W. Tasker, S.W.; H. J. Franklin, J.W.; the Rev. J. Hope, M.A., Chap.; J. Fisher, P.M., Treas.; E. M. Wavell, jun., Sec.; R. D. Rendall, S.D.; F. Walker, J.D.; F. Crossley, Dir. of Cers.; J. A. Synnott, I.G.; C. T. Kirkiey and J. W. Crossley, Stewards; and J. Greenwood, Tyler. After the ceremony of investing the officers, Bro. Scratcherd, the I.P.M., was elected to represent the lodge on the Charity committee for the ensuing year, and after disposing of other business the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. Subsequently the brethren, to the number of thirty-six, sat down to a banquet, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were appropriately given and responded to. Bros. Abercrombie, Rendall, S.D., and Masgrave, of the Lodge of Probity; and Walshaw, 448, also materially contributed to the enjoyment of the evening by a variety of songs, in which they were accompanied on the piano by Bro. Hemingway, 448.

SCOTLAND.

LANARKSHIRE.

CAMBUSLANG.—*Royal Arch Lodge* (No. 114).—The members of this lodge held their annual meeting on Monday night, the 18th ult., for the installation of office-bearers for the ensuing year. The following brethren were installed, viz.: Bros. John Glen, sen., R.W.M.; John Glen, D.M.; T. Willett, S.W.; G. Muir, J.W.; A. Stirling, B.B.; R. Clark, Treas.; J. Jarvie, Sec.; John Jarvie, G.S.; J. Muir, S.S.; W. Campbell, J.S.; A. Miller, I.G.; R. Arbuckle, Tyler. After the ceremony of installation was over the brethren formed in procession, headed by the Cambuslang instrumental band, and escorted the newly-installed Master home, and there, between songs and music, spent a few happy hours.

IRELAND.

TYRONE AND FERMANAGH.

MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCE.

The counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh having by a recent order of the Grand Lodge of Ireland been constituted a Masonic province, under the name of the "North-West," the first meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge was held in the Court House, Omagh, on Wednesday, the 27th ult. Amongst those present were:—Bros. Sir John Marcus, Steward, *Bart.*, D.L., Prov. G.M.; from Lodge 9, Bros. Courtenay Newton, J.P., W.M.; James Twigg, S.W.; Captain T. S. Wright, P.M.; A. L. Nicholls, J.P., P.M.; from 122, Bros. John Anderson, W.M.; Alex. Montray, S.W.; Samuel Douglas, J.W.; John Eccles, P.M.; from 185, Bros. Alexander Richardson, W.M.; George Glenn, S.W.; Richard Curry, J.W.; from 204, Bros. Dr. W. J. Sandles, W.M.; J. Wilson, S.W.; W. Hall, J.W.; Matthew Henry, Sankey, J.P., P.M.; T. Clarke, P.M.; P. Hunter, P.M.; from 332, Bros. Samuel Adair, A.M., W.M.; Commander Charles Scott, R.N., J.P., P.M.; Captain Hamilton, J.P., S.W.; Dr. Francis John West, P.M., K.R.A.C.; William F. Black, J.P., P.M., P.K.; Emerson T. Herdman, J.P., P.M.; Alexander Carlisle Buchanan, J.P., P.M.; Mansergh G. Buchanan, P.M.; A. C. Adair, C.E., P.M.; George Buchanan, P.M.; Dr. William S. Love, P.M.; Colonel Richard Dawson, P.M.; Rev. Robert C. Donnell; Henry James, J.W.; T. C. Dickie, S.D.; Matthew Anderson, J.D.; Henry R. Harris, I.G.; George Quaille, P.M.;

from 334, Bros. S. D. Montgomery, W.M.; John L. Harvey, S.W.; W. Smyth, J.W.; John Hamilton, P.M.; Robert Nelson; William Crawford; from 350, Bros. Townley B. B. Ball, W.M.; James Conyngham, S.W.; Richard Coffey, J.W.; M. Delaney, P.M.; Alexander McElroy, P.M.; Robert McConnell, P.M.; John Clements, P.M.; James Paterson, Sec.; James Worthington, S.D.; Alexander Murdock; from 470, Bros. William Bell, W.M.; John McDowell, S.W.; Samuel Carlisle, J.W.; from 473, Bros. R. P. Walsh, M.D., J.P., W.M.; Rev. A. C. MacLatchey, S.W.; W. Johnston, J.W.; Charles Auchmuty Mills, P.M.; John Gunning, P.M.; O. Ternan, P.M.; from 891, Bros. Major John Gerard Irvine, D.L., W.M.; W. H. Morrison, S.W.; Alexander Price, P.M.; C. T. C. Jones, P.M.; E. Gamble, P.M.; &c.

At half-past three o'clock p.m., the brethren were called to order by Bro. Samuel Adair, W.M. 332, who opened the lodge in due form, assisted by Bros. Captain Hamilton, S.W.; G. Quail, J.W.; T. C. Dickie, S.D.; M. Anderson, J.D.; and M. Delaney, I.G.; after which Bro. A. L. Nicholson read the patent of the Most Worshipful the Duke of Leinster, Grand Master for Ireland, appointing Bro. Sir John Marcus Stewart, Bart., Prov. G.M. of the North-western province, and the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of the various lodges, having formed in procession, conducted the R.W. Prov. G.M. to the dais, when, at the request of Bro. Adair, the R.W. Prov. G.M. was installed by Bro. Dr. West, whose Masonic knowledge reflected credit not only upon Bro. West himself but upon the lodge to which he belonged. The R.W. Prov. G.M. then declared the Prov. G. Lodge open for the despatch of business, and appointed as D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Major John Gerard Irvine, who took his seat accordingly. The following officers were then unanimously elected for the ensuing year:—Bros. M. H. Sankey, Prov. S.G.W.; Courtenay Newton, Prov. J.G.W.; W. F. Black, Prov. G. Treas.; A. L. Nicholson, Prov. G. Sec.; Rev. R. C. Donnell and Rev. A. C. MacLatchey, Prov. G. Chaps.; Dr. Eras. J. West, Prov. S.G.D.; Emerson T. Herdman, Prov. J.G.D.; A. C. Adair, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Captain T. S. Wright, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Dr. W. S. Love, Dr. R. P. Welsh, E. Gamble, and P. Hunter, Prov. G. Stewards; Colonel Richard Dawson, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; C. A. Mills, Prov. G. Org.; and W. Beatty, Prov. G.I.G.

It was resolved that a Board of General Purposes should be formed, consisting of the Masters of lodges in the locality of the Prov. G. Lodge's meeting, and subsequently upon the motion of Bro. Sankey, Bro. Commander Scott, a G.W. of the Prov. G. Lodge of Devonshire, was appointed President of the Board of General Purposes.

The interest of the proceedings was considerably heightened by speeches from Dr. Walsh, William F. Black, M. H. Sankey, and other brethren in nominating the officers, and by an eloquent address from Bro. the Rev. R. C. Donnell. Bro. Donnell alluded to the variety of definitions given of Freemasonry, with none of which he felt disposed to agree. He was of opinion that the term in its pure simplicity, unaided by learned constructions, pointed the brethren to the origin of their system, for it was clear that, originally, it was chiefly composed of operative Masons, though it was equally clear that from the earliest ages the system embraced speculative Masons also. The well-known marks upon the more prominent stones of ancient structures proved how carefully the system had been cherished in every part of the globe. He alluded more especially to its prevalence in Egypt, Persia, Greece, and amongst the Scandinavian race; and corruptions which had crept in, he traced to that traditional form in which its mysteries had necessarily been handed down. True Masonry arose in that system of religion delivered by the Great Architect of the Universe to the Patriarchs, Judges, Prophets, and Kings of Israel, and when the old law was delivered to Moses, as the code by which the Israelites were to worship the true God, there was inaugurated a law which in one point of view was the usherer in of that clearer and brighter dispensation—the glorious Gospel of the blessed God. As St. John the Baptist was the forerunner of that bright Morning Star seen by the Eastern Magi and long foretold as the light which should enlighten the Gentiles, Masonry in the use (of course not in the abuse) might be regarded as a great forerunner of the Gospel, breaking down opposing barriers, and preparing the way for the universal reign of Him who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The more pressing business having been concluded, the R.W. Prov. G.M. announced that the next meeting should be

held at Enniskillen in the month of April, and in peace, love, and harmony the Prov. G. Lodge was closed according to ancient form. Subsequently 53 of the brethren repaired to the White Hart Hotel, where there awaited them a banquet, which fully sustained the high character of Bro. William Mullin's establishment. The room was decorated with banners, symbolic charts, tracing boards, and other Masonic furniture from the H. K. Templars' Encampment and from Lodges 332 and 350, and the brethren sat down in the costume of the Orders to which they respectively belonged. The chair was occupied by the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Sir John M. Stewart, Bart.; the vice-chair by Bro. Matthew H. Sankey, Prov. G.S.W.; and on the right of the R.W. Prov. G.M. sat the R.W.D. Prov. G.M. (Bro. Major John G. Irvine) and Bro. S. Adair, W.M. 332. On the left sat one of the Prov. G. Chaplains, Bro. the Rev. Robert C. Donnell.

After the brethren had partaken of the viands laid before them, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. Several excellent songs were sung, and the proceedings, which were characterized by the "feast of reason and the flow of soul," were brought to a conclusion at half-past ten o'clock p.m.

COOKSTOWN.—*Green Lodge* (No. 470).—In consequence of last St. John's Day falling upon the Sabbath, the usual festival was held upon the 26th ult. (being its regular communication). Though only removed in the latter end of November last, it has had four initiations, three affiliations, and several applications for membership, and it promises to be one of the great centres of Masonry, as it was seventy or eighty years ago. The brethren were delayed by arduous labours up to nine o'clock, when they met at refreshment, which was provided in a most creditable manner from Allen's Hotel. The usual Masonic toasts were received in a suitable way. The necessity of many of the brethren going a long journey to the inauguration of the newly-formed Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh, to be held the following day in Omagh, caused an earlier separation of the brethren than would otherwise have taken place, and the large assemblage separated at an early hour. The great increase of members proposed for Masonry in this district (owing to its principles being more and more appreciated as it becomes better known) points to the inevitable necessity of opening other lodges.

BRITISH AMERICA.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

The first meeting of the newly formed District Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Vancouver Island was held on the 20th of August, 1868, at the Masonic Hall, Victoria, at ten o'clock a.m.

The D. G. Lodge was opened in due form by the R.W. Bro. Burnaby, Esq., D.G.M., &c., &c.

The P.G.M. and P.G. Lodge of Scotland (in B. C.) then visited the D.G. Lodge, and were received with the usual honours. The D.G.M. then requested the brethren to accompany him, for the purpose of attending Divine service at St. John's Church, to hear a sermon preached by the V.W. Bro. the Rev. F. B. Gribbell, M.A., D.G. Chaplain, in aid of the funds of the St. John's Sunday School, when the sum of 40 dollars was collected.

After Divine service the brethren returned to the lodge room in the same order.

Bro. Henry Holbrook, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works for Cheshire, was then requested to take the chair, as the senior Grand Officer under the Grand Lodge of England present on the occasion. Bro. Robert Burnaby, P.M. 783, P.M. 661, P.J.W. 4, and P. Prov. Dir. of Cers. for Surrey, was then presented by the R.W. Bro. J. W. Powell, P.G.M. for Scotland, for installation as District Grand Master. The patent of his appointment from the M.W.G.M. having been read by the D.G.S., and the ancient charges having been also read and assented to by him, he was installed in due and ancient form, and proclaimed and saluted with the usual honours.

The R.W. the P.G.M. for Scotland, accompanied by the officers of his P.G. Lodge, then retired.

The newly-installed D.G.M. then installed Bro. Henry Holbrook, P.M. of Union Lodge, 899, P.M. 292, P.M. 605, and

P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works for Cheshire, as D.D.G.M., and the following brethren, on being presented by the D.D.G.M., were appointed and invested to the offices affixed to their respective names:—Bros. J. F. McCreight, W.M. 783, S.D.G.W.; George Pearkes, P.M. 783 (proxy for W. H. Smith, W.M. 899), J.D.G.W.; Rev. F. B. Gribbell, M.A. 1187, D.G. Chap.; H. Nathan, jun., J.W. 1117 (proxy for George Pearkes, P.M. 783), D.G. Regist.; Robert Plummer, jun., D.C. 783, D.G.S.; W. Clarke, W.M. 1090, S.D.G. Deacon; T. Harris, W.M. 1187, J.D.G. Deacon; H. Rhodes, 783 (for J. W. Trahey, J.W. 783), D.G. Supt. of Works; Lumly Franklin, P.M. 783, D.G. Dir. of Cers.; W. H. Franklin, P.M. 1090, Assist. D.G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Beck, P.M. 642, D.G. Sword Bearer; P. Medana, Org. 783, D.G. Org.; Jos. Blackburn, S.W. 783, D.G. Purst.; Jas. Cooper, P.M. 899, and A. W. S. Black, J.W. 899, D.G. Stewards; George Creighton, J.D. 1187, D.G. Tyler.

Bro. G. Brown, Treas. 783, was then elected and invested as D. G. Treas.

The necessary business consequent on the formation of a new D.G. Lodge was then transacted, and the D.G. Lodge was closed in due form.

At 2.30 p.m. the D.G.M., attended by his Deputy and the rest of the officers, as well as by many of the members of the lodges under his jurisdiction, paid a fraternal visit to the R.W. the P.G.M. for Scotland, and in conjunction with him and his P.G. Lodge and the brethren of the lodges under his jurisdiction, marched in procession to the north-east corner of St. Andrew's Church (of the Established Church of Scotland), when the foundation-stone of that church was laid with the ancient ceremonies of the Order. The stone was laid in a most impressive manner by the R.W. the P.G.M., and suitable addresses were delivered by him, by the Rev. Thomas Summerville, P.G. Chap., the pastor of the church, and by His Hon. Chief Justice Needham.

The brethren then returned to the lodge room, and the P.G. Lodge was closed in due form.

A banquet, under the auspices of the newly-formed D.G. Lodge, was held in Victoria Lodge Room, Masonic Hall, the same evening, at 7 p.m., presided over by the R.W. the D.G.M., Bro. Burnaby, at which the R.W. the P.G.M. for Scotland and his Deputy were present as the guests of the D.G.M., and the banquet was attended by a large gathering of both Grand Lodges and the members of the lodges under their respective jurisdictions.

The evening was spent in the most cordial manner. All present having enjoyed the twofold ceremonies of the day, and the brethren of each jurisdiction congratulating each other on the success of their respective efforts, and the 20th of August, 1868, will long be looked back to as a chief day in Masonic annals in this colony.

ROYAL ARCH.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Temple Chapter* (No. 1094).—The consecration of this chapter took place at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, on Tuesday, the 26th ult. Comps.—R. H. D. Johnson, Z., designate; J. Kellett Smith, H. designate; James Hamer, J., designate. By appointment of the M.E. G. Supt., the ceremony was performed by Comp. Thomas Wylie, P.Z., Prov. G. Reg.; Comp. T. Armstrong, P.Z.P.G.A.S., conducted the music; Comp. Skeaf, P.G.O., presided at the organ; and Comp. Hamer, P.Z., Prov. G. Treas., acted as Dir. of Cers. on this occasion, assisted by Comp. Marsh, P.Z. The companions assembled in the ante-room at three p.m. Thereafter the Principals *pro tem.* and other Principals, past and present, entered the chapter room, opened the chapter, and took their seats. The Organist played a voluntary, while the remainder of the companions entered chapter and took their respective stations. After an opening prayer by the P.Z., an anthem was sung, and the companions of the new chapter were arranged in order. The Z. *pro tem.* addressed the companions on the nature of the meeting, and called on the acting S.E. to state the wishes of the companions, and the proceedings they had taken with respect to the chapter. The S.E. did so; after which the Z. replied, and the P.G.S.E. read the petition and warrant. The Z. inquired of the companions of the new chapter if they approved of the officers who were nominated in the warrant to preside over them, and the companions signifying their approval in Masonic form, an ora-

tion was delivered and the 133rd Psalm was sung. After the consecration prayer, all joined in the chant, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord." Then the companions turned towards the East, whilst the Z. pronounced the invocation. The pedestal was uncovered, and the four Principals carried the cornucopia, wine, oil, and salt three times round the chapter (solemn music being performed during the procession); then halting in the east, they replaced their vessels. The P.P. carried the conser three times round the chapter (solemn music being performed during the progress), then, halting in the east, placed the censer on the pedestal, and delivered the consecration prayer. The Z. proceeded to constitute the chapter in ancient form, and after the closing prayer, the installation of the principals brought the interesting proceedings to a close.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Humber Chapter* (No. 57).—The convocation of this chapter was held on Thursday, the 28th ult., at the lodge room, Osborne-street. The chapter was opened in due form, when the M.E. Comp. John Pearson Bell, M.D., G. Supt. of the N. and E. Riding of Yorkshire, proceeded to install the officers who had been elected on the 31st December for the ensuing year as follows:—Comps. W. B. Hay, P.Z., M.E.Z.; John Walker, P.G.S.N., M.E.H.; John Wilson, M.E.J.; W. H. Bee, S.E.; Wm. Foster, S.N.; John Hudson, P.S.; John Fountain, Treas.; John Chappel, Dir. of Cers.; M. Stephenson, Org.; Henry Toozes, Sword Bearer; Johnson and Gawthorp, Janitors, after which a cordial vote of thanks was presented to Comp. Bell for so ably performing the duties of the ceremony. The chapter was then closed. The companions retired to the banquet hall, partook of an excellent supper, and spent a pleasant evening.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

THISTLE LODGE OF MARK MASTERS (No. 8).—At a meeting of this flourishing lodge held at the Freemasons' Tavern, upon the 5th inst., Bro. William Mann, W.M., in the chair, the following brethren were advanced:—Bros. Thomas Samuel Mortlock, W.M. 186, George F. Henly, 186, Windsor Lowder, 579, John Waldram, 21, William E. Stoner, 715, Charles Gosden, 145. After the business was proceeded with, the brethren sat down to an elegant banquet, the visitors being: Bros. Hyde Pullen, William Smith, C.E., Ganz, and Chiabatti, when an agreeable evening was spent.

DURHAM.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*Eclectic Lodge* (No. 39).—On Monday, the 1st inst., the annual meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, when the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. R. B. Harpley, took place. Previous to the ceremony, the lodge having been opened in due form and solemn prayer by the W.M., Bro. W. W. Brunton, and the routine business having been gone through, the ballot was taken for Bro. T. Taskes Hogg, who was unanimously elected. The following brethren, who had been previously elected, were now advanced to the honourable degree of Mark Masters, the interesting ceremonial being conducted by the V.W. Bro. ✠ F. Binckes, 30°, Grand Sec.; Bro. Alexander, Sec., St. Helen's Lodge, 531, Hartlepool; Bro. Thomas Whitwell, Treas. 509, Stockton-on-Tees, and J. B. Watt, of the Harbour of Refuge, 764, West Hartlepool. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the G. Sec. proceeded to install the W.M. elect, rendering the ritual of the ancient service in a style well calculated to make a deep impression upon the assembled brethren. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint and invest the following officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. W. W. Brunton, I.P.M.; S. Gourley, M.D., S.W.; ✠ Emra Holmes, 31°, J.W.; J. W. Cameron, M.O.; George Carter, S.O.; ✠ W. Brignall, 30°, J.O.; Rev. ✠ H. B. Tristram, 18°, L.L.D., F.R.S., Chaplain; E. Hudson, Secretary and Registrar of Marks; M. Rickinson, Treas.; J. Byers Watt, S.D.; R. M. Gazzon, J.D.; J. Miller, Steward; J. Mowbray, Tyler. The brethren afterwards adjourned to a banquet at Bro. Gallon's, Royal Hotel, who provided a most excellent repast. All the delicacies of the season and a good many out of it, were provided by mine host, who catered with his usual marked ability. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given with true fraternal feeling, and the health of the Grand Secretary having been enthusiastically

drunk, Bro. Binckes responded in a strain of fervid eloquence, self depreciatory, but rendered valuable by the speaker enlarging upon the history, antiquity, and beauty of the Mark Degree in a manner which could not fail to interest and instruct the newly-initiated Mark Master Masons. Several brethren contributed to the harmony of the evening, and it was at a late hour that the company separated.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*Fowke Lodge* (No. 19).—A bi-monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 29th ult., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Kelly, Prov. G.M. A ballot was taken for Bros. W. Barfoot and C. A. Spencer, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, as candidates for advancement; but, owing to various causes, they, as well as several other brethren elected previously, were unable to be present. A ballot for W.M. for the ensuing year took place, when Bro. Brewin, S.W., was unanimously elected. Bro. Stretton was also unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and the W.M. and Wardens appointed as the Audit Committee. The installation of the W.M. will take place at the bi-monthly meeting in March. A candidate having been proposed for advancement, the lodge was closed, and the brethren subsequently spent a few hours very pleasantly in social intercourse and harmony.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

KENT.

WOOLWICH.—*Invicta Chapter*.—A meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, William-street, on Friday, 18th December, 1868. There were present—Ill. Bros. Lambert, 30°, M.W.S.; Dadson, 30°, Prelate; Ex. Bros. Ward, 1st Gen.; J. Forrester, 2nd Gen.; Laird, Treas.; Ill. Bro. Thomson, 18°, Sec.; Ex. Bro. J. Taylor, Grand Marshal; Ill. Bro. Cockle, 30°, Raphael; Ex. Bro. Sherwin, Org.; Ill. Bros. Col. Clerk, S.G.I.G.; Phillips, G. Sec. Gen.; Figg, 30°; Meymott, 31°; W. E. Gumbleton, 30°; Carter, 18°; Ex. Bros. Read, Stewart, Harrison, J. J. Forester, Allen, Pope, Powell, Jackson, Hemsworth, Ohren, and Warre. Visitors—Ill. Bros. Hyde Clarke, 33°, of France; Hyde Pullen, 32°; Capt. Lindsay, 30°, Coldstream Guards. The chapter having been opened in ancient and solemn form, the minutes of last convocation were read and confirmed. The M.W.S. moved that a sum of money should be placed at the disposal of the Rector of Woolwich for the relief of the distress at present existing in the town. Ill. Bro. Dadson proposed that the amount should be £5, and the Ill. Bro. Carter seconded the proposition, which was put to the chapter and carried unanimously. A ballot was then taken for Bro. Longstaff—proposed for advancement by the Ill. Bro. J. J. Forrester, seconded by the Ill. Bro. Glaisher, and proved unanimous. The M.W.S. informed the chapter that he had requested the Ill. Bro. Hyde Pullen to work the ceremonies of the evening, and he therefore resigned the chair in his favour. Bros. Gumbleton and Longstaff being in attendance, and having been instructed in the preliminary degrees, were duly installed Knights of the Pelican and Eagle, and advanced to the dignity of S. Princes Rose Croix. It was proposed by the Ill. Bro. Capt. Phillips, G. Sec. Gen., and seconded by Ill. Bro. Col. Clerk, S.G.I.G., that Bro. John Moxon Clabon, P.M., Nine Muses Lodge, 235, should be advanced in this chapter. Proposed by the Ex. Bro. J. Forrester, seconded by the Ill. Bro. Capt. Phillips, that Bro. Thomas William Boord, of Lodge 222, St. Andrew's-in-the-East, be advanced in this chapter. The M.W.S. Elect, Bro. Ward, was presented by the Grand Marshal. The usual questions were put and agreed to, and he was then installed by the Ill. Bro. Pullen, as the M.W.S. of the chapter for the ensuing year. The officers appointed were—Ill. Bro. Lambert, as Prelate; Ex. Bro. J. Forrester, 1st Gen.; J. Taylor, 2nd Gen.; Cockle, Grand Marshal; J. J. Forrester, Raphael; Ill. Bro. Glaisher, Capt. of the Guard; Ex. Bro. Pope, Herald; Thomson, Sec. The alms having been collected, and all Masonic business being ended, the third point was given, and the chapter duly closed.

YORKSHIRE (WEST.)

SHEFFIELD.

There was an interesting gathering of brethren at their hall in Surrey-street, on the 21st ult., when the Supreme Grand Council of England and Wales paid a visit to the Talbot Chapter

Rose Croix. Of the nine members of the 33rd degree composing this august body, the following six were present:—Col. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire, G.C. of the A. and A. Rite; C. J. Vigne, L.G.C.; Henry Charles Vernon, Prov. G.M. of Worcestershire, G. Treas.; Captain N. G. Phillips, Lieutenant of Her Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, G. Sec.; A. H. Roys, Prov. G.M. of Worcestershire, S.G.I.G.; and Captain A. W. Adair, S.G.I.G. There were also present—William White, 31°, P.M.W.S.; Joseph Rodgers, P.M.W.S.; F. Binckes, Sec. of the F.M. Boys' School; Graham Stuart, W. Roddewig, and W. H. Brittain, of the 30°; and the Rev. P. Browne, P.W.W.S.; Gilbert Wilkinson, P.M.W.S.; Major Woodall, Mayor of Scarborough, and nearly forty members of the 18°. The Talbot Chapter Rose Croix was established Dec. 19th, 1862, by William White, Henry Webster, and Joseph Rodgers, and its progress has been so great and its reputation is so high, that it now numbers nearly one hundred members drawn, not only from all parts of the three kingdoms, but literally from the four quarters of the globe. Part of the ceremonies of the day consisted in the acceptance of two new members, one of whom came from Manchester, and the other from St. Petersburg. R. Arnison, M.W.S., presided, and at the conclusion of the ceremonies he and his officers were complimented by the G.C. for the admirable way in which they had performed their duties. The whole of the members of the Grand Council expressed themselves in terms of unqualified approbation of the appointments and general working of the chapter, which they considered to be amongst the best, if not the very best in England. A cold collation was afterwards spread in the lodge room, to which the whole of the brethren sat down, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

CANADA.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—*The Union De-Molay Encampment and Priory*.—This encampment lately held a conclave, when the officers were, agreeably to the statutes, respectively elected, appointed, and installed. The following Sir Knights are the office bearers and council for the year:—Robert Marshall, E.C.; Christopher Besant, P.E.C.; Dr. T. A. D. Forster, 1st Capt. C.C.; James Domville, 2nd Capt. C.C.; R. W. Cruikshank, Prelate; D. Ransom Munro, Treas.; Wm. J. Logan, Reg.; David S. Stewart, Almoner; Charles U. Hanford, Expert; Dr. Joseph C. Hitheway, 1st Standard Bearer; Wm. Colebrook Perley, 2nd Standard Bearer; G. Frederick Ring, Capt. of Lines; S. F. Matthews, Sword Bearer; Thomas H. Keohon, 1st Herald; Thomas W. Peters, 2nd Herald; Dr. R. S. Hamilton Livingstone, Org.; Wm. Runciman, Equerry. Council—E. Comm., 1st Capt. C.C. Treas., and Frater C. Besant, Charles Potter, and Henry A. Whitney. This encampment starts into existence under the most cheering auspices, having on the roll of its members fratres of good social position, energy, and working talent. We are informed that all the appointments, paraphernalia, &c., were ordered some time since from England, regardless of expense. We have before us the list of members of this body, and are pleased to observe men of nearly every pursuit meeting together in this asylum, influencing by their presence that friendship and true manhood which other societies and the outside world know not of, all bowing together at the shrine of Christian knighthood. Among whom, it is noticed, are ministers of the gospel who are not debarred by sectarian views from extending their grasp of friendship and brotherly love. Even lawyers, who may have differed in their arguments and plans before the bench and jury, forget their differences here; and politicians, whilst outside earnestly contending for their party, meet here upon one common platform, each vying with the other in that noble contention, or rather emulation, of "who can best work and best agree." Whence arises amongst good Masons, that comely Order,

"Which nothing earthly gives or can destroy
The soul's calm sunshine or the heartfelt joy."

The Union De-Molay Encampment and Priory, under the management of its present Eminent Commander—which is one of the most zealous of Masons—bids fair to be one of the most spirited encampments ranged under the banner of England and Wales.

MEETINGS OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES.

MONDAY, 15th February.—Royal United Service Institution at 8-30. (J. M. Hyde, Esq.) Deflecting Armour-plated Ships for Coast Defence.

TUESDAY, 16th February.—Institution of Civil Engineers at 8. WEDNESDAY, 17th February.—Geological Society at 8. Society of Arts at 8.

LIST OF LODGE, &c., MEETINGS FOR WEEK ENDING 20th FEBRUARY, 1869.

ENGLAND.

(Abbreviations.—F.M.H., Freemasons' Hall; M.H., Masonic Hall; Tav., Tavern; Ho., Hotel; R., Rooms; L., Lodge; St., Street; Sq., Square.)

METROPOLITAN.

Monday, February 15th.

LODGES.—Grand Masters' L.; F.M.H., British; F.M.H. Emulation, Albion Tav. Aldersgate St. Felicity, London Tav. Bishopsgate St. Tranquility, Radley's Ho., Bridge St. Panmure, Balham Ho., Balham. Whittington, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st. City of London, Guildhall Co. Ho., King-st. Royal Albert, F.M.H. Electric, F.M.H.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Union Waterloo, (for M.M.), King's Arms, Woolwich. Prosperity, White Hart, Bishopsgate-st. Temple, Old George, St. Mary Axe. Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-road, Deptford. Old Concord, Turk's Head, Motcombe-st. Belgrave-sq. Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars. St. James's Union, Swan Tav., Mount-st. Grosvenor-sq. Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st. Salisbury, 71, Dean-st., Soho. Camden, Adelaide Tav., Haverstock Hill. Westbourne, Running Horse, Duke-st. Grosvenor-sq. Crystal Palace, City Arms Tav., West-sq., Southwark. High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham. Tower Hamlet Engineers, Duke of Clarence, Commercial-road, East.

Tuesday, February 16th.

LODGES.—Board of General Purp. at 3. Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Ho., Wellington-st., Southwark. Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-st. Cadogan, F.M.H. Honour and Generosity, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st. St. Pauls, Cannon-st. Ho., Salisbury, 71, Dean-st., Soho. Cosmopolitan, City Terminus Ho., Cannon-st.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Strong Man, White Horse, Little Britain. Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich. Faith, Albert Arms, Victoria-st. Westminster. Domatic, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell. Jordan, Alwyne Castle Canonbury. Euphrates, White Hart Tav., Bishopsgate-st. Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney. British Oak, Silver Lion Tav., Pennyfield, Poplar. Dalhousie, Royal Edward Triangle, Hackney. City of London, Shepherd and Flock Tav., Bell Alley, Moorgate-st. Royal Albert, White Hart Tav., Abchurch-lane. New Wandsworth, F.M. Ho., New Wandsworth. CHAPTERS.—Enoch, F.M.H. Mount Sinai, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st. Industry, F.M.H.—CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.—Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper-st. St. Martin's-lane. Mount Zion, White Hart Tav., Bishopsgate-st. Rose of Denmark, George Ho., Aldermanbury.

Wednesday, February 17th.

Gen. Com. of G.L. and Lo. of Benev., at 7 precisely.—LODGES.—United Mariners, George Ho., Aldermanbury. St. George, Trafalgar Ho., Greenwich. Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars. Oak, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st. Nelson, Nelson, M.H., William-st., Woolwich. Maybury, F.M.H., Buckingham and Chandos, F.M.H. Marquis of Dalhousie, F.M.H.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Eastern Star, Royal Ho., Burdett-st., Mile End-rd. Confidence, Sugar Loaf, Gt. St. Helens. United Strength, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town. Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John's Tav., St. John's Wood. New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton. St. Mark's, Mawby Arms, Mawby-st., S. Lambeth. Peckham, Edinboro Castle Tav., Peckham Rye. Temperance in the East, George the Fourth, Catherine-st., Poplar.—MARK LODGE.—Bon Accord, F.M.H.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—St. James's Union, Swan Tav., Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.

Thursday, February 18th.

House Com. Female School, at 4.—LODGES.—Globe, F.M.H. Gihon, Guildhall Tav., King-st. Constitutional, City Ter-

minus Ho., Cannon-st. St. Mary's, F.M.H. True Friendship Old Ship, Rochford. Manchester, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st. Westbourne, New Inn, Edgware-rd. S. Norwood, So. Norwood Ho.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq. Kent, Duke of York, Borough-rd., Southwark. Globe, No. 10, Old Bond-st., W. United Mariners, Three Cranes, Mile-end-rd. Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth. St. George's (for M.M.), Globe Tav., Royal-hill, Greenwich. St. John's, Hollybush Tav., Hampstead. Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-sq. Tranquility, Sugar Loaf Tav., Gt. St. Helen's, St. Mary Axe. Merchant Navy, Jamaica Tav., West India Dock-rd., Poplar. Whittington, Thatched House Tav., 9, Red Lion-st. Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tav., Deptford. City of London, Shepherd and Flock Tav., Bell-alley, Moorgate-st.—CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.—Domatic, City Arms, West-sq.; Joppa, Prospect of Whitby Tav., Wapping-wall.—ENCAMPMENT.—Observance, 14 Bedford-row.

Friday, February 19th.

House Com. Boys' School. LODGES.—Friendship, Willis Ro., King-st., St. James's. Middlesex, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st. Jordan, F.M.H. New Concord, Rosemary Branch, Hoxton. University, F.M.H.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st. St. Luke's, Pier Ho., Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-rd., Deptford. Stability, Guildhall Tav., 33, Gresham-st. Union's (Emulation Lo. of Improvement for M.M.), F.M.H. United Pilgrims, Horn's Tav., Kennington. Wellington, Lord Duncan Tav., Broadway, Deptford. Belgrave, Hand and Racquet, Whitcomb-st., Leicester-sq. St. James's, Gregorian Arms, Jamaica-row, Bermondsey. Lily, Greyhound Ho., Richmond. Ranelagh, Windsor Castle, King-st., Hammer-smith. Doric, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd. Rose of Denmark, White Hart, Barnes, Surrey. Victoria (Metropolitan Lo. of Instruction), George Ho., Aldermanbury.—CHAPTER.—Moria, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.

Saturday, February 20th.

LODGE.—Panmure, George Ho., Aldermanbury.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Mount Sinai, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.

PROVINCIAL.

BIRMINGHAM.—Lodges: Mon., Bedford, Ma. Ro., Newhall-st. Tues., Lodge: Light, Hen and Chickens Ho. Wed., Grosvenor, Ma. Ro., Newhall-st.—MANCHESTER.—Lodges: Mon., St. George. Wed., Yarborough. Fri., Virtue, Chapter: Thurs., Affability. (All at F.M.H.)—SALFORD.—Lodge: Thurs., Richmond, Spread Eagle Ho.—LIVERPOOL.—Lodges: Wed., Everton. Thurs., Ancient Union. Chapter: Mon., Jerusalem. (All at Masonic Temple.)—BOLTON.—Lodge: Wed., St. John, Commercial Ho.—PRESTON.—Lodge: Thurs., Concord, Shelley Arms.—BIRKENHEAD.—Lodge: Wed., Zetland Ma. Chambers.—BOLTON.—Lodge: Mon., Concord, Chapter: Mon., St. James. (Both at F.M.H.)

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.—Lodges: Mon., St. Luke, F.M.H. Tues., Rifle: F.M.H., St. David's, Cafe Royal. Wed., Roman Eagle, 98, South Bridge. Thurs., St. Andrews, F.M.H., Portobello Town Hall. Chapter: Fri., St. Andrews F.M.H.—GLASGOW.—Lodges: St. Mark, 213, Buchanan-st.; Thistle and Rose, 170, Buch.-st.; Govendale, 207, Goven-road.—Wed., Lodges: Kilwinning, 170, Buch.-st.; Caledonian Rail, 213, Buch.-st.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.—Mon., Lodges: Dublin, 126; Dublin, 494. Encampment: No. 93. Tues., Lodges: Dublin, 141; Dublin, 666. Chapter: No. 6. Wed., Encampment, 153. Thurs., Lodges: Dublin, 12; Dublin, 93. Chapter: S.G.R.A. Chapter, F.M.H., No. 93. Fri., Lodges: Dublin, 53. Military of Ireland, 728. Chapter: No. 171. Sat., Lodge: Dublin, 25. Chapter: Gr. Masters. (All these meet at F.M.H.)—BELFAST.—Mon., Lodge: Belfast, Ma. Ro. Tues., Lodge of Instruction: Prince of Wales' Own, M.H. Wed., Lodge: St. John, Ma. Ro. Lodge of Instruction, Concord, M.H. Chapter: Belfast, No. 10, M.H., No. 40. Encampment: Ulster Sun, M.H. Thurs., Lodges: Acacia, Ulster Hall, St. Patrick, Ma. Ro. Fri., Lodge: True Blue, Ma. Ro.

[This information is extracted from the "Universal Masonic Calendar," and brethren who may detect any inaccuracies are respectfully requested to communicate the same to the Editor.]