

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1869.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Concluded from page 487.)

BOOK IV.—CHAPTER XIX.

The King resolved to punish the Grand Master and the principal Officers—The Pope appoints a Commission to try them—They are condemned to perpetual imprisonments—A scaffold erected for the public pronouncing of the sentence—De Molai and the Dauphin maintain their innocence—The Commissioners confounded—Order them back to prison—The King assembles a Secret Council, which condemns them to be burnt—The execution—Dying words of De Molai and the Dauphin—Effect upon the people—De Molai summons the Pope and King to appear before the throne of God—Deaths of the Pope, King, and the denouncers—A.D. 1313-14.

The last scene of the tragedy was now to be performed. In all his Bulls and letters, the Pope had reserved to himself the examination and judgment of the Grand Master and Grand Priors. These unfortunate noblemen had languished for five years in underground dungeons, which were sometimes flooded with water, and infested with rats and noisome reptiles. They were furthermore badly fed and badly clothed, for their garments were in tatters; and, saving De Molai, they were allowed no attendance. The King had, as we have seen, allowed De Molai but one attendant; and in bitter mockery appointed his cook to the office, although the prison allowance was barely sufficient to procure the common necessities of life. To the Grand Master this was of very little importance, for life to him had now lost all attractions, and he longed for death as the only passport to liberty. His Order destroyed, its fame blasted, and his own name dishonoured, what had he to live for? He had only to long for the six feet of earth which is the birth-right of every son of Adam, and the King deprived him of even that small inheritance. His companions, as well as himself, had been loaded with irons, as if their bodily weakness, the thickness of their prison walls, and the vigilance of their keepers, were not sufficient safeguards to prevent their escape. The Pope, urged on by the King, who desired to have done with the matter for ever, by a Bull, appointed certain Commissioners to judge the Grand Officers in his name and under his authority* This was against the spirit of his former Bulls, which had

always retained their examination and judgment entirely to himself. These Commissioners were Bernard d'Aux, Bishop of Albania, the Archbishop of Sens, and the Bishops who happened at the time to be assembled in Paris. They were empowered to call in, to assist them in their deliberations, certain doctors of theology. The legates repaired to Paris in March, before Easter, when they had their depositions read over to the accused. These depositions had been recanted, and De Molai again declared, as he had done before the Papal Commissioners, that he had never uttered the one ascribed to him, and what he had said had been distorted and altogether falsified. If he had admitted the criminality of the Order it must have been while under the torture, and when he was unconscious of what he was saying. All the confession he had been conscious of making was relative to some disorders which had crept in among the Templars, and even this confession, when about to die, he bitterly repented having made. The Commissioners were divided on the subject of the innocence of the accused; but, by a plurality of voices, and without hearing the Templars, they found them guilty, and condemned them "to be shut up for ever between four walls." The execution of this judgment was appointed to take place on Monday the 11th March, and to render the pronouncing of the sentence more terrible, it was ordered to be made in public. This was done in accordance with the desire of the King.

A scaffold was erected in front of the Church of Notre-Dame, and thither the Bishop of Albania and the Commissioners repaired. An immense concourse of people assembled to witness the ceremony. Jacques de Molai, the Grand Master; Guy, the Prince Dauphin, Grand Prior of Normandy; Hugo de Peyraud, the Grand Prior of France; and Benigne Cœur-de-Roi, a Preceptor, who had been Minister of Finance, were led out of prison and placed before the Commissioners. All four had irons both on hand and foot; but, in spite of their squalid appearance, they conducted themselves with nobility and the loftiness of innocence. The Bishop of Albania read the judgment, and prepared in a speech to recount the crimes of which the Templars had been accused. He had not, however, uttered many words, before the Grand Master and the Dauphin Guy interrupted him, left their places, and dragging their chains, advanced to the side of the scaffold. The Commissioners were struck dumb by their conduct.

* Dupui, Nangis, Grutler.

De Molai motioned to the Dauphin to permit him to speak first, and then uttered these truly memorable words.

"It is but just, that, in so terrible a day, and in the last moments of my life, I should make known all the iniquity of falsehood, and cause the truth to triumph. I acknowledge then, in the face of heaven and earth, and I take you all as witnesses, and declare, to my eternal shame and dishonour, that I have been guilty of the most atrocious crimes; but it has been in acknowledging those scandalous crimes and iniquities which have been so foully charged against the Order. I attest, and truth compels me to attest, that the Order is innocent. I made the contrary declaration only to suspend the excessive pains of torture, and to mollify those who made me endure them. I am aware of the punishment which they have inflicted on those Knights who have had the courage to revoke a similar confession; but the dreadful spectacle which is presented to me is not able to make me confirm one lie by another. The life which they offer me upon such infamous terms, I reject with disdain, and abandon without regret a wretched and disgraceful existence, which is to be bought, by engrafting another lie upon the original falsehood."

No sooner had he ceased speaking, than the gallant Guy thundered forth his asseveration of the innocence of the Order, appealed to Heaven to declare it, and denounced in the strongest terms, the cruel tortures which had been employed, to wring confessions from the innocent. The consternation of the Commissioners was extreme, and they knew not how to finish their task, nor how to pronounce sentence in the face of the prisoners' declarations. Their astonishment was little compared to that of the spectators. There reigned a silence more profound than that which had accompanied the reading of the judgment—a silence of compassion, of dismay, and fear. Many cast their eyes to heaven, while Guy spoke, as if to observe the coming of some messenger from thence at his appeal. They knew what would follow so important a disavowal. They gazed upon the two captives, contrasting their spent and squalid condition at that moment, with their noble and gallant appearance when they entered Paris on their arrival from Cyprus. Then the Grand Master had been the equal of sovereign princes, the cynosure of all eyes—nor could they fail to be struck with the courage displayed by so young

a man as the Dauphin. The last lingering doubts regarding their innocence, were dissipated in the minds of the people, as they remembered the wise and severe conduct of these two men, when the Order was still in its palmy days, and they felt more disposed to believe the assertions made at such a critical moment, and at such a dreadful peril, than those made by the authority of the Pope and the King.

The Commissioners saw no way of escape. They remonstrated with the two nobles, in vain pointed out the consequences of their retractions, and the evil to which they exposed themselves. Finding them resolute, they offered them liberty if they would humble themselves and confess the crimes. De Molai mildly refused, while the Dauphin asked hotly, if as churchmen they could insist upon demanding from them confessions which were false, and which would damn their souls for ever. Upon this the Commissioners deliberated anxiously, and at length resolved to send the four Templars back to prison, and to assemble upon the following day to decide upon their fate. The Templars were then delivered over to the custody of the Provost of Paris, who was present assisting at the ceremony. This was about two o'clock in the afternoon*.

With regard to De Peyraud and Cœur-de-Roi, no satisfactory explanation has been given of their silence. Either they were terrified at the fate in store for their Brethren, or they had not been able, by weakness or force, from joining in their avowals. Probably weakness prevented them, for they were, by the direction of the Commissioners, who took their silence for a confession of their crimes, sent to the prison appointed for their reception, where they died a few days after their entrance.

The Commissioners sent to the King, who was at the Louvre, tidings of these circumstances. He was fearfully enraged at the obstinate conduct of the Grand Master and the Prince Dauphin, and irritated at the Commissioners postponing the sentence which had been passed on all those who should recant, and for doing which many Templars had already been burned. He was afraid that the Commissioners would allow the prisoners to escape—thus, to prevent their compassion, and perhaps their sense of justice, from taking part

* Chron de Nangis, Dupui, Mezerai, Fleuri, Gurtler, Vertot, Mariana.

with the Templars, and at the same time to complete the abolition of the Order, which would still appear to exist, so long as two officers of such highly rank maintained its innocence, he determined to murder them. He, the same afternoon, assembled a Secret Council, and without even calling in the Commissioners to assist at the deliberation, resolved without losing a moment, to despatch the two Knights in the same manner as their Brethren had been murdered.

A pile was ordered to be raised in the King's gardens, at the point of an islet in the Seine, upon which was erected afterwards the statue of Henry IV. The doom of the two Templars was proclaimed by sound of trumpet throughout Paris, and the people rushed from all quarters to gaze upon the frightful spectacle. The Provost had received the King's command to conduct the Grand Master and the Dauphin to the place of execution. Two hours only elapsed between their being conducted back to prison by the Commissioners' orders, and their being led to the stake by the King's command. It was four o'clock when the two Knights reached the pile. While the executioners were finishing the preparations for their deaths, De Molai again addressed the people.

"I declare, sirs, before heaven and in the sight of God, who hears me, and before whom I am this day to appear, and I declare by the most solemn and sacred oaths of our Holy Religion, that we are innocent of the crimes imputed to us, and that the Holy Order, which has honoured us beyond our deserts, in admitting us into its sacred brotherhood, is not at all guilty—it is pure and infinitely useful to our Holy Religion. But we have been guilty of the most execrable crimes in charging ourselves in our depositions, and in charging our Order with impieties and abominations which never existed but in the hearts of our traducers and murderers. We have made these avowals at first by weakness, to save ourselves of the cruel torments of the question, and at last through human respect and terror at the solicitations and insinuations of the King—a frightful crime, at which my heart is penetrated with the the liveliest grief. Seized with horror, I very humbly ask pardon of my God for myself and for my Brethren. Ah! If we had not committed these execrable crimes! But the past being irrevocable—if these heinous offences can be expiated by our deaths, so as to appease our God, and to take away the scandal which we have

caused to fall upon our Holy Order, then we shall gladly suffer the torments which they prepare for us, and we would suffer them gladly, even were they still more cruel. I acknowledge that I merit death for the infamous deposition I have made. They offer me life to retract my disavowal. What would I do with a life obtained by a second crime, which would make me still more criminal? It would be odious and insupportable to me."

He wished to speak longer to the people, but was prevented. An Envoy of the King at this time appeared, and offered the Templars liberty and a large pension if they would recant. The two noblemen refused, with every symptom of indignation, and the pile being lighted, the executioners fastened them to the stake. The Dauphin, while they were fastening him, repeated his denial of the crimes of the order, and proclaimed its innocence nearly in the same words as the Grand Master had done. The two gallant noblemen seemed to be consoled for all their past tribulations at being once more together, although now they were looking across the dark waters of death. The friendship which had rendered their lives so happy in the days of prosperity, and the memory of which brightened even the evil days of their adversity, now shone triumphantly upon them as they prepared to cross the black valley. "In their lives they were lovely, and in death they were not divided." They were burnt by a slow fire of hot charcoal, prepared in the same manner as had been done in burning their other Brethren. This is known, because there *was* neither flame nor much smoke—the King's intention being to cause them to suffer the most incredible torture. They endured their awful torments with admirable calmness, neither cry nor groan escaped them. They implored the mercy of God, and although their bodies were half burnt away, they sang songs of rejoicing, and still maintained the innocence and holiness of their Order. Legends say that the last words of De Molai were "Clement, false judge and cruel butcher, I summon thee to appear within forty days before the tribunal of the Sovereign Judge; and thou, Philip, infamous and wicked King, before the same tribunal, within a year. The Dauphin expired repeating the devout motto, which the Templars bore on their standards, "Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tua da gloriam*."

* Mariana, Grutler, Mezerai, Vertot, Paul, Emile.

It is easy to judge the effect of these courageous deaths upon the people. All the spectators were filled with awe. If, on ordinary occasions, the executions of the greatest criminals can draw forth pity and compassion, what would be the feelings of the people upon seeing two men of such great consideration perish by so cruel a death? The Grand Master of a famous Order, who was the equal of Kings: a Prince, son of a sovereign allied to all Kings, and son of a princess of the blood! Could they fail to accuse the King of cruelty—of not respecting his own blood? The Grand Master was an old man, and the Prince Dauphin a young man in the flower of his days—for he had not completed his twenty-seventh year. The people believed in the innocence of the Order, and received the last words of the Templars in the light of oracles. They abandoned themselves to the liveliest grief, and shed abundant tears. Looking upon the Knights as martyrs in the cause of truth, a judgment confirmed by posterity, many gave money for masses for the repose of their souls. When the bodies had been consumed, and the fires burned out, they gathered the ashes, and carried home with them the bones which they could find, viewing them as precious relics, which should be preserved carefully and even revered. Among the precious treasures of the modern Order of the Temple in France, are some of these ashes and bones, and some are likewise preserved by the Order of Christ.

Our task now draws to a close. We have traced the steps by which the Templars were destroyed; we have seen them undergoing the torture, we have been with them while they were expiring at the stake. We have now to consider the fate of those who were instrumental in the destruction of the Order. As we have said, De Molai, when nearly consumed, and having only his tongue at his command, summoned the Pope, within forty days, and the King, within a year, to appear before the bar of Heaven. The Pope, afflicted by different maladies, grew dangerously ill, shortly after the burning of the Grand Master. He had a trouble which rendered life wearisome to him, accompanied by stomach complaint, which ended in dysentery. He had gone to Carpentras on business, but finding himself very weak, and believing that his native air would revive him, he resolved to go to Bourdeaux, where he had been born. He got into a litter, and proceeded thither, but every motion augmented his disorder, so that

he was obliged to stay at Roquemanda, a little town on the Rhone, near Avignon, in the diocese of Nimes, and here he died on the 20th of April 1314, precisely forty days after the death of De Molai. The church in which his body was placed took fire, and the corpse was half consumed before it could be removed. In the month of July following, a tumult arose in the town where the half consumed corpse was kept, during which the populace tried to get forcible possession of the remains; but whether from some superstitious motive, or with a view of avenging on the Pope's body the murder of De Molai, is not known. This Pontiff was not destitute of good sense and talent, but he sacrificed all to policy, ambition, and the thirst for gold; while the false step which he took in subscribing to Philip's secret request, embittered his life, and has destroyed his fame. The chroniclers have not failed to cast reproaches upon his morals, and they accuse him of entertaining a criminal passion for Brunisand de Foix, Countess of Talleyrand,* the daughter of the Count de Foix, who was considered to be in her time the most beautiful woman in France.† Clement left to his nephews all the immense treasures which he had amassed by the most nefarious means. This wealth his nephews soon dissipated in riot and debauchery. Philip fell from his horse, and received very severe injuries. These, however, have not been considered the cause of his death. After the death of De Molai, he fell into ill health, and was attacked at last by a slow fever, which carried him off on the 29th November 1314, in the forty-sixth year of his age. There are strong suspicions that this fever was the result of poison‡

Whether De Molai summoned the Pope to appear within forty days, and the King within the year, before the bar of Heaven, is a question much debated. Probably their dying within these periods gave rise to the story. It seemed, however, as if the Divine justice pursued all those who had contributed to the extinction of the Order, and to so many bloody tragedies. The two apostate Templars, whose accusations had told so fatally, perished miserably§ Noffo Dei was convicted of

* Perigord.

† She is said to have had the greatest power over the Pope, and when she wished any petitions granted, she was wont to place them on her naked bosom before him. See Milman's *Latin Christianity*, vol. VII. p. 324; Villani, IX. 58. Albert Mussat, p. 606. *Hist. Lanquedoc*, XXIX. 35, 138.

‡ Fleuri, Grutler, Mezerai, P. Ansdine.

§ Grutler, Dupuis, Vertot.

a fresh crime, for which he suffered capital punishment. Squin de Flexian, spurned from society, hanged himself on a tree. "History attests," says Raynouard, "that all those who were leaders in the persecution of the Templars came to a miserable and untimely death. Philip's closing days were embittered by misfortune; his clergy and his nobles leagued together to resist his exactions; the wives of his three sons were accused of adultery, and two of them publicly convicted of the crime. The misfortunes of Edward the Second of England, his horrible end in Berkeley Castle, are too well known to be further alluded to." The ends of De Nogaret and De Marigny, also tell of a retributive justice. The confinement of Louis XVI. with his family, and the miserable end of the Dauphin, in the dungeons of the Temple, Paris, during the French Revolution, are suggestive. It might almost be said that the Divine vengeance, after slumbering for nearly five hundred years, had burst out afresh, and in the very mansion where by an act of unparalleled atrocity, the Grand Master and leaders of the Templars had been seized, the French monarchy expired. To the student of curious historical coincidences, the ends of the three great Military Orders will not be uninteresting. The Teutonic Knights, a German Order, became extinct in Germany; the Templars, originally composed of Frenchmen, expired in France; while the hospitallers of St. John, of Italian origin, now lead a languishing existence in Rome. It is curious that they all returned to their native countries to die.

Upon the whole question, there can exist but one opinion regarding the Order of the Temple, that while innocent of every crime brought against it, it was hunted to the death on account of its wealth and growing power.

EARS OF WHEAT FROM A CORNUCOPIA.

By Bro. D. MURRAY LYON, A.M., Masonic University of Kentucky, U.S.; Hon. Corresponding Member of the Union of German Freemasons, and of the Rosicrucian Society of England; one of the Grand Stewards in the Grand Lodge of Scotland; P.G.S.W. of Ayrshire; author of the "History of Mother Kilwinning," &c.

(Continued from page 465).

INELIGIBILITY OF BASTARDS AS FREEMASONS.

A writer in one of our contemporaries, in his anxiety to uphold the purity of lodge membership speaks authoritatively on what he alleges to be the

practice obtaining among Scotch lodges in their relation to men who have had the misfortune to be born out of wedlock. "It has (he says) been an indisputable rule, and constantly acted upon in lodges of Britain in older times, that no bastard could be received as a Freemason. . . . In Scotland this ancient landmark and law has been maintained with almost no exception; and it is not long since, in a lodge holding a high position in the Craft, two men were positively rejected on no other ground than that they could not show the legitimacy of their birth."

No Scotch Masonic statute known to us bears out the statement here made as to the "ineligibility of bastards as Freemasons." The oldest Scotch Masonic statutes extant are those of the Ayr Squaremen Incorporation, dated 1556. The next in point of antiquity are the Ordinances of William Schaw, Master of Work to James VI., dated 1598-99. Neither in these documents, nor in the records of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1, dating from 1598, or of Mother Kilwinning, dating from 1642, is there to be found any law preventing the admission of bastards. The oldest of the documents quoted enacts that "gif the prentes be ane friemanis sone he sall pay entres fyve schillingis, and gif he be not ane friemanis sone he sall pay ten schillingis." A similar privilege was enjoyed by the "lawful sons" of freemen in ancient Lodges of Kilwinning and Edinburgh; but it was only in this respect that an apprentice Masons the male offspring of legal marriages were treated differently from their illegitimate brothers and the sons of non-freeman, when any such presented themselves.

The erection of the Grand Lodge of Scotland did not place bastards in a worse position than that which, as applicants for admission to Freemason lodges, they held when lodges were purely operative associations. And so far from initiation being in Scotland denied to the class of citizens referred to, innumerable instances, within the memory of Masons still alive, could be given of the initiation of good men and true, the offspring of illicit intercourse. A notable instance of this kind occurred in the person of Lord Frederick Fitz-Clarence, one of the natural sons of William IV. Made under the French Constitution, he was affiliated in a Scotch Lodge, was Depute Grand Master in 1840, and on the death of the Earl of Rothes, was elected to be Grand Master Mason of Scotland, which office he held during 1841-42. The sin of

his parents did not affect his moral and religious qualifications as a candidate for the privileges of Freemasonry, neither was his admission regarded as a scandal upon the Fraternity. As was said of him by the reverend brother who pronounced the oration at the Grand Funeral Lodge that in 1854 was held at Edinburgh out of respect to his memory, "he was highly esteemed in all the relations of life, and was, in an especial manner, an honour to Masonry,—by his conduct reflecting back the honour it had conferred on him, in his elevation to the supreme dignity of Grand Master of Scotland."

A Masonic character as fair and unblemished as that of the illustrious brother alluded to has been and is still borne by other brethren similarly situated as to the circumstances of their birth. No principle of Freemasonry as recognised in Scotland, was violated by the admission of such men; for in its dealings with bastards the lodge has never presumed to raise itself above the Christian Church. In the installation service the Master of a Scotch Lodge is asked to give his assent to the charge which makes it imperative to institute due inquiry into the character of a man before he can be made a Mason; but no information is required as to his parentage.

With every disposition to believe in the truth of the statement above quoted anent the rejection by a Scotch Lodge of two men on the ground of their supposed illegitimacy, we hold that it is an isolated instance of a Scotch Lodge adopting a custom that is repugnant to the feelings of Scotch Masons, as it is unauthorised by the Scotch Masonic Constitution.

On the part of Scotchmen and Scotch Masons, therefore, we repudiate the dogma of the "ineligibility of bastards as Freemasons," as in any respect applicable to lodges working under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

THE ORIENT IN THE OLDEN TIME.

Brethren in whose mind Solomon's Chair and its belongings are associated with the commonplace furniture of a Scotch "public-house," may from a perusal of the following "estimate," which was supplied to Ayr Kilwinning in 1778, form some idea of the taste displayed by the Craft in the ornamentation of the Orient a hundred years ago:—

"A platform with three steps to the front and two on each side, and Indian Canopy with a gilded

bell and gilded mouldings on each corner to the top, and back to carry the canopy from the platform. The pannels of the canopy painted white, and the bottom of the canopy covered with cloth that the inside may not be seen. Will cost £5 10s. sterling.

"It would be more elegant not to cover the bottom of the canopy, but to paint the inside of the same colour of the cloth, with a gold golass running up each corner on the inside to the top, and a piece ornament hanging down in the middle; the outside pannels painted green, with a festoon hanging from the top in each hollow pannel; with gold mouldings and gilded bells on each corner as above. Will cost £8 sterling.

"An elegant chair in the modern taste, finished in white and gold, and covered with crimson damask. Will cost £4 4s.

"Above is estimate of a Master Mason's seat and canopy after the model of those in use in some of the most respectable lodges in Edinburgh and Glasgow. As to covering the tables, Wilton carpeting is properest. One breadth with borders will cover a table 4½ ft. wide, and will cost between 11s. and 12s. every three feet or yard; but if the table is not so broad the borders may be split—in which case it will only cost about 9s. 3d. a yard."

ANCIENT LODGES.

A New and Correct List of all the English Regular Lodges in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, according to their seniority and constitution. By order of the Grand Master. Brought down to April 19th, 1765.

(Continued from page 490.)

99 Fox near the square, Manchester, first and third Monday, 1738.

100 Red Lion, Nottingham-court, Seven Dials, second and fourth Monday, Jan. 27, 1731.

101 Swan, Watergate-street, Chester, second Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1738.

102

103 Red Lion, Hornchurch, in Essex, first Friday, March 13, 1738.

104 Bakers Lodge, St. Mary's-street, St. John's Antigua, March 14, 1738.

105 Kingston, Jamaica, first and third Saturday, April 14, 1739.

106 April 24, 1739.

107 Scotch Arms, the Mother Lodge, at St. Christopher's, held at Baffetterre, first Thursday, June 21, 1739.

108 Crown and Ball, Playhouse-yard, Blackfriars, first Tuesday, Aug. 24, 1739.

109 East India Arms, John-street, Black's Field, Horselydown, first and third Wednesday, October 8, 1739.

110 King's Arms and Tun, Hyde-park-corner, second and fourth Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1739.

111 Red Bull, Long-lane, West Smithfield, second and fourth Monday, Dec. 7, 1739.

112 King's Head, in the Poultry, third Wednesday, Jan. 10, 1739.

113 Private Room, Lausanne, in the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, Feb. 2, 1739.

114 Three Lions, Banbury, Oxfordshire, every full moon, if on Thursday, or the Thursday before, March 31, 1740.

115 Ship, James-street, Covent-garden, second Tuesday, June 26, 1740.

116 Mourning Bush Tavern, Corn-street, Bristol, second and fourth Wednesday, July 10, 1740.

117 The Third Lodge, Calcutta, in East India, 1740.

118 St. Michael's Lodge, in Barbadoes, 1740.

119 Bunch of Grapes, Decker-street, Hamburg, every other Thursday, Oct. 23, 1740.

(To be Continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

MASTER MASON TO THE CROWN.

It is said that the pedestal upon which the statue of Charles I., at Charing Cross, stands was the work of one Marshall, "Master Mason to the Crown." Can any brother explain when the said office ceased to exist, or supply a list of the Master Masons Royal?—J.A.H.

FREEMASON—DERIVATION OF THE WORD.

Our worthy Bro. Buchan has applied to me his patent process of "touching up," and done it so energetically that, whether I may have been "joking" or not he is evidently in earnest. When Cosmo Innes—the Banquo's Ghost of Freemasonry—appears on the scene, I surrender at discretion. Nevertheless, I still half believe in the "free-born" theory.—J.A.H.

A VENERABLE MASON.

I found in Jerusalem a venerable Mason, Rev. Dr. H. Peterman, Prussian Consul in that city, a member of the Masonic Order of 40 years standing. Upon no class of men does the Masonic mantle set so gracefully as upon the aged: to such the crown of brotherly regard is truly a crown of rejoicing. I always feel like removing my hat, even while filling the Oriental chair in my lodge, when an aged Mason enters and tenders the customary salute. Many is the visit I have paid to the graves of Masonic veterans. The influence of that class of persons in all the operations of the Craft is deservedly great; Freemasonry, having so much of the traditionary, it would be strange were it not so.—ROB. MORRIS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents

THE MASONIC CELESTIAL MYSTERIES.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—A lengthened interview with Bro. Melville has convinced me that the truth or fallacy of his alleged discoveries can only be ascertained by a careful and impartial analysis. In conjunction with Bro. Vincent Bird, 30°, P.M. 954, I have proposed that Bro. Melville should visit Devonport, where, under certain restrictions, he should deliver a series of lectures on the Masonic Celestial Mysteries.

We hope by this mode of procedure to arrive ere long at some definite conclusion to this much vexed question.

Yours fraternally,

DNALXO.

P.S. A circular has been addressed to the W.M.s of the lodges in this district.

"ROYAL ARCH MASONRY."

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—The writer of the article under the above heading, which is given at page 499 of your columns, and which is taken from the "Masonic Record," must excuse me drawing aside the veil and telling him, that, so far as his remarks refer to the antiquity of the three Craft *degrees* and to the origin and existence of Royal Arch Masonry, he is incorrect. Further, apart from the Masonic *dreams* which have been so long current, I would ask him to give, if he can, any *substantial proof* of the existence of either previous to about the beginning of last century, which is *less* than two *hundred* years, let alone talking of an existence of *more* than two *thousand* years!

The existence of certain principles and ideas (and the occurrence of certain events) is quite a different matter from the existence of *Freemasonry*, according to our present system, as an exponent or conservator of those ideas, &c.

Yours fraternally,

W. P. BUCHAN.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND FREEMASONRY.

(See page 447 *ante*.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR

Dear Sir and Brother,—The frank way in which His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has signified his desire to join some of the English lodges ought to meet with a hearty response from them. He holds out, in the most fraternal manner, the right hand of fellowship, which I trust will be grasped in a proper Masonic spirit; and I would hope some day to see His Royal Highness duly installed as Grand Master of England.

Yours fraternally,

PICTUS.

BRO. MELVILLE.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Your correspondent, "R.J.," wishes to know what the brethren named in my last letter have "done" that they should be called upon to investigate Bro. Melville's alleged discoveries? "R.J." is, or ought to be, aware that the eminent brethren in question united in forming the Masonic Archæological Institute, to which properly belongs the work of inquiring into the history, traditions, and science of the Craft. It was, therefore, not unreasonable on my part to suggest their fitness to decide in Bro. Melville's case, and I think "R.J.," might have "done" something better than throwing cold water on the hint I gave.

Yours fraternally,

J. A. H.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

INTENDED REDUCTION IN PRICE OF THE "MAGAZINE."

On Saturday, the 3rd July, the price of the MAGAZINE will be reduced to THREEPENCE.

It is now nine years since the quarto series of the MAGAZINE was commenced, and it has ever since continued to be published at sixpence weekly.

For a considerable time past it has been in contemplation to reduce the price of this MAGAZINE; and it is now many months since the intentions of the then proprietor were made known by announcements in the advertising columns that a permanent reduction in price would be made as soon as the necessary arrangements for that purpose could be completed, and a fitting opportunity occurred.

It is now our pleasing duty to announce to our subscribers and friends the *promised reduction*; and also that various improvements will be introduced into the MAGAZINE itself. In so doing we must of course look to a greatly extended support from the members of the Craft for that reward, which we are assured by a very large circle of friends and supporters, such a step as that about to be taken will be sure to meet with; still it is only by the active and energetic support of our friends that such a venture can be made to succeed—more particularly in the case of a class journal—and by a greatly increased sale to cover the weekly cost of production.

The proposed reduction of the postage rates on newspapers, has been for some time past looked forward to as affording an opportunity for expecting the reduction in price of the MAGAZINE; and it is believed that long before our next half-yearly volume is completed, the anticipated reduction on the newspaper postage rates will be successfully introduced by the Post Office Authorities. And therefore the approaching commencement of a new volume has, under these circumstances, been considered an appropriate occasion for carrying out the long contemplated and previously announced intention, to reduce the sum of the MAGAZINE to THREEPENCE.

Whilst thanking the numerous subscribers and the zealous friends and supporters of the MAGAZINE for their past aid and labour on our behalf, we trust still to secure their hearty co-operation, so that, by their recommendations and otherwise, amongst the members of the Masonic Order, they may assist us in so expanding the area of its usefulness and by greatly-increasing the number of its readers, thus give it still greater power and influence as the well-tried organ of the Craft at large.

MASONIC MEMS.

UNIVERSAL MASONIC CALENDAR FOR 1869.—A few remaining copies of the second edition are for sale at a reduction of 25 per cent.

THE British Association will meet at Exeter, on the 8th August, on which occasion we trust that those members belonging to the ancient Craft will meet with a Masonic reception.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.—The exhibition of pottery, glass, and other specimens of ancient Jewish art, found by Bro. Lieut. Warren in the course of his excavations at Jerusalem, is now open at the Dudley Gallery. No such exhibition has ever been held previously, and we trust it will meet with success, and more especially in a financial sense, as funds are urgently needed to prosecute the researches.

NEW LODGE AT EGREMONT.—We understand that the warrant of the Grand Lodge of England, issued by order of the M.W.G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, for the formation of a Masonic lodge at Egremont, has been received. It is to be named the Kenlis Lodge, in compliment to the nobleman of that name (Bro. Lord Kenlis, of Underley Hall), who at present discharges so admirably the duties of Prov. G. Master of Cumberland and Westmorland, and who will probably officiate at the consecration and opening of the new lodge in the course of the present summer. Bro. Crowther Morton, P. Prov. G.S.W., P.M. 872 & 1,002, is to be the first Master of the Kenlis Lodge, and Bros. Dr. Lawson and E. Chapman will take office as S.W. and J.W. respectively.

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.

It has been proposed by some of the Dutch lodges to hold an International meeting of Freemasons during the period of the Netherlands Exhibition. The meeting to take place either at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, or Utrecht, in the month of September next. Further particulars are promised, which we shall publish.

PORTRAITS of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T. G.C.B., M.W.G.M. Mason of Scotland, can now be obtained at this office, price 3s. 6d. each. Copies, with ornamental border and Masonic emblems printed in gold, on large size paper, can be had, price 10s. 6d.

BRO. J. G. FINDEL, the German historian of Freemasonry, has, we understand, been unanimously elected an honorary member of Mother Kilwinning. We congratulate our learned brother upon this recognition of his merits as a Masonic writer.

FORTHCOMING MASONIC WORK.—Of the recent contributors to these pages none have been more industrious or more successful than Bro. Hughan, of Truro, in his endeavours to shed light upon the early history of English Symbolic Masonry, and to impart information upon kindred subjects of antique date. We have just learned that his anxiety to bring the brethren into closer intimacy with the productions of the early fathers of English Freemasonry, has moved him to undertake the reproduction, in *fac-simile*, of Cole's Operative Masonic Constitutions—a labour, the accomplishment of which must necessarily entail considerable expense. Seeing that the project has not been undertaken with a view to pecuniary profit, it behoves the brethren to guard Bro. Hughan against loss in the prosecution of his present design; and this can be best done by subscribing, direct through him, for a copy of the work, the price (free by post) being half a guinea each. The edition is limited to some seventy or eighty copies. The volume will, we understand,

contain—(1) An article by Bro. Hugban on the MS. and Printed Constitutions of the Freemasons. (2) A Reprint of the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England, published in 1723, being the first edition (slightly abridged). (3) A *fac-simile* lithographic reprint of Cole's Operative Constitutions of the Craft, issued in 1728. In directing attention to this, we are certain that from among our readers Bro. Hugban will obtain the desired number of subscribers to his interesting volume.

The fifteen sections will be worked by Bro. T. A. Adams, P.G. Purst., in the Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, held at Bro. Claiseu's, 60 and 61, Haymarket, on Tuesday next, the 29th inst. The hour for opening the lodge will be 7 o'clock.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS.

The report of proceedings of the governors and subscribers at the Annual General Meeting held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Friday, the 21st day of May, 1869, has been published.

We append the following report of the Committee of Management, and it is to be hoped that at the next festival the decrease in this year's subscription will be made up, and thus maintain the usefulness of so deserving an institution:—

"The Committee of Management in presenting this their annual report, regret that they cannot congratulate the governors and subscribers so heartily as they have been enabled to do in past years, the great depression in trade having caused a decrease in the amount collected both from brethren and lodges in the metropolis and country.

"The anniversary festival holden by direction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, on the 27th January last, was presided over by the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, R.W. Prov. G.M. for Somersetshire, when the donations and subscriptions contained in the list of seventy brethren who had kindly acted as Stewards on that occasion and supported his lordship, amounted to £2,219 15s. 2d., being a decrease on the amount announced last year of £908 8s. 10d. Notwithstanding the falling off in the amount announced at the festival, the Committee of Management have adhered strictly to Rule 42, requiring one-third of the life donations to be invested, and accordingly £500 Stock in the 3 per Cent. Reduced Annuities was purchased on account of the male fund, and a like sum of £500 Stock in the 3 per Cent. Reduced Annuities was purchased on account of the female fund.

"The committee have to report that the asylum building is in perfect repair, and that out of 152 (now 162) annuitants receiving the benefits of this institution, eleven males and twenty females have accepted the offer of apartments, and are now occupants of the building, the remaining number, 121, residing in different parts of London and the country as they may deem most fit.

"Your committee cannot but urge on the brethren generally, the need of renewed exertions during the present year, for although the committee have recommended an increased number of annuitants to be elected at the Annual General Meeting on the 21st inst., they were scarcely warranted in so doing, looking to the state of the funds; but as they infer that the Craft generally would wish as large a number as possible placed on the institution, they rely on sufficient support being accorded to them to justify their having done so, and they would therefore again urge upon the members of the Craft for renewed support in consequence of this institution differing as it does from the other Masonic Institutions, in the fact that there is no limit to the number of annuitants so long as the committee are supplied with funds."

METROPOLITAN.

MONTEFIORE LODGE (No. 1,017).—This lodge met on the 9th inst. The W.M., Bro. the Rev. M. B. Levy, having taken the chair, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. J. Carlebach, L. H. Moore, Charles Wertheimer, and M. De Groot, were passed to the degree of F.C.'s, and Bro. George Moore was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren retired to banquet. Visitors: Bros. Rice, No. 736, Mauritius, and Harris, No. 185.

INSTRUCTION.

METROPOLITAN LODGE OF INSTRUCTION (No. 1,056).—A numerous meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 18th inst., at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Amongst the members present we noticed Bros. J. Brett, Preceptor; Taylor, W.M.; Mortlock, S.W.; Cooke, J.W.; R. Tanner, Candidate; Murray, Ashby, Thorp, Powne, Paul's, McCullom, Carey, Steele, Lawler, Makowery, Gompertz, D'Arcy, Still, Hosgood, and others, whose names we were not able to ascertain. The ceremony of the third degree was creditably rendered by the W.M., assisted in an able manner by his officers. The sections of this degree were then worked by the several brethren as follows:—Bros. J. Brett, 1st sect.; Pauls 2nd sect.; and Mortlock, 3rd sect.; the whole being rendered in an efficient manner. We may here observe that this lodge of instruction will hold its meetings on Friday, at seven p.m., throughout the year, at the above hotel.

MIDDLESEX.

GOOCH LODGE (No. 1,238).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Prince Alfred Hotel, Southall, on Monday, 21st inst., Bro. George King, jun., the J.W., occupying the chair of K.S. in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. The officers present, were: Bros. Magnus Obren, S.W.; Baber, J.W.; Lonsdale, S.D.; Treath, I.G.; Bryant, Hon. Sec.; Cornish, Clark, and Laxton. Visitors: Bros. Clouston, P.M. 33; Woodward, 382; N. E. Jennings, P.M. 452, S.W. 1,139, P.G.D. (Surrey). The lodge having been opened in due form and with prayer, and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Clarke was introduced, and having given the necessary replies to questions as to his proficiency he retired, and after the lodge was opened in the second degree, he was admitted and duly passed. The lodge was then lowered to the first degree, and the ballot taken for Captain Avery Tyrrell, which being unanimous, he was duly initiated by the acting W.M. in a very excellent manner. The brethren were then called off for half an hour, to give ample time for Bro. W. Smith, C.E., the W.M. to arrive, but he not arriving the lodge was closed in accordance with the usual custom, and the brethren retired to banquet, which was supplied in Bro. Cornish's well-known style. And after spending a social evening together, the brethren separated.

PROVINCIAL.

ESSEX.

ESSEX.—Upton Lodge (No. 1,227).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 10th inst., at the Spotted Dog. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes confirmed, Messrs. J. E. N. Simmons and Stevens were initiated in a very excellent manner. Bro. Jas Terry, P.M., and Sec. of the Urban Lodge, was presented with a very elegant testimonial for services rendered to the lodge. Bro. Terry returned thanks. The lodge was then closed.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—St. John's Lodge (No. 279).—An Emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 16th inst., the W.M. Bro. Kelly, D.P.G.M., in the chair. There were also present Bros., P.M's., Pettifor, P.P.S.G.W.; Weare, P.P.G.D., and Treas.; and L. A. Clarke, P.G.S.D.; Stanley, S.W.; Stretton, J.W. and P.P.G. Reg.; Crow, Sec. and Org.; Thorp, S.D.; L.L. Atwood, J.W. Smith, Palmer, Dr. Pearce, McAllister, Widdowson, Dr. Finch, Stannard, Bambridge, Tyler. Visitors:—Bros. Rev. N. Haycroft, D.D., No. 181; and Duff, W.M.; Toller, S.W. and W.M. elect.; Sculthorpe,

Sec.; Partridge, J.D.; and Challis of No. 523. The lodge having been opened, a ballot was taken for Bro. McAllister, of No. 21, N.B., as a joining member, and for Mr. Joseph Roper, as a candidate for initiation, both of whom were unanimously elected. The candidate being absent from the town his initiation stood over to the next meeting, and Bro. Dr. Finch having been examined in the first degree retired, when the lodge having been opened in the second degree he was duly passed a Fellow Craft. On the conclusion of the ceremony the W.M. gave the lecture on the tracing-board. The musical chants were given by Bro. Crow and others. On the lodge being lowered to the first degree a Lewis, the son of a member of the lodge, who had that day attained his majority, was proposed as a candidate for Freemasonry, the W.M. intimating, that although the regular meetings of the lodge were now suspended for the summer recess, he proposed holding another Lodge of Emergency early in July for the initiation of the two candidates, and to raise the six brethren, who would then be eligible for the third degree. The brethren, on the lodge being closed, formed themselves into a Lodge of Instruction preparatory to the installation of Bro. Toller, as W.M. of the John of Gaunt Lodge, on Thursday, the 24th, inst., St. John's day.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*Rutland Lodge* (No. 170).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 18th inst., instead of June 24th inst., to enable any of the brethren to attend the festival of one of the Leicester lodges which will be held on that day. Bro. Rev. W. Langley, W.M., presiding. Bro. Row was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and Bro. Crowson passed to the second degree. A lengthened discussion then took place respecting a lodge room, and the worthy brother, at whose house the lodge meets, showed a plan, which was most favourably received by the brethren present. Should a sufficient guarantee for rent, &c., be entered into by the lodge, to justify Bro. Selby in carrying out his intended building, the lodge will be greatly benefited, as it will then be possible to work the ceremonies in an effective manner, which the smallness of the room has hitherto so much marred. The W.M. of the lodge will be most thankful if any brother, who has had experience in guaranteeing the rent of a lodge room, when the outlay has been mainly made, for the convenience of the lodge, by the landlord of the hotel, would kindly send him any hints or suggestions founded on his experience. His address is, Rev. W. Langley, Wymondham House, Oakham.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

PONTYPOOL.—*Kennard Lodge* (No. 1,258).—The first regular meeting of the members of this lodge (after the consecration), was held at the Clarence Hotel, on the 21st inst., under the very able presidency of the W.M. Bro. Bartholomew Thomas. All the officers were in attendance except the S.D., who had recently taken unto himself a wife, and is on his marriage tour. There were several P.G. officers present, including the Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, S.D., Dir. of Cers., Pursuivant, and several Stewards. Bro. Fothergill presided at the harmonium, and was kindly assisted by a capital choir. The minutes of the consecration and dedication were read and confirmed. The following eight candidates were then balloted for and unanimously accepted, viz.:—W. H. Lloyd, Oliver D. Thomas, W. Banning, R. Greenway, W. Dovey, W. Sandbrook, Joseph Ellis, all of Pontypool, and Edward Jones, of Varteg. Two joining members were also admitted, and the above eight gentlemen being in attendance, were then duly initiated, the D. Prov. G.M. having granted a dispensation for that purpose. Three other candidates for initiation at the next meeting were then proposed, one of them being E. Kennard, Esq., brother of Martyn Kennard, Esq., S.W. No. 1,258. Three subscribing members were also nominated. The lodge was then closed in harmony at half-past eight, and the brethren proceeded to refreshment. The W.M. presided, supported by about thirty members of the Craft. The usual Masonic toasts were given and responded to, Bros. W. H. Lloyd, R. Greenway, and O. D. Thomas thanking the brethren as new initiates. Several songs were sung, and the Newport brethren took their departure by coach about half-past ten. We heartily congratulate the promoters of No. 1,258 upon the excellent style in which the lodge and lodge-room are fitted up. Everything seems to have been done well and in order. The pillars, pedestals, &c., given by the worthy S.W., were the theme of admiration, and the tracing-boards presented by the P.G.M. were also truly magnificent. Bro. Villiers presented this evening a photo of the brethren

who attended at the consecration, as a small souvenir of his respect for the Craft, and the thanks of the members of the lodge were unanimously given to Bro. Villiers for his kindness. We will not attempt to speak of the admirable working by the W.M. Bro. Thomas, if we were to do so it would only be gilding refined gold. Sufficient to say, all was first-class, and we augur that in a very short time this lodge will be second to none in the province.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION (No. 1,056).—A convocation of this chapter was held on the 22nd inst., at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury. The exaltation ceremony was worked by Comps. Dr. Woodman, Z.; Selfe, H.; Gotthiel, J.; Neohmer, N.; and Smith, P.S. Green, Hosgood, and several companions were present. The lectures were delivered in a very creditable manner. This being the maiden attempt of Dr. Woodman as Z., we may observe that it was very creditably rendered, and reflects no small credit on the Preceptor of this chapter; and we think that Comp. Smith, the P.S., will, under the able presidency of Comp. Brett, ere long be proficient in R.A. Masonry. We may here observe, that the regular Masonic meetings held at this hotel will in future, as far as practicable, be held in the large hall.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

SOUTHWARK LODGE OF MARK MASTERS (No. 22).—The regular quarterly meeting of this well established Mark Lodge was held on Saturday, June 19th, at the Bridge-house Hotel, Wellington-street, Southwark. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. Thomas J. Sabine, the lodge was opened by Bro. Thomas Meggy, P.G.O. The minutes of the last lodge meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. Ballots were unanimous in favour of the admission of Bro. G. W. Wheeler, 73, Rose and Thistle Mark Lodge, Glasgow (S.C.), as a joining member (who was then obligated in an impressive manner under the English Grand Lodge of Mark Masters), and Bro. Samuel Harman, 73, Mount Lebanon Lodge. Bro. S. Harman being in attendance was introduced, and having proved himself properly qualified for advancement was duly obligated and withdrew. Bro. T. J. Sabine, W.M., then arrived and then took the chair, presiding over the lodge for the remainder of the evening. Bro. S. Harman was re-admitted and duly advanced to the ancient and honourable degree of a Mark Master Freemason. The whole of the ceremony in the hands of two such good workers, as what Bros. Meggy and Sabine really are, was admirably rendered and impressively given. This being the election night for officers of this lodge for the ensuing year, these brethren who were eligible to be elected W.M. and Treas. were read out aloud by the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. Frederick Walters, P.G.P. The ballot for W.M. proved unanimous in favour of Bro. Henry Massey, S.W. and W.M., 619, Beadon Lodge, being elected to that distinguished position. Bro. A. D. Loewenstark, P.G.P. Treas. as is usual in this lodge was unanimously elected to that important and honourable office for the sixth time. Bro. W. Y. Laing was proposed by Secretary and seconded by Treasurer for re-election as the Tyler, and as usual the show of hands was unanimously in favour of his re-election for the fourth time. Bros. J. Hawker, G. W. Wheeler, and S. Harman, in addition to all the officers of this lodge (who are appointed as auditors by the by-laws), were unanimously elected to serve as auditors on the Audit Committee meeting. It was unanimously agreed to hold the Audit Committee meeting on Saturday, September 11th, at Bro. Y. W. Acry's, Queen's Arms, 36, Weston-street, Bermondsey, at 7.0 p.m. All the business being ended the lodge was closed at eight o'clock, and was ordered to be summoned to meet on Saturday, Sept. 11th, at five p.m., which will be the Installation meeting. All officers of the lodge who were absent sent apologies in writing, excusing and regretting their non-attendance to the W.M., and stating it was caused by circumstances entirely beyond their own control. The vacant offices caused by the resignation of membership of those who were appointed, were filled

by appointing and investing with the collar and jewel of their respective offices—Bros. G. W. Wheeler as Time Keeper and S. Harman as Dir. of Cers. There were present besides those mentioned:—Bros. H. Massej, S.W.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.G. Purst, J.W., and Treas.; W. Noak, S.O.; T. H. Meredith, J.O.; E. Harris, R. of M., and others. Visitors:—Bros. C. Swan, P.G.S.B.; W. Mann, W.M. S; C. Sloman, SG; C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.S.B.; W. Smith, C.E., P.M. Mausir, 22, and others whose names we were unable to learn. Bro. T. J. Sabine, W.M., was unanimously elected to serve as Steward to represent this lodge at the Mark Masters' Stewards' Festival, which will be held in July. The Secretary read Bro. F. Binckes, G.S., letter announcing the summer festival of the Boys' School being held on Thursday, July 8th, at the school, Wood Green, and the statement of finances of that institution which proved how great are the exertions yet to be made before that noble institution will be free from debt. The usual loyal toasts were given and received. Bro. C. Sloman gave an excellent Mark song, which was thoroughly appreciated, it being both good and original. Bro. F. Walters, who had but recently recovered from a severe and almost fatal illness, was warmly welcomed and congratulated on his recovery to his usual health. After a few hours most agreeably spent, the brethren separated.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CONCLAVE.—The annual meeting was held at the Adelphi Hotel, on the 10th inst., the new banqueting-room being used on the occasion. The Jacques de Molay Encampment was opened in due form by the E.C., Captain Thomas Berry, after which the Prov. G. Officers entered in procession, when the business of the province was transacted by the V.E.P.G.C. of Lancashire, Albert Hudson Royds, assisted by his officers. The following knights were present:—W. H. Wright, E.D.P.G.C.; R. F. Ainsworth, P.G.P.; J. Bolderson, P.G.S.P.; J. Duffield, P.G.C.; R. McDowell Smith, P.G.V.C.; W. Birch, P.G.R.; J. M. Wike, P.G.T.; Major Horner, P.E.C.; R. F. Sparks, P.E.C.; S. White, P.E.C.; D. Long; H. S. Alpass, P.E.C.; E. Pierpoint, P.E.C.; J. T. Hall, J. Fowler, H. Bulley, J. Morris, Dr. Mercer Johnson, J. Melladew, C. J. Banister, Lieut. Mott, &c. The officers for the ensuing year were invested, and the committee of general purposes were appointed. This closed the business, and a banquet was afterwards served up.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The necessity which exists, in all institutions depending entirely upon voluntary contributions for support, entails upon the committee of the Metropolitan Free Hospital the duty of making an annual appeal to the benevolent for assistance. The densely populated district in which the hospital is situated at all times furnishes a large number of applicants; but, the knowledge that its doors are open to all without any letter of recommendation, occasions an overwhelming flood of applications from the destitute sick, not of the metropolis alone, but of the suburbs also; the class of persons chiefly seeking its benefits being unable, by reason of their extreme poverty and friendlessness, to obtain the necessary introduction to other more conveniently situated hospitals. The attendances of patients during the past year have been greater than usual, amounting in the aggregate to 83,903, representing 36,898 persons. This institution possesses peculiar claims upon the wealthy of every creed, because, by its promptitude of action, its medical officers are enabled to grapple with disease in its earlier stages, and thus check the development of those dire maladies which, having their origin amongst the very poor, are not slow in occasioning suffering and death in the homes of the affluent. During the past year His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c., has succeeded His Royal Highness the late Prince Consort, his father, as patron of the hospital. Negotiations have been set on foot with a view to induce the Metropolitan Railway Company to settle the terms of compensation to be given for the premises required by them, and it is hoped by the assistance of a benevolent public, that the acquisition of a site for the new hospital will be shortly announced, and the date fixed for laying the foundation stone of the same. The committee, perceiving the lamentable want of Hospital accommodation which exist in the north-eastern division of this metropolis, have thought of the vicinity of Shoreditch, as affording the largest scope for usefulness, and would thankfully receive suggestions as to any eligible sites in the neighbourhood.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

STOW.

MASONIC PIC-NIC.—On Saturday last, the brethren of St. John's Lodge (No. 216), held a "pic-nic" in a beautiful haugh near the village. They were honoured by the presence of a numerous party of Grand Lodge officials from Edinburgh, including Bro. Henry Inglis, Grand Substitute Master of Scotland; Bro. Mann, Grand Junior Warden; and Bros. Clark, Mackenzie, Bryce, and McCowan, members of Grand Committee; also deputations from the Lodge Journeymen, Edinburgh; St. Luke's, Lander, and St. John's, Galashiels. Refreshments were provided by Bro. Dickson, of the Railway Hotel; music supplied by Messrs. W. and G. Crosby, of Hawick, and what with dancing, athletic sports, &c., the afternoon and evening, till about nine o'clock, passed agreeably.

IRELAND.

LIMERICK MASONIC HALL.

The ceremony of dedication of the new Masonic Hall will take place on Thursday next, at twelve o'clock. The Right Hon. Lord Dunboyne, Provincial Grand Master, will attend, and has ordered that the Provincial Grand Officers be summoned to dedicate the building according to usual custom for Masonic purposes. A large gathering of the Craft is expected to be present, including the Worshipful Masters of all the lodges in the province of North Munster. Invitations have also been sent by the Worshipful Master of Lodge 73 to musical brethren in Dublin and Cork, not only to be present at the dedication, but also to the banquet in the evening, which will be on a scale of magnificence never before equalled in the city of Limerick. The Masonic body have great cause to congratulate themselves on the success of the undertaking, and the Masonic Hall Company (Limited) may now fairly be said to be in a flourishing condition.—*Limerick Southern Chronicle*.

MASONIC LIFEBOAT FUND.

Further subscription received:—Collected by Bro. Henry Green, No. 364, £3 10s.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, AND THE DEPENDENCIES OF THE COLONIES AND BRITISH CROWN.

The following circular has been issued respecting the special festival proposed to be held next month.

"Office, 2, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London, W.C.

"21st June, 1869.

"W. and Dear Sir and Brother,—At the half-yearly communication held on Tuesday 1st instant, the question of the admission of ladies to the festival banquets after the meetings of Grand Lodge was again considered. After much discussion an amendment was proposed and adopted as a compromise of the conflicting opinions on the subject, viz.:—That the Grand Stewards be authorised to make arrangements for holding a Special Festival during the present Summer, the object of which shall be to obtain donations in support of the Benevolent Fund appertaining to this Grand Lodge.

"At a meeting of the board of Grand Stewards, held on Wednesday 16th instant, the questions in connection with the Charity Festival were carefully considered, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—That the suggested Charity Festival be carried out under the instructions of a Board of Stewards to be nominated expressly for the purpose by the various lodges, to whom a circular requesting the nomination of a brother as Steward be forthwith sent.

"I have therefore, on behalf of the Board of Grand Stewards, to ask you to be good enough to bring the subject before the

members of your lodge, for the purpose of obtaining the services of a brother, or that you will on your responsibility as W.M. of the lodge appoint some brother who may be willing to act as Steward, and represent the lodge at this the first festival held in connection with the Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund. It is hoped that a speedy response will be made to this appeal, as it is very desirable that the festival should not be delayed beyond the middle of July. If the arrangements can be made for holding the festival within that date, there is every hope of its being attended with success, and that it will be graced by a considerable number of Ladies, whose presence is so anxiously wished to ensure the favourable result anticipated by those who have been instrumental in organising the festival. The expenses in excess of those to be defrayed by purchase of dinner tickets, cannot be more than moderate, and will be defrayed *pro rata* by the Stewards. Earnestly soliciting your kind co-operation,

"I am, W. and Dear Sir and Brother,
"Yours faithfully and fraternally,
"FREDERICK BINCKES, G. Sec."

LIST OF LODGE, &c., MEETINGS FOR WEEK ENDING 3RD JULY, 1869.

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

METROPOLITAN.

Sunday, June 27th.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Rose and Crown, Fort-st., Union-st., Bishopsgate.

Monday, June 28th.

LODGES.—British Oak, Bank of Friendship Tav., Bancroft-pl., Mile-end; Tower Hamlets Engineers, George Ho., Aldermanbury; De Grey and Ripon, Angel Ho., Gt. Ilford.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Union Waterloo (for M.M.), King's Arms, Woolwich, Temple, Old George, St. Mary Axe; Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-rd., Deptford; 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.—CHAPTER.—Joppa, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.—MARK MASONRY.—Lodge of Instruction, Kent, Lyceum Tav., Strand

Tuesday, June 29th.

LODGES.—Faith, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Strong Man, White Horse, Little Britain; Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich; Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metropolitan District Railway, Victoria Station; Domestic, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell; Jordan, Alwyne Castle, Canonbury; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; British Oak, Silver Lion Tav., Pennyfield, Poplar; Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney; Royal Union, Hotel de Cologne, Haymarket.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Metropolitan, George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

Wednesday, June 30th.

LODGES.—Temperance in the East, Private Assembly Rooms, 6, Newby-place, Poplar.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Eastern Star, Royal Hotel, Burdett-street, Mile-end-rd.; Confidence, Sugar Loaf, Great. St. Helens; Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse; 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.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—St. James's Union, Swan Tav., Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.

Thursday, July 1st.

LODGES.—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; Victoria Rifles, F.M.H.; Excelsior, Sydney Arms, Lewisham-rd.; Perfect Ashlar, Gregorian Arms, Bermondsey-rd.—LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq.; Kent, Duke of York, Borough-rd.; Globe, No. 10, Old Bond-st.; United Mariners, Three Cranes, Mile-end-rd.; St. John's

Hollybush Tav., Hampstead; Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-sq.; Tranquillity, Sugar Loaf Tav., Gt. St. Helen's, St. Mary Axe; Whittington, Crown Ho., 41, Holborn; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tav., Deptford; City of London, Shepherd and Flock Tav., Bell-alley, Moorgate-st. CHAPTERS.—Westbourne, New Inn, Edgware-rd.; Crystal Palace, Crystal Palace, Sydenham.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Prospect of Whithy Tavern, 57, Wapping-wall.

Friday, July 2nd.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.—Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-street, Regent-street; St. Luke's, Pier Hotel, Chelsea; Temperance, Victoria Tavern, Victoria-road, Deptford; Union's (Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.), Freemasons' Hall; United Pilgrims, Horns' 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; Doric, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd.; Rose of Denmark, White Hart, Barnes, Surrey; Metropolitan Lo. of Instruction, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Florence Nightingale, Freemasons' Tav., Woolwich.—CHAPTER.—High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham.

Saturday, July 3rd.

Gen. Com. Boys' School, at 4.

PROVINCIAL.

DORSET.

WEYMOUTH.—Fri., Chapter: All Souls, Ma. Hall.

EAST LANCASHIRE.

BRADFORD (near Manchester).—Lodge: Wed., Townley Parker, Grey Mare Inn, Ashton Old-rd.—DENTON.—Wed., Lodge: Duke of Athol, Nottingham Castle Inn.—HEXWOOD.—Wed., Lodge: Napthali, Ma. Ro.—LITTLEBOROUGH.—Tues., Lodge: Benevolence, Red Lion Ho.—MANCHESTER.—Mon., Lodges: Robert Burns, F.M.H. Wed., Integrity, F.M.H.; Strangeways, Assize Courts Ho., Strangeways.

WEST LANCASHIRE.

WARRINGTON.—Mon., Lodge: Lights, Ma. Rooms, Sankey-st.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH AND METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.—Mon., Lodges: St. Clair, F.M.H. Tues., Defensive Band, 14, Waterloo-pl. Thurs., St. Andrew, F.M.H.; St. James's, Writer-court. Fri., Celtic, Ship. Ho. Chapters: Tues., Naval and Military, F.M.H. Fri., Canongate Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John-st.; St. Andrew's, F.M.H.—GLASGOW.—Mon., Lodges: St. Clair, 19, Croy-pl. Tues., Glasgow, Antigua-pl.; Athole, 213, Buchanan-st.; Union and Crown, 19, Croy-pl. Thurs., Commercial, 19, Croy-pl.; St. Andrew, J. Ray's, Castle-st. Fri., St. Mungo, 213, Buchanan-st.; Shamrock and Thistle, 15, Main-st., Bridgeton; Clyde, 170, Buchanan-st.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.—Mon., Lodges: No. 153, F.M.H. Tues., Nos. 4, 6, F.M.H.—BELFAST.—Mon., Lodge: Belfast, "Weirs," Davis-st. Thurs., Harmony, Ma. Ro. Fri., Hiram, Ma. Ro.—LONDONDERRY AND DONEGAL.—Kernaghan, Inch.—Thurs., Lodge: Inch, Ma. Ha.—LONDONDERRY.—Thurs., Lodge: St. Columbs, Ma. Ro., Strand-rd. Fri., Commercial, Ma. Ro., Strand-road.—KILREA.—Fri., Lodge: Friendly Brothers, A, Fenton's, Diamond.

[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.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

E. K. (No. 463, S.C.)—Copy received. Will be inserted in our next.

H. GUTHRIE (Hokitika).—P. O. O. received, with thanks. The numbers shall be forwarded.

D. F. (Haskien, Constantinople).—Much obliged for your communication, which shall appear next week.

