

THE
FREEMASONS'
MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

JULY 1, 1856.

ON THE MYSTERIES OF THE EARLY AGES AS
CONNECTED WITH RELIGION.

SECOND SERIES.

IN the *Masonic Magazine* of last February, we endeavoured to prove that the mysteries of religious worship were clearly derived from the adoration given to celestial bodies, and more especially to the sun and moon in the forms of Isis and Osiris, and that the various ceremonies afterwards established at Eleusis, and held in honour of the deities of Greece, of Rome, and through all parts of the Eastern world, originated in Egypt. It may, then, be a matter of interest to the Brethren to show that the worship of the sun prevails at this moment, because our Order being also traced to the earliest times, has a right to lay claim to the highest antiquity on exactly similar grounds.

About fourteen miles to the north of Baku (a port on the western side of the Caspian Sea) is a conventual building erected on a spot where flames of fire issue naturally from the earth. This place is called Atesh-Dia, signifying in Persian "Fire-Land," and is the residence of the Ghebers, or Fire-Worshippers, the last remains of the devotees of that religion, which was so widely spread in primitive ages. They exist likewise in Astrachan, and in several parts of India. The object held by them as most sacred is the holy fire, which penetrating through the surface of the earth ignites spontaneously. Pilgrims from India and China resort to this spot, and remain as hermits till the close of life, absorbed in religious contemplation before the sacred element, which is held to be the representative of Mithras, a Persian deity, to whom, converted into a carved image, worship was addressed. Lucifer, the morning star, the son of Jupiter and Aurora, according to the Greek mythology, from preceding the sun in dispelling the darkness of night, became identified

with the source of light and heat, and thus was an object of veneration. In after ages Zoroaster, supposed to have been a king of Bactria, about 3,000 years B.C., admitted fire to be alone the proper emblem of a Supreme Being, and thus the worship of Mithras extended in the eastern hemisphere.

It is thought to have been introduced at Rome by Numa (714 years B.C.) in the ceremonies instituted by him in honour of Vesta, as the virgins dedicated to that goddess were held responsible for the sacred fire never being extinguished. If such an event took place, the republic was supposed to be threatened with sudden calamity; the virgin whose negligence was in fault was severely punished, and the flame was rekindled by the rays of the sun. The temples of Vesta (one of which still exists at Rome) were always built in a circular form, with reference, as has been conjectured, to the figure of the earth; and the statue of the goddess herself represented a female robed and veiled, with a lamp in her hand.

The inscriptions on the altars of the male deity were, "Deo soli Mithræ," or "Soli Deo invicto Mithræ," and he himself is personified by the figure of a young man with a turban or cap similar to that worn in Persia. He supports his knee upon a bull lying on the ground, one of whose horns he holds in the left hand, while with the other he plunges a dagger into the animal's neck.* The adoration of the sun is here by some means evidently connected with the Egyptian mythology of Isis and Osiris, and the image may have some allusion to the force of the sun on his entering the zodiacal sign of the Bull.

All this goes a great way to prove how religious adoration, once introduced, may be perpetuated through ages; and as the mysteries of Eleusis (a town in Attica), dating from 1,356 years B.C., existed 1,800 years, until finally abolished by Theodosius the Great, A.D. 395, we may refer to them in drawing a comparison with our own Order, more particularly as many details are to be found in classical authors on this subject. We shall therefore limit our inquiry to this point, and to the system of the Druids, who flourished amongst ourselves as a branch of the Celtic family before the introduction of Christianity into England.

All religious mysteries have two observances common to every sect, viz.—first, initiation; and secondly, the obligations belonging to each degree.

By initiation, the candidate is required to pass through a state of probation, so as to give evidence that he is fitted for admission or enrolment. This precaution was also adopted in the earliest times of Christianity, as the catechumens were not permitted to partake of the Eucharist, nor even to be present at this sacred rite, till after they had undergone a strict trial. This may probably have originated from the necessity of concealment at the time when the early Christians were obliged by persecution to occupy the catacombs at

* See the "Transcaucasia," by the Baron von Haxthausen; and the "Histoire pittoresque de la Franc-Maçonnerie," par F. T. B. Clavel.

Rome, and to perform their religious ceremonies with the greatest secrecy. Nor was this the only motive, as a certain love of mystery may have been fostered in their minds by ideas derived from the heathen and Jewish worship. For a similar reason the service was administered for a series of ages "*memoriter*" by the priests, and the responses were taught to the people, as it is evident that for three centuries there is no proof of the existence of any written ritual; and this fact is an object of great interest to the Brethren, as corroborating the antiquity of our Order.

Without entering into tedious and unnecessary details, we will shortly enumerate the leading points of initiation as they are stated to have existed in the Eleusinian mysteries, so that a comparison may be formed on this subject.

After a long ceremony of purification, continued through nine days, the candidate was admitted by night into a vast and stupendous building, arranged with long corridors and galleries, wherein strange and amazing objects presented themselves to his sight. He was apparently exposed to the terrors of an earthquake, was surrounded by the flames of fire amidst the most appalling imitation of thunder and lightning, and in a moment encircled with the gloom of impenetrable darkness. Hideous noises and howlings were heard, and apparitions made to appear. His progress was still further arrested by channels of water, which could only be passed by wading, the clothes being on the head, with a lamp affixed, as this was the only light allowed.

He at last found himself at the entrance of a narrow passage leading to a landing-place about six feet square, the floor of which was made moveable by mechanism underneath. On each side were walls of brass, and behind wheels of the same metal were fixed. In front was a gate of ivory, opening inwards, and preventing any further advance. On his attempting to turn two large rings annexed to the door, the wheels came into motion, producing a most terrific effect, and the floor gave way, leaving him suspended by the arms over apparently a deep abyss, from which proceeded a violent current of air, so that the lamp was extinguished, and he remained in total obscurity. In this process of trial, it will be observed that he was exposed to the action of the four elements,—earth, fire, water, and air.

After the risk of falling to an unknown depth had been continued for a few minutes, the floor resumed its original position, the wheels ceased to revolve, and the door of ivory flew open, disclosing the sanctuary of Isis, illuminated with a blaze of light, where the priests of that goddess were assembled drawn up in two ranks, clothed in ceremonial dresses, and bearing the mysterious symbols of the Order; one of which consisted of a golden vase in the form of a ship, made to serve as a brilliant lamp.*

* The ship was named *Baris*, and is supposed to have been the emblem of a constellation. As the worship of Isis was known to have prevailed throughout Gaul, the name of its capital (Paris) is said to have been derived from this source, and the arms of the city at this day consist of a ship.

The entrance to the sanctuary was constructed in the pedestal of the triple statue of Isis, Osiris, and Horus; and the walls were also ornamented with various allegorical figures, amongst which were particularly prominent—

1st. A serpent throwing an egg out of his mouth; a symbol of the production of all things by the heat of the sun.

2ndly. A serpent curled up in the form of a circle, holding his tail in his mouth; an allusion to eternity, and to the uninterrupted revolution of the sun.

3rdly. The double Tau, which was meant to represent the active and passive power of nature in the generation of all things.

A long and tedious probation was still further exacted, consisting chiefly of fasting and silence, during which it was forbidden, even by signs, to communicate with the priests of the temple, and the trials concluded by the candidate taking an obligation in the following terms:—

“ I swear never to reveal to any uninitiated person whatever I may have seen in the sanctuary, nor any of the mysteries which may have been or which shall be communicated to me. I call on all the deities of earth, of heaven, and of the infernal regions, to be witnesses of this oath; and I trust that their vengeance will fall on my head should I ever become a villain so base and perjured.”

The ceremony finished with a grand sacrifice of various animals, and a procession through the streets of the town, when the tabernacle of the goddess Isis was exhibited to the people, and the candidate was received with every possible honour.

Having thus given the words of the obligation, we may examine the estimation in which an agreement of this nature was held in the earliest ages. The Hebrew word ‘Berith,’ rendered in the Vulgate as ‘Fœdus,’ or ‘Pactum,’ a treaty or covenant, occurs in Gen. ix. 9, where the Supreme Being is stated to have made “a Covenant with Noah, after the Flood.” In the Septuagint, and the New Testament, this term is translated *Διαθήκη*, and it is explained in the Gospel of St. Luke (c. i. 73), an “Oath sworn to Abraham” (Gen. xxii. 16). The only quotation which at all differs from the Greek interpretation of the Hebrew ‘Berith’ is found in the Epistle to the Hebrews (c. ix. 16 and 17); but in the following translation, its meaning seems to be accurately stated:—“For where (there is) a covenant, the death of the covenanter (is) necessary to be borne (in mind), for a covenant made on a dead being ‘is firm.’ ”* This refers to Exod. xxiv. 6, where Moses, after a peace-offering (Heb. ix. 19, 20), sprinkled the book of the covenant and the people with the blood of the victim. The custom of confirming or ratifying any agreement seems to have been established by the sacrifice of some animal, whose flesh was eaten by the parties as a mark of fellowship and good feeling, and a pledge of mutual protection. In the Book of Joshua (c. ix. 18, 19), it will be clearly shown how

* Hebrew Lexicon, by the Rev. Samuel Lee, D.D., p. 93.

much the articles of a covenant or treaty were held sacred, even where a deception, as in the case of the Gibeonites, had been practised.

In the Book of Judges we find this word 'Berith' united with Baal (Judg. viii. 33, and ix. 4, 46). Baal-Berith was thus one of the false gods, who were worshipped by the Israelites, and to whom a temple or tower was erected at Shechem. The expression, "the God of the Covenant," may be taken in general to mean the Divinity, who was supposed to preside over alliances or oaths. Amongst the most superstitious and barbarous nations the Supreme Being has always been appealed to, as a witness to an agreement. Thus the Greeks had Jupiter, the arbitrator of an oath, viz.: "Ζεύς Ὀρκίος," and the Latins their "Deus Fidius," or "Jupiter Justus," who was held the god of honesty and plain dealing.

In each degree conferred on the initiated, an obligation of a similar description was exacted, as a reward for his advancement in the mysteries of the religion, which comprehended the Immortality of the Soul, the Creation and Divine Government of the World, the origin of evil, and various other points of natural theology. The instructions given by the priests, and solely confided to their order, were generally oral, and comprised also a knowledge of astronomy and astrology—and more particularly of the fanciful configurations of the constellations, which have continued even to these days,—of the movements of the planets, of the signs of the Zodiac, of physics, and all such sciences as tended to promote general knowledge.

The Degrees, in most instances, were three in number; and this is an object of interest to the Brethren, when referred to our own Order, as establishing its original formation as now existing. It may here be allowed to observe, that Masonry must be considered as completed, when terminating with the Master's Degree, and the Royal Arch, which is, in fact, merely explanatory, or supplemental. There is no reason why we, who live under a Christian dispensation, should not combine our religious knowledge with the system of Masonry as dating from the earliest ages; nay, more, the Brethren will act wisely in so doing: but the original landmarks of universality must be adhered to in all general meetings of the Order, which rule in no ways impedes or interferes with the individual wish of any member who may consider the higher Degrees necessary.

N. I. S., P.M., No. 725.

PRINTERS' ASYLUM.

THE inauguration of this excellent Institution took place at Wood Green, under the presidency of Earl Stanhope, supported by the leading representatives of Literature and Printing in the country. After grace had been said, upon the conclusion of a magnificent *déjeuner*, by the Rev. O. F. Owen, the noble president delivered one of the finest addresses to which it has been our good fortune to listen for a long period. Contributions in excess of £650 were announced, and in the evening a réunion of the artisans belonging to the several establishments of the Metropolis took place at Highbury Barn.

THE LADY FREEMASON.

AN INCIDENT OF THE ST. LEGER FAMILY.

THE family of St. Leger, whose representative was raised to the Peerage in 1785 by the title of Lord Doneraile, is of very ancient origin. The ancestor and founder of the family in this country, Sir Robert de St. Leger, accompanied William the Conqueror into England, and was even then in such high repute, that his was the hand selected by that prince to support him when he first landed on the coast of Sussex. An incident in the history of this noble family is worthy of record, and the singular and somewhat romantic circumstances under which it occurred will be interesting, from the fact that they led to the initiation of the only female who was ever admitted into the ancient and honourable Order of Freemasonry.

The attachment of Lord Doneraile to the principles of Masonry approached to enthusiasm; indeed, his zeal was such, that he obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of Ireland constituting the Lodge No. 150, which was held in Doneraile House, his lordship's seat in the county of Cork. He might, without impropriety, be called the centre of a circle of devoted Freemasons, most of whom were also united by the bonds of private friendship, and who, along with his sons, assisted in the duties of the Lodge—duties, it is said, which were never more strictly performed, or with more regard to the true spirit of the Order, than by the Brethren at Doneraile House.

It appears that during the admission of a candidate, whose initiation took place within the family mansion, the room generally used as the Lodge-room was undergoing some alterations, and a portion of the party-wall was in an imperfect state, having been reduced for the purpose of forming a saloon. Previous to the ceremony of opening the Lodge, the Hon. Elizabeth St. Leger, one of his lordship's daughters, then a young girl, happened to be in an apartment adjoining this room. It is not quite clear whether she was there by design or accident; but it is certain that while there her attention was attracted by the sound of voices, which she recognised to be those of her father's Masonic friends, and her curiosity became excited to discover a mystery so long and completely veiled from the public. It was a matter much more trying to the courage than the physical strength of the young lady to remove a loose brick from the partition-wall, which she did with the aid of her scissors, and thus witnessed the first two steps of the mysterious ceremony. Her curiosity being now partially gratified, terror at once seized possession of her mind, and it will not require much effort of imagination on the part of those to whom such scenes are familiar, to suppose how the strongest man must feel if he acquired a knowledge of this secret by surreptitious means—and how much more unenviable the feelings of a young and inexperienced girl under circumstances so extraordinary! She felt her position to be perilous, and to remain in her hiding-place would have been certain discovery. Her first im-

pulse was naturally to escape—a step which was not to be so easily accomplished as she imagined; but even in her own estimation of the danger, the course she hastily resolved on manifested a degree of courage seldom to be found in one of her years, sex, and station. The only mode of egress was through the very room in which the concluding part of the second step was being solemnized; and as the room was spacious, and one end only—that remotest from the entrance—occupied by those engaged in the ceremony, she determined to attempt her escape that way, which she fancied might be possible without attracting observation. With noiseless, but trembling step, and fluttering heart, she glided across the lodge-room, and reached the doorway unnoticed—a circumstance certainly remarkable, and only to be accounted for by the solemn and engrossing character of the ceremony then being enacted. Gently and noiselessly she opened the door, believing that she was now beyond the risk of detection and its consequences—but to her dismay, and the destruction of her newly-born hopes, she found standing before her the grim and surly *Tyler*, with his naked sword and other insignia of office. This sudden and unexpected meeting was too much for her presence of mind, had such, indeed, been of any avail. A shriek of terror alarmed the Brethren present, who rushed in a body to the entrance, and would, it is said, in the first paroxysm of their rage, have sacrificed the life of the fair spectatress; but at the earnest and affectionate intercession of her youngest brother, a member of the Lodge, and with whom she was a great favourite, she was spared on condition of formally passing through the solemn ceremony to which she had been an unlawful witness. She readily consented; and the fair and terrified girl was conducted through those trials which are sometimes sufficient to unnerve the sterner sex; and in due form was admitted a member of the Brotherhood. They thus adopted, as a painful alternative, a step on which they had reason to reflect with mingled feelings of pride and pleasure—for they that night received into the bosom of the Craft a member who afterwards shed a lustre on the annals of Masonry, and who, in her character as a lady, became one of society's most brilliant ornaments.

Miss St. Leger was married to Richard Alworth, Esq., of Newmarket, a gentleman of high honour and respectability, and member of an ancient family. On every occasion when a theatrical benefit was given in Dublin or Cork for the admirable institution known as the Masonic Female Orphan Asylum, Mrs. Alworth appeared at the head of the Brethren, wearing her apron and other insignia of Freemasonry, and sat in a prominent place of the theatre. It is unnecessary to say that on such occasions the house was always crowded to excess, and that the benefits accruing to the charity were substantial. So much did this estimable woman, in her private as well as her Masonic character, command admiration, that her portrait is to be found in almost every Lodge in Ireland.

Mrs. Alworth was cousin to General Anthony St. Leger, governor of St. Lucia, who instituted the race known by his name, for the celebrated Doncaster St. Leger Stakes.

J. C.

THE SIGNS OF ENGLAND;
BY ONE WHO HAS PAINTED MANY.

SIGN THE FIFTH.—THE NEWSPAPERS.

Now we do not wish to be misconstrued in what we are going to say. We are preparing to speak a little truth; and it will appear strange when we add, that, however well received at last, the full speaking of it requires a certain caution. People are not prepared for it. It is a special gift to see truth. Every person professes to love it, yet, if we press them closely as to their ideas on it, we shall often find it repudiated in a very extraordinary fashion.

Ranking among the wonders of this wonderful time, is the strange influence which an overgrown Newspaper possesses. Why, it would be the work of a week, with the closest attention, to read through a single number of it! And few of us, except the prozers, who are just the people to yield easily their judgment, have time to inspect more of this broadsheet than the leading article, and the particulars of an atrocity, or the "extraordinary disclosure" which is forming the town-talk. We always seize upon the subject which is exciting the public curiosity. We must be up in conversation. The Paper, in other respects, is a sea of information, in which, as we may say, we sadly stand in a need of a buoy whereupon to mount and make ourselves aware of the phases of the view around us. The embarrassment of rich things, to the curious and to the intelligent, is vexatious. We are overborne by talk—and good talk, too! Somehow or other, the Newspaper has worked itself up to become the complete *magister*—the undeniable layer down of the law; and its self-confidence in that which it can bring to pass is every day more and more developed. The public, in its hands, is but in leading-strings—at least, so the Newspaper thinks: that is its policy. It speaks to the hour. It looks not forward, by its own confession. It must live *de die in diem*. Thus there never, perhaps, was such a mass of contradiction—not to be detected in the verbiage—than is presented by two days' numbers, separated by anything like an interval. It hovers between Paul and Barabbas, with a fidgety hand to each, when the people are looking, or not looking—just according to circumstances.

What, to it, is truth—that truth which is so long of arrival? Will the paper sell, sir? That is the point. This is the grand query now asked, east and west. And old Chronos of the newspaper-office looks out of his cyry to see, every morning, which way the hands of the great clock of public opinion are going round. Two or ten, as the bell strikes, not as by the natural day. He loves, above all, the gold letters. As for the rest of the political dial, it is all an inside of wire and wooden hammers. If our readers will mark, they will find that the statements of the "Paper" are put forth in the dictatorial

tone;—that there is a certain disdain of political knowledge implied of any manner in which it could have been acquired independent of itself. It is frequently flippant. It contradicteth a person to his very face, upon the very strength of its knowledge of its own power and authority. It snaps you up. It already anticipates the open mouth and the fixed eye. It trades precisely upon the weakness of its readers—upon the simplicity of its, beforehand, more than half-believing partisans. It is a conjurer whose steady gaze upon you, and prestidigitation, are complete. Its *hanky-panky*, and *hey-cockalorum*, are the most eye-bewildering imaginable.

A paper with enormous influence could not exist in a community that was less of a *nation* than this aggregate of two millions and a half of us good silly people in London. From the crowds and masses which fill this gigantic metropolis, and who may be said, literally, to bury in its depths all judgment and common sense and feeling, it is impossible that there can be a general opinion, or any means of arriving at it. The people themselves rise in the morning and go to bed at night, and we trust, also, eat their dinners; but they never care how others rise, or when and where they lie down, or whether they have sufficient of the supply of nature's wants, or no supply at all—a dinner or no dinner, a bed or no bed. It is, therefore, from the broad fact of there being such a multitude in London that there never can be a general correspondence, because we never have opportunities of seeing or speaking with one another. Therefore we run to seek, in the Newspaper, for those opinions which each man would express if he could. And we should really know nothing of what is publicly occurring about us, if we did not look in the paper for it.

Another, and perhaps the principal reason of all, that men to so deplorable an extent surrender their judgment and unconsciously trot along, with their heads to the ground, in the harness of this great charioteer of the press, arises from the fact that folks are too busy to think. There is so grand a race in our scramble for money, that people cannot stop to look at objects by the roadside: they take other folks' word for them. Will much virtue, or charity, or continued pondering, put money in the pocket? Nay, thinking will rather prevent good shillings from dropping into the pocket; thought, in all ages, having been the faculty the most unproductive, and paralyzing as far as the great object of life—getting on in the world—is concerned. In a civilized country like England, and in a model metropolis like London, so restlessly engaged in the universal aim,—that of bartering life for the means to live,—thought should be left to the professional thinkers—that is, to the beggars; or, if not to them, it ought to be committed to men who have not exclusively to occupy their minds with their shop or counting-house, nor to exercise their ingenuity in the discovery of means whereby they may undersell Mr. So-and-So, or, indeed, live at all! The most exact conclusions as to public measures will not buy us anything. No knowledge of political affairs can we offer for our rent, nor will the

finest social principles or the greatest philosophic acumen be taken in satisfaction of our taxes. Men think (and very sensibly think) that the operations of life are confined to the earning bread for their wives and families. These cannot live on politics; and, in regard to these, there is no truth so triumphant as that the public weal must yield to the private necessity—patriotism and public justice to *pabulum*.

It is, then, this universal selfishness, this sad, this dreary necessity that we should each take care of ourself,—it is this compelled holding on and clutching at the main chance, which hardens our hearts and dulls our understandings. We have no real political blood in us: we are made up of mechanical muscles, and with a heart-case stuffed with paper. Our eyes are of glass, and our vital pulses are clockwork. We are mere machines, in fact; darting in and out of our places of business and walking about the streets. The show is ghastly! We are as the *automata* of some commercial Magus—some Cobden, or apostle of expediency—some aristocratic or successful spouter, with a mouth of wood, rattling fine words like peas, and a dry nut, full of dust, for a political heart. We are scarcely freemen. We are prepared—in our commercial frights—to yield our opinions, as Sancho his soul, in mortal terror, to the first Newspaper that asks them of us. And since the Newspaper has grown as the rug to our hearth—the glass in which every man trims his beard in the morning—we believe in it, and yearn towards it—count it as one of our household gods—decline into its arms as our political Dalilah—and permit our mind to take its tone from its felicitations; nay, from the reveries that linger about it, and are as a sort of atmosphere that we carry about us.

Nor is this all. Every man feels so the money-pressure upon him, that he cannot convert himself into a politician. This his extremity becomes therefore the Journal's opportunity; and it readily avails itself of it, by pouring its own views into the minds of its readers as into cups. From his commercial dependence, in such innumerable instances, a man cannot afford to have an independent opinion in England; and for this reason we very rarely hear any independent view of things expressed. Of a political system whose utilities every moment convince us lie so remote from us, we can little care. What are Lords and Commons to us? We must live. Our small-corner fight, in the great battle of life, is to be found in our shop, our warehouse, or our office. We suppose that, somehow, public affairs will be carried on. We imagine that if a man is knocked down, somebody will be taken up for it: there is that great public functionary, the policeman, to see to all this. We look out upon the world, and the first thing we find is, that fine feelings are Quixotic; that they stand dreadfully in the way of a man's advance; that if you would secure a forward place in the procession, you must not stop by the way to pity those unfortunate passengers that sit or lie groaning, with their hurts on their foreheads, by the side of the road. Every morning that we open our eyes, we see that the world

is intent upon only money-getting. We cannot see why *we* should form the exception, and be pitied or despised for our pains. We do not feel so strongly that *we* ought to make a sacrifice of ourself, when we are pretty well assured that, for our care for the public interest, we shall only, perhaps, get kicks; that our serving our country, if it be not self-conceit that induces it, will never be repaid, nor even acknowledged. And, in fact, profit and advancement lie the other way. One's worldly prosperity infinitely more depends upon our conciliating the powers that be, than in foolish resistance, and in ill-humoured dissent on the popular side. The people is a generality to whom you cannot look for payment. A well-defined personal patron—one able to do you good—is worth all the popular applause in the world, if you are even so fortunate as to obtain this latter. Men, with their eyes open, soon discover the directions of the game to which they sit down. There are some whom it is no use pleasing, with all the virtue in the world. There are others—those of capacity to help you—upon whom not a word or a look is thrown away. The universal question is, “What is the use?”—which means, what is the present use? Let us not be blamed for stating this universal truth so distinctly. It is that which every man acts upon, though he dare not avow it. And it is from this complication of ever principal, ever present, selfish reasons, that we have no public spirit;—we were almost going, bitterly, to say, no public virtue. High time, indeed, is it that a new leaf should be turned over in our political and in our social book: we hardly know which black page needs the application of the finger first.

Now the Journal is so well aware that all these things are truths;—it so relies upon that general suspicion which we entertain one of another;—that in saying boldly things which it seems to say for all, it imposes belief by the mere effect of reiteration, and in the want of anybody to contest its opinions. Most men are too timid, too lazy, or too busy, to speak anything that they think. Nobody dares speak outright. People are too politic to think aught safe but that general thought which the Journal, with its mouth of brass, is endeavouring to force upon all. Carefully guarding the rivets of its armour, its plausibility, and its apparent candour and common sense, and protected by that oracular “we,” and by our ignorance whether it is a minister of state, a doctor of philosophy, an extraordinary business man with a truly prophetic eye, an out-and-out politico-economical genius, or, in fact, *who* it is to whom we owe those “leaders,” and who speaks with all this mighty assurance, like the wise man, over his inkstand: to us, the Journal wins the race in really seeming to follow the runner. But all this is bad; and, beyond all question, it has grown time to excite some independent thought among people—time really to see if we cannot improve things; for the present lead to much evil.

Reader, take some of this advice, and do not any longer make a sort of good-natured, permissive idolater of yourself. Take the liberty of criticising—for you are quite equal to it—some of these

opinions which the good people of the Newspaper would seek either to browbeat you into or to insinuate. Cultivate some of your habits of thought—for to do so shall not altogether despoil you of the goods of the world;—and do not accept, as to be taken for granted, all that a newspaper chooses to indoctrinate. A fallacy is no less a fallacy because a trumpet should proclaim it, a cannon speak it, or images nod it, any more than that mistaken opinions can be made always true because they are propounded from under that clock from which Old England, like the superlative Greenwich one-o'clock ball, has so generally consented to take its time—and very frequently false time! Let us have the clockmaker in, to rummage out some of the ancient wheels. Let us twist off these false hands, if they point to wrong hours; or, at all events, let us make this great old Newspaper clock aware that the eye of the public is upon its imperturbable face, if it seeks any bad wriggling with its long brass digits.

MASONRY:

TRANSLATED FROM AN OLD FRENCH WORK, BY BRO. REV. H. C. HEILBRONN.

I THOUGHT, with shame be it confess'd,
 Before I knew the right,
 'Twas nothing but an idle jest,
 Some trifle vain and light;
 But oh! how badly was I taught,
 How ignorant was I;
 I blush at the unworthy thought
 I had of Masonry.

Those virtues which are best beloved—
 The graces of the mind;
 And sentiments the most approved
 By the noblest of mankind;
 Great zeal without ambitious strife,
 Respect, not flattery,
 And unity in heart and life,—
 This, this is Masonry!

Contented only to be known
 As of that noble band,
 The universe I call my own,
 I've friends in every land;
 Home, help, and counsel they impart,
 Nor want, nor need have I,
 For ne'er can hard or selfish heart
 Find place in Masonry.

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

[Publishers are requested to send works for review not later than the 20th of the month, addressed to the Editor of the "Freemasons' Monthly Magazine, 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.]

"*The Indian Freemasons' Friend*." This periodical maintains its character for usefulness and information : some of its contributions merit every attention.—— "*The Peace Conferences*," by JOSEPH MOSELEY, B.C.L. London : Skeffington. These remarks, in a condensed form, point out the errors of the past, and give suggestions for the future ; evince a sound and unprejudiced judgment and true patriotic feeling. The observations upon diplomacy as to national quarrels are beyond praise.—— "*The Masonic Messenger*," W. T. DRUMMOND. New York. Concocted by a not only worthy Brother, but a highly intelligent man ; we are sorry our magazine does not appear to reach him regularly : it has been looked to by us as far as possible, to insure exactitude.—— "*The Masonic News*," 389, Broadway, New York. Our American brethren are right go-a-head Masons, in publications as in other inventions. Here we have the first number of a new Masonic periodical, and second certainly to none in the beauty of its type and the value of its matter. One point in it we must notice, for the information of the trans-Atlantic Craft, though of course, on this side of the water, most brethren are aware that the Editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror* is no longer the Rev. Bro. Cox, but the Rev. Octavius Freire Owen, who has held the office of editor since April, 1855, and still continues to conduct the magazine and *Masonic Mirror* united. We thank, therefore, the *Masonic News* for its eulogium, and by correcting its mistake, comply with the lawful principle—"Palnam qui meruit ferat."—— "*A Letter to his Parishioners, on a few Points of Duty*," by a Village Curate. This most faithful as well as practical digest of duty, is from the pen of our Rev. Bro. H. C. Heilbronn, and is adapted to the fireside of the labourer or the palace of the peer ; we wish the author and his work every success.—— "*Compulsory Vaccination Act considered in its scientific, religious, and political Aspects*," and "*More Words on Vaccination*," by S. GIBBS, Esq. London : Willis, and Sotheran. We have no hesitation in not merely recommending but conjuring our readers to obtain copies of these papers, if they value their own health or that of the rising community. Our excellent Bro. Gibbs, a man of independent fortune, and influenced solely by philanthropic principles, has addressed a letter to the Board of Health, upon the subject of compulsory vaccination, of so important a character as for the House of Commons to order it to be printed ; and we sincerely trust that it will lead to general attention being paid to the pending Bill now under the consideration of the House. Every person of course has an interest in the matter, and every sensible person we think cannot fail to be struck by the line of argument and statistics given in both treatises.—— "*Saturday Half-Holiday, and earlier Payment of Wages*." Kent and Co., London. This pamphlet contains the speeches of Lord Shaftesbury and other eminent men at Exeter Hall, upon this important matter. Such masterly argument as that advanced by Andrew Spottiswoode, Esq., settles the whole question, verbally ; but practically, the success which the Saturday half-holiday movement has achieved, results from the indomitable zeal and ability of our excellent Bro. J. R. Taylor, of 54, Chancery-lane. We congratulate both workmen and employers upon possessing such a staunch and energetic friend to their real interests.—— "*Clerical Experiences*." Clerc Smith, Strand. A painful recapitulation of the usual double-dealing and chicanery incident to individuals who trust to the broken reed of episcopal promises. Mr. Clerc Smith, having laboured for many years to the satisfaction of all

churchmen in the provision of curates for incumbents, and other clerical matters, and having laid out much money with the expressed sanction of the Bishop of London to his scheme, is quietly in his old age superseded by a Mr. Rodwell as Secretary to the Additional Curates Society. It is not strange that Mr. Smith should have been shamefully treated, for we never heard of episcopal habits being remarkable for their straightforwardness; in his case, however, the wrong is most unjustifiable. It is a very, very, bad case.—“*My Pocket Lyre*,” by the Rev. J. W. TOMLINSON. London: Judd and Glass, 1856. Mr. Tomlinson had better have kept his pocket lyre in his pocket. Its place there will not be filled with gold coin by its means, although no doubt there is a great deal of rubbish that is marketable.—“*Dante, translated by Lamenaïs*,” by Le Comte FOUCHER DE CAREIL. Dubisson and Co., Paris. The observations of a writer who holds so high a place amongst his countrymen as the Comte Foucher de Careil, command attention, and the sagacity of his remarks relative to the translation by Lamenaïs maintains his reputation as a critic. The style is clear, and the argument forcible; and whatever view the reader may take of the question, certain it is that he will cordially recognize the zeal and success of the learned annotator.—“*A Visit to Abendberg*,” by Dr. SCOUTETTEN. 2nd ed. Berne. No philanthropist can fail to be interested in the accounts given in this unassuming little volume by the application of medicinal skill and attention to cretinism and idiocy, by Dr. Guggerbühl. The statements of his success are very remarkable, and will doubtless influence directly the appliances to idiocy in this country.—“*The Pathway of Safety; or, Counsel to the Awakened*.” By the Rev. ASHTON OXENDEN, Rector of Pluckley, Kent. London: Wertheim and Mackintosh, 1856. The object of this little work is one which must commend itself to every mind sensible of the value of heartfelt religion. It is to aid the newly-awakened soul in its endeavour to follow the narrow and thorny path of life eternal, by supplying it with counsels suitable to the various trials and temptations, perplexities and dangers, to which the novice in the Christian life is more especially exposed. The task which the writer has thus undertaken is executed with great simplicity, and in unaffected sweetness of spirit.—“*Theocratic Philosophy of Freemasonry*,” by G. OLIVER, D.D. London: Spencer. This is too important a book to be disposed of by a casual notice. All the works of this eminent father in Masonry are invaluable, but perhaps in no production has the learned author evinced more condensation of knowledge, more application of universal science to particular theories, and more sagacious perception as to the union of speculative with operative Masonry, than in this. When we take up such a book, we exult not less in the glory of the science, than in the acquirements of the Masonic scholar. It must be a noble theme to enunciate such indoctrination. Of Dr. Oliver we may say, none but himself can be his parallel. The work, which has been forwarded to us by the kindness of our Bro. Spencer, we hope often to quote; meanwhile, no Brother should be without it, since it proves by what one is, what all may become.

ST. ANN'S SCHOOLS, FLORAL FETE, CREMORNE.

These really pretty grounds were devoted, on Saturday, the 21st ult., to a grand horticultural *fête*, comprising a flower-show, bazaar, and concert, in aid of the St. Ann's Society Schools. A fashionable concourse assembled in great numbers, notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the weather, and appeared highly gratified with the entertainments. The concert, we confess, jarred terribly upon our musical tastes; with the exception of the performance of the military band, and the singular execution of difficult pieces upon the “pastoral tibia” by Picco, the blind Sardinian. We trust a large sum was reaped in aid of this noble institution, which, founded upon the element of universal philanthropy, numbers amongst its most powerful supporters many of those who necessarily, from their principles, take the lead in all plans of unrestricted charity,—we mean, of course, Freemasons.

“PASSÉ.”

THE TITLE OF A NOCTURNE COMPOSED BY IGNACE TEDESCO.

Down by the streamlet is the willow hovering,
 Watching the shadows in that rippling tide,
 Still broods the tree like a deserted sovereign,
 Over the lily-deck'd but lonely side ;
 And, wet with morning's weeping, the rich wildwood
 Gleams in the sunlight as it used to do,
 Waits as of old to hear the laugh of childhood,—
 Yet naught but this one word keeps echoing through :
Passé, Passé!

The old thrush which has built in yonder meadow
 Full many a year ago her downy nest,
 Watcheth the morning blush and evening shadow
 Ever upon the silent landscape rest ;
 But for the well-known step which oft would linger
 Till twilight's fragile form should softly pass,
 For the sweet tones of many an infant singer
 She listeneth vainly ; night winds sigh “Alas !”
Passé, Passé!

Oh ! Memory like an outcast child doth wander
 Amid the changeful loveliness of earth,
 Then sadly sitteth down awhile to ponder
 Over those scenes to which the past gave birth ;
 And she remembereth 'mid her bitter dreaming,
 Faces and forms she doth too well recall,
 And mirror'd in their former beauty beaming,—
 Oft in her anguish crieth, “Where are all ?”
Passé, Passé!

It is enough to make the footsteps falter,
 To seek some fav'rite shadow'd nook alone,
 To sit beside the old home's ruin'd altar,
 And list for voices which are now unknown ;
 Perchance to feel that in the world's affection,
 Peace has not nestled down her gentle head,
 That naught doth bear home's impress or reflection,
 But old Times with old Fellowship have fled,—
Passé, Passé!

Ah me ! my heart would weary with the straining,
 The fruitless yearning for the days gone by,
 Did I not know there is a rest remaining
 When visions of earth's home-love fade and die ;
 Where tears, though as the morning dew abounding,
 Like it dissolve in Heaven's translucent light,
 While through the Angel-courts these words are sounding,
 Caught up by cherubs as they wing their flight,—
Passé, Passé!

EMILIE MUNZ.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The last month has been an eventful one in the annals of this resuscitated Temple of Song. Three more claimants for public favour have, with more or less success, made their *début*: indeed, almost before the sensation caused by the appearance of one fair cantatrice had subsided, another surprise was prepared for us by the lavish hand of Mr. Lumley; Albertini succeeded Piccolomini, after the interval of a week; and, again, the interest was crowned by the actual production of Mdle. Joanna Wagner—"the Wagner," in veritable flesh and blood, of former squabbles, lawsuits, injunctions, and general mystification. Of this lady, whose graceful and statuesque impersonations, whose glorious accents, form the town-talk at the present moment, we had rather not speak in the terms of scarcely qualified praise to which we incline, until the production of a second opera shows us whether she is equally great in other characters, or *peculiarly* fitted for the part of *Romeo*, in which she has chosen to make her *début*. The opera of "*Montecchi e Capuleti*" contains, as now produced at her Majesty's Theatre, but a single character, that of *Romeo*, so pre-eminently qualified is Mdle. Wagner, by voice, intelligence, and *physique*, for the part she assumes. We cannot, however, regard either this opera or that of "*La Traviata*," in which alone, as yet, Mdle. Piccolomini has appeared, a felicitous choice on the part of either lady. Mdle. Piccolomini, whose voice, young as she is, has been already slightly impaired by too much exertion, persists in singing the music of Verdi, especially trying in the above-mentioned opera. She is, however, announced for the "*Figlia del Reggimento*," which it appears probable will be a more fitting as well as agreeable assumption than that of *Rôletta*, nor do we doubt her success will be complete. Madame Albertini, though endowed with a fine voice, we confess does not please us so much as that of her rival's; she made her first appearance in the "*Trovatore*," and was generally applauded; Alboni winning fresher laurels by her eloquent impersonation of *Azucena*, one of the best in her *répertoire*. Marie Taglioni, and the other graceful *artistes* of the ballet, have left us no cause to regret the glories of past years in the Terpsichorean department.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

At this theatre, the never-tiring lessee has put forth every element of interest available. Not only do we have "*Il Trovatore*" (the part of *Manrico* sustained by Signor Mario), "*La Favorita*," "*Lucrezia Borgia*," and "*Rigoletto*," followed up by "*Don Giovanni*," with as splendid a cast as Mr. Gye's excellent resources place at his disposal, and the addition of a new arrival, Mdle. Rosa Devries; but Madame Ristori, the celebrated tragedian, who has plucked the wreath of bays from the brow of Rachel, hitherto unapproachable, appears in the classic play of "*Medea*," and the historical one of "*Maria Stuarda*," to crowded and attentive audiences, half of whom understand a very trifling portion of the play, but are content, by reason of some magic power of gesture, voice, and feature she possesses, to sit out what would otherwise be a very tedious performance, without a murmur or a yawn. We have no hesitation in affirming her capabilities, personally, for the tragic art, to be almost perfect. Madame Ristori not only holds the mirror up to nature, but gives Nature herself without the mirror; in other words, nothing is excessive; but the look, the *pose*, the tone, are all identical with the question; and the audience is so completely subjugated by these as to render cognizance of the mere language unimportant. She is the foreign Siddons of the tragic muse.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Week after week on Friday delighted throngs may be seen hurrying to the railway terminus, anxious to obtain seats in the foremost rows at the now celebrated *matinées* given in this gorgeous concert-room. The attendance, sensibly augmented since the new regulation respecting single tickets, is occasionally almost more than the accommodation warrants ; and we hope, for the remainder of the concerts, to see better and ampler arrangements carried out for the comfort of the visitors. Beside the attraction of these concerts, the flower-shows draw enormous crowds of all ranks hither, and during the last few days the opening of the great fountains has been graced by the presence of royalty itself, to the satisfaction of one of the largest throngs of persons ever assembled at this our English Versailles. In a musical point of view, the various experiments have now, we believe, resulted in complete success. Grisi, Bosio, Ronconi, Mario, and Gardoni, never sang with greater effect or power, or elicited more rapturous applause, than here. As a lounge and haven of refreshment and enjoyment on a hot summer's day, surely never was there a floral fairyland more charming,—a “Sans Souci” more insidiously appliant to every sense without fatiguing any !

HERR SIGISMOND SCHMEYER'S CONCERT.

This annual morning concert took place at Willis's rooms on the 14th ult., and was fashionably attended. The principal attraction was Hummel's grand quintet in E flat minor, which was most masterly rendered by Herren Schmeyer, Ries, Paque, Goffrie, and Galliot. Herren Tedesco and Schmeyer also won golden opinions in the duo for two pianos, “Hommage à Handel.” The other distinguished performers were Messrs. Ernst, Jules Lefort, Lorenzo, Reichart, Rokitauski, and Regondi, not forgetting Miss Stabbach. Altogether, this was one of the most attractive concerts of the season.

MDLLE. BELRICHAERT'S CONCERT.

The selection of music given at this musical *réunion* was well calculated to display the accomplishments of the fair *débutante*, who is a pupil of Herr Tedesco. She performed several pieces splendidly, particularly Beethoven's moonlight finale, and the andante and finale from Hummel's fantasia in E flat ; her execution with the left hand approaches to the marvellous. The concert was supported by Herren Rokitauski and Jansa and Mr. Boleyn Reeves.

MR. AGUILAR'S MORNING CONCERT.

Madame Viardot Garcia shared the triumph on this occasion with several other vocalists of note,—as Signor Tradier, Herr Reichardt, Madame Beyer Zerr, and Mdlle. E. Krall. The instrumental performers were Messrs. Hausmann, Ernst, Kuhe, and Aguilar ; but every lesser fire paled before the exquisite performance of Madame Schumaun, whom once to hear is never to cease admiring.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[THE EDITOR *does not hold himself responsible for any opinions entertained by Correspondents.*]

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

(Printed Circular.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CANADA WEST.

Under the Authority of the M.W. Grand Lodge of England.

TO THE M.W. GRAND LODGE OF * * * *

It having been brought under the notice of this Prov. Grand Lodge that for several months past various Grand Lodges in the United States and elsewhere, had been applied to for recognition by a new Masonic body, styling itself the Grand Lodge of Canada, and this Grand Lodge being induced to believe, from the sentiments expressed in relation to this schismatic movement, by our American Brethren in their numerous Masonic publications, that they could not be in possession of the true facts of the case :—

Therefore, it was unanimously resolved at a half-yearly meeting held at Toronto, on Wednesday the 21st instant, "That the Grand Secretary be directed, under the supervision of the Board of General Purposes, to publish for the information of the Masonic Fraternity at large, a statement of the facts connected with the recent movement of insubordination on the part of certain Lodges in this Province, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, the said Lodges, or certain members thereof, having, in order to gain recognition from the various Grand Lodges with which this Grand Lodge has long been in friendly communication, made use of statements which are not borne out by facts—these being to the prejudice of a very large portion of the Fraternity who have, and who do still remain true to their Mother Grand Lodge."

In furtherance of this object, they (the self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada) state that at the Convention held at Hamilton on the 10th of October last, there were forty-one Lodges represented, and that the action taken at that meeting was unanimous, with *one* exception, *whereas*, of the forty-one Lodges there represented fifteen were from the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, ten from Canada East, acting under Warrants from England, one from Quebec, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and fifteen under Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The number of Lodges belonging to this Prov. Grand Lodge at the time the Convention met was fifty, since which time only seven have given official information of their affiliation with the new body ; so that at the present time there are forty-three of the original number still true to their allegiance, to which may be added three new Lodges under dispensation, making the present number forty-six. Of the forty Lodges who, as stated in their published report, voted with the body, there were delegates from two belonging to this Grand Lodge—the mover and seconder of an amendment to the original motion respecting the formation of an independent Grand Lodge made at the said Convention—who did not vote in its favour ; and this Grand Lodge has since ascertained that in a great many instances the delegates who voted in favour of the movement (and by one a direct fraud was practised) on returning to their Lodges were not sustained in the action they had taken ; so that it may (leaving the Irish Lodges out of the question) be fairly assumed that not more than half of those Lodges hailing from the Grand Lodge

of England, and represented at the Convention, do in reality belong to the new body. By this statement it will be at once seen that a very great majority of the Canadian Masons remain true to their allegiance. The alleged cause which immediately led to the formation of the new body, was the refusal of the R.W. D.G.M., at a special meeting of this Prov. Grand Lodge, held at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, on the 19th of July last, to submit a motion from the chair, which, if carried, would have led to immediate and open rebellion on the part of the Canadian Craft to their Mother Grand Lodges. He, in common with nearly the whole of the Lodges under his control, determined to remain true to their allegiance, but at the same time to employ every legitimate means for obtaining from the Mother Grand Lodge those further privileges and immunities which this Grand Lodge had some two years previously asked for. This was the unanimous feeling of the Prov. Grand Lodge at an adjourned meeting on the following morning, when the disaffected Brethren were not present; and in furtherance of this object, it was moved by Bro. W. M. Wilson, the Master of the new Grand Lodge, "That Bro. R. H. Townend be appointed the Special Agent of this Grand Lodge, and requested to use his best endeavours to obtain an answer to the Petition of this Grand Lodge, and that he be invested with full power to act in the matter."

About a month prior to the half-yearly communication of the Grand Lodge held in Toronto, on the 23rd of October following, a summons for said meeting was issued, which informed the Craft that Bro. Townend, our Special Agent, had brought the subject-matter of our grievances before the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of England, and that matters were in a fair way towards a satisfactory result, begging us *to wait patiently a short time longer*, and assuring us that we should have all our requirements granted to us. This summons was sent to all the Lodges under this jurisdiction; but the recusant Lodges being unwilling to wait longer, at the Convention at Hamilton on the 10th of October, assisted in the formation of the new body, which at the meeting of this Prov. Grand Lodge, held on the 23rd October, was declared illegal, and all Masonic intercourse was by a unanimous vote strictly forbidden. Thus matters remained until the meeting of this Prov. Grand Lodge on the 21st instant, when further information was received from Bro. Townend, to the effect that he had succeeded in bringing up the subject of our complaints before the Grand Lodge of England, and that the Craft throughout England were fairly aroused to our position, and fully alive to the justness of our demands, as will be seen by the following notice of motion to be made at the next Quarterly Meeting of the Grand Lodge of England, to be holden on the first Wednesday in June:—

"That, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is expedient that the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West should enjoy all the immunities and privileges of an *independent Grand Lodge*, save and except, that it shall once in every three years *submit the names of two or more Brethren* to the M.W. the G.M. of England, *who shall appoint one of them to be Prov. G.M.*; and the Prov. G.M. so appointed shall exercise the same powers within his Province as are exercised by the M.W. the G.M. in England. That it is further expedient that the *same privileges* be accorded to *other foreign Prov. Grand Lodges on their petition*; and the M.W. the G.M. is hereby respectfully requested to carry this resolution into effect at as early a period as possible:" and also, "That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby given, to those Canadian Lodges which have maintained their allegiance to the M.W. the G.M. and the Grand Lodge of England."

From the above statement it will be evident that the disaffected portion of the Masonic Fraternity in this Province is comparatively small, although nearly the entire Craft agree in the belief that an independent organization is essential to the proper and effectual working of the Craft in this Province; yet this Grand Lodge is fully determined to obtain this position in a legitimate manner, and not by violence, as in the case of the Canada Grand Lodge, whose existence as a Masonic Body this Grand Lodge entirely repudiates.

By order,

FRANCIS RICHARDSON,
Grand Secretary.

TORONTO, May 28th, 1856.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I transmit herewith certain amendments which several Brethren and myself out here consider should be made in the laws of the Grand Lodge, and which I forward to you in conformity with the notice in the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror*.

Yours fraternally,

D. HART.

TRINIDAD, 23rd May, 1856.

PRIVATE LODGES.

Clause 2, page 36.—After the word usage, seventh line, say,—And it shall be compulsory for the Master to appoint and instal on the night of his installation his Wardens and other officers, and instal the Treasurer.

Clause 3, page 71.—To be struck out altogether.

Clause 6, page 72-3.—Thirteenth line, after the word “shall,” add, *preside and rule the Lodge*.

Clause 2, page 78.—Should be as under:—No person shall be made a Mason without an application in writing by his own hand, in the presence of two Master Masons of a working Lodge, who shall certify the fact and address the same to the Secretary, and a proposition by one of the subscribing witnesses at one Lodge, and a ballot at the next regular Lodge, &c.

Clause 2, page 77.—Ninth line, after the word “transmit,” say, the written application of a person who desires to be made a Mason. *Strike out from the word in, to the word propose.*

The reason for this is, that some Masters have appointed and installed their officers some one or two months after THEIR installation, merely because the law desires that they should AFTER their installation appoint their officers.

Masonry is free, and the members of a Lodge should have the same privilege as the Grand Lodge; therefore, members should have the right of re-electing the Master who they conceive fit and proper.

GRAND LODGE.

Page 17.—Members of Grand Lodge, say: the Master, PROXIES of Lodges abroad, Past Masters and Wardens of the Grand Steward's Lodge, and, &c. &c.

Page 24.—Add an additional clause. say: No. 18. And every Private Lodge abroad shall have power and authority annually to appoint a proxy or representative, he being a member of the Grand Lodge, and which appointment shall be annually transmitted to the Grand Secretary, such proxy to be furnished with a commission under the seal of the Lodge, and signed by the Master, two Wardens, and Secretary of the Lodge for which he is so appointed proxy or representative.

By this means the Lodges abroad would be sure to have their grievances brought before the Grand Lodge, as also all other matters duly attended to and carried out.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGES

After *Clause 1, page 54*, let the following be *Clause 2*; that is to say:—
 2. In case there should be no Provincial Grand Master in any country where there is a Lodge or Lodges holding from the Grand Lodge of England, in such case the Master of the *Senior Lodge* shall have and exercise all the rights, powers, and privileges of a Provincial Grand Master, except that of expelling members or of holding a Provincial Grand Lodge; and all matters and questions submitted to him shall be decided by him, by and with the advice and aid of two Past Masters of his Lodge, whom he shall be bound to nominate by writing under his hand for such purpose.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The annexed copy of the Assistant Grand Secretary's letter, dated 31st March, to my communication of the 2nd February, will at once convince you of the support that Lodges holding of the Grand Lodge of England in the West Indies may expect; indeed, the reply is such as was fully anticipated, and consequently did not surprise us. It is plain that we must depend upon our own exertions, and not look to Grand Lodge for the slightest aid or support. The Assistant Grand Secretary states, in reference to the printed resolution or proceedings, "a copy of which has already been sent to your Lodge." Now this I deny. I have never received until now any copy whatever, and I have no doubt that the *instructions* in regard to the Mark Degree will also be forthcoming some six months hence. You cannot imagine the feelings of the Brethren here in regard to the very vague and unsatisfactory reply that has been sent out. However, I do sincerely hope that there will be found in England members of Grand Lodge who will turn their attention to the affairs of the West, as I very much fear, unless something is soon done, that the Grand Lodge will ultimately find the remedy has been administered too late.

Yours ever fraternally,

TRINIDAD, 8th May, 1856.

D. HART, W.M., No. 585.

(Copy.)

Freemasons' Hall, London, 31st March, 1856.

W. MASTER,—I duly received your letter of the 2nd ultimo on the 20th inst., and am grieved to learn that the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church are persecuting the Brethren of our Order in your island who are members of that Church. At the Quarterly Communication in December last, a resolution from the Grand Orient of France* was presented to the Grand Lodge on the subject, in reference to the Brethren in the Mauritius, when it was fully discussed. As any attempt of the Grand Lodge to interfere would in all probability increase the persecutions, rather than lessen them, their resolution, therefore, merely sympathized with the Brethren, as you will see by the printed proceedings of that Grand Lodge, a copy of which has already been sent to your Lodge. I now inclose another copy.—I have the honour to be, W.M., yours fraternally,

(Signed)

W. FARNFIELD, Asst. G. Sec.

To the W. Bro. Daniel Hart,
 Philanthropic Lodge, No. 585, Trinidad.

[From the tenor of the above reply, it would appear that my letter has gone *no further* than the Grand Secretary's office.—D. HART.]

* What have we to do with the resolution of the Grand Orient of France?—D. H.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—You will now learn, no doubt with feelings of pain, a determination which will be carried out at no distant period, unless immediate measures are adopted by Grand Lodge, or the W.M. the Grand Master, for benefiting subordinate Lodges in the West Indies; and such can only be done by the appointment of fit and proper Masons as Provincial Grand Masters;—men who, although not blessed with title or honours, are yet good and true, and have a perfect knowledge of our institution.

The object is to call a meeting, at one of the central West-India islands, of delegates from each Lodge holding of England, for the purpose of propounding measures for the establishment or formation of a “West-India Grand Lodge.” It is not known as yet who the representative from this island will be; but the general opinion of the Craft is that it will be Bro. Daniel Hart, whose exertions in the cause of Freemasonry are undeniable. I will on a future occasion give further particulars.

A petition to the Grand Master is now in course of signature, and will shortly be forwarded, praying the appointment of Bro. Hart as Provincial Grand Master.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours very fraternally,

V. B.

PORT OF SPAIN, 8th May, 1856.

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

MASONIC CLIQUES.

BATH, June 15, 1855.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—I have not been an inattentive reader of the anonymous quarrel that has taken place in your columns, in reference to Freemasonry in the province of Somersetshire, and in the city of Bath. I should have continued silent, had I not, as W.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge, been alluded to in “Justitia's” last letter. I now give that individual notice, that if this correspondence is to be continued, and he has aught to say in reply, that he will copy my example, and authenticate his statements with his own signature; for I decline a controversy with anonymous writers, and nothing but a sense of duty to myself and Brethren would induce me now to reply to him. I propose to divide my reply into two divisions—1st. Craft Masonry; 2nd. Knight Templary.

With regard to my Lodge having admitted a Brother as a joining member who had *hissed* P.M. Percy Wells while officiating as W.M. of the R.C.L., the facts are these:—The Brother in question had audibly *hissed* a remark from the chair, the occupant immediately ordered his removal, and he was then and there removed, without any opportunity being offered him to “publicly own his fault.” He being proposed as a joining member of my Lodge, in open Lodge I investigated the circumstance fully, in the presence of the S.W. of the R.C.L., and the following letters will explain the facts attending on it:—

“BATH, February 5, 1856.

“DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I inclose you the letter you were kind enough to send me. I showed it in confidence, without mentioning your name, to the proposer and seconder of the writer (*my Wardens*); they with me consider it a most ample apology for an unintentional breach of an unknown law. I have great pleasure in informing you that the Brother was unanimously elected, after due inquiry in open Lodge, a private interview between myself and the Brother, and after the perusal of his letter by myself and Wardens. I did not vote for either of the candidates brought forward; I left the matter to be decided by the members.”

The following letter is addressed to the Sec. R.C.L., and is referred to above:—

“BATH, December 6, 1855.

“DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I beg through you to apologize to the Brethren of the R.C.L., that not being aware of a certain prohibition laid down in the Book of Constitutions, I inadvertently on the last Lodge night transgressed in one of

the regulations. I am sorry that it should have happened, and I hope that the Brethren will accept this acknowledgment in excuse for it. I regret, however, at the same time, that I am obliged, from the insolence which I have received on several occasions from the acting W.M. (which will prevent my meeting him again in Lodge), to tender my resignation as a member of the R.C.L."

I have not yet done with the *hissing*. In January last I officially attended the banquet of the R.C.L., contrary to the expressed opinion of the members of my Lodge, who said I would certainly be insulted. I said, "Surely they will respect the Square," but it was not so. The conversation at the head of the table was so pointedly offensive in its character against both the G.M. and P.G.M., that I claimed the protection of the chair; after dinner I was pointedly *hissed*, because I, the senior P.M. of their own Lodge present, objected to *smoking* in Masonic clothing; and upon my retiring to the ante-room, the most atrocious language was used to me. I specially exempt from these charges the W.M., and those Brethren who were members of the Lodge at the time I was their W.M.; it appeared to be confined to the very young men recently made, who seem to be as ignorant of the B. of C. as "Justitia" is of the true principles of the Order. If this is the "comparative comfort" spoken of by "Justitia," I can see why so many good Masons have left his Lodge to join mine. The R.S.L. would never have been resuscitated had it not been for the extraordinary and unMasonic conduct of "Justitia" and his friends; it is a singular fact that all our resident joining members have been members of the R.C.L. "*Hinc illæ lacrymæ.*"

With regard to the election of Prov. G. Treasurer last year, I can only say that I was canvassed for my vote several months before the election in favour of the unsuccessful candidate, for whom I voted; that he was to be nominated was well known, and the merits of the two candidates were discussed prior to the Prov. G.L. The present opposition to that officer is confined to a "*clique*" or section in the R.C.L., and is well known to have arisen from a quarrel which occurred nearly two years since, between a former President of the Lodge of Instruction and the present Prov. G.T., who remonstrated very warmly upon his having broken into the Bladud encampment when prepared for a conclave of K.T.R. And this brings me to the second portion of "Justitia's" letter.

Having seen the oath of allegiance to the Grand Master of England administered in the Baldwyn camp of Bristol, I speak from authority when I say that that camp never claimed for itself the rank of a grand encampment. On the death of the Duke of Sussex it asserted its independence of the G.C. of England. I was present when the discussion took place; I advocated the recognition of the present G.C. of England, but a majority ruled that as far as BRISTOL was concerned they were an independent camp. The first time I hear of the "Grand Encampment of Baldwyn" is in "Justitia's" own letter; he admits that "certain Sir Knights of that encampment, assisted by the only surviving Sir Knight of the dormant camp (*in Bath*), revived it." He says that "it never acknowledged any Grand Conclave; I call upon him in his own name to give us the proofs; I say that this assertion is simply untrue, because I have in my possession an original document, from which I extract the following:—"Conclave of Antiquity from time immemorial, constituted in the city of Bath, 1790, under an ancient warrant (as above entitled), granted by the late T. Dunckerley, Esq., M.E.G.M. of the Order. Revived and reopened June 11, 1814, by Comp. Sir B. Plummer, *Grand Expert of England, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, Grand Patron of the Order.*" This document, which is dated July 14, 1820, is signed by Matthew Patton, the E.C., *from whom I received it*; and goes on to state that the warrant was purloined in the previous year, but that the Brethren resolved to meet without it, in compliance with an opinion given by the "Camp of Baldwyn." Here the G. Conclave of England is expressly acknowledged, and I call upon "Justitia" to produce the warrant under which "certain Sir Knights" resuscitated the Camp of Antiquity in Bath.

About ten years ago, while on a visit to Colonel Tynte, he told me that if I could find the lost warrant he would give me authority to resuscitate the camp. I called together the late eminent Sir Knights Bythesa and Patton, who told me that the camp had not met for many years, and that the warrant was

irrecoverably lost; it is now (1856) in private hands, and is occasionally shown as a curious old document by a R.A. Mason in this city. Now, I understand that these "certain knights" are about to extend their operations into other portions of England and Wales; but do they imagine that they fulfil their M. and T. obligations by establishing a rival order? I call upon all true Sir Knights to repudiate these discreditable proceedings. And now one word with reference to the present S.W. of the R.C.L., with regard to whose appointment so much unpleasantness has arisen; it is well known that he, then only a newly-raised M.M., was employed by certain "Sir Knights" to wait on, "and endeavour to persuade the only surviving member of the Camp of Antiquity" to attend a meeting, which he did, and signed the minutes of the proceedings of Sir Knights, all of whom, with the exception of himself, were tenants of the grave!

The knights are dust,
 Their swords are rust,
 Their souls are with the saints, we trust!

Here was a *resuscitation* indeed! but I do not say that for this service he (the S.W.) was put over the heads of all the senior Brethren, although such is, and I fear ever will be, the current opinion. He is now R.A. and *soi-disant* K.T.R.

I admire Masonic zeal, but Masonic discretion is far better. As an old P.M., P.Z., and K.T.R., I say that there is something more in our ancient system than a parrot-like repetition of the mere *formulae* of ceremonies; for a system founded on love should exhibit in the hearts and actions of its members the attributes of charity, mercy, and forbearance. I have endeavoured to state facts for which I can vouch, for the true Sir Knight should be like Bayard, "*Sans peur et sans reproche*," and I sincerely hope that this letter will close an unhappy controversy. Believe me, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

JAMES TUNSTALL, M.D.,

P. Prov. G.S. of W. Somersetshire; W.M. No. 61; P.M. and P.Z. No. 48; P.M. No. 420; P.J.W. No. 123; P.G. Reg. of Knights Templar for Somersetshire.

P.S. With regard to the *purple*, how can these "resuscitators" expect it from the P.G.M., who is also G.M. of the Knights Templar?

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—After perusing your valuable correspondent "Justitia's" letter, published in your Magazine of this month, an answer to "Sile's" last letter would seem almost superfluous, were it not that my silence might be construed into consent: I therefore address these few lines in reply, trusting that as far as he and I are concerned the correspondence may here terminate.

I opine that "Sile" has "stooped to calumny" and "lost sight of veracity" in making charges against a Brother, more especially when the information upon which these charges are based was "afforded by friends." I cannot understand why "Sile" should have introduced my name into the correspondence at all, more especially as his remark respecting myself was not founded on his own knowledge, but upon "hearsay" only. Such conduct on the part of one who takes up his pen to endeavour to refute what he terms "incorrect representations" is, I consider, anything but the conduct of a good Mason or a gentleman. No man is without his faults, but I cannot plead guilty to the dictatorial spirit in ruling my Lodge imputed to me by "Sile." In order that your readers may judge how "Sile" and his party feel in consequence of the untenable nature of their accusations, I am prepared to state that one of the leading Masons in this city has on more than one occasion called on an influential member of my Lodge, who he believed was acquainted with "Justitia," and begged him to use his influence in order that *all matters might be dropped*, as your now silent correspondent A. Z. could not respond to the appeal made to him by J. W. in your number for May.

Men, whether Masons or not, when they unfortunately take up an untenable position, generally make use of very hard words, thinking, I suppose, that this species of defence will have great weight with their fellow-men:—such has been "Sile's" conduct; he and his party, after the long and masterly letter written by

"Justitia," stand before the Masonic world as calumniators of my immediate P.M., my Lodge, and myself; and my parting advice to them is, that I trust the next time they rush into print they may remember that the "True spirit of Masonry" consists in a close adherence to truth, and that this virtue also regulates the "intercourse of gentlemen."

Not considering concealment necessary, and again disclaiming the accusation of ruling my Lodge "more by physical energy than by the regard in which I am held,"

I beg to remain fraternally yours,

BATH, June 9, 1856.

H. J. HIGGINSON.

W.M., No. 48.

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

SIR.—I shall feel obliged by your inserting the following statements in the next number of your magazine, in reply to those made by "Justitia," respecting the Prov. G. Treas. of Somerset.

(1.) "The present Prov. G. Treas. has been known to say that there ought to be Lodges for tradesmen, and Lodges for gentlemen; (2.) and that one ought not to associate with the other; (3.) and yet this same Brother has been heard in his post-prandial speeches to dilate at length upon ALL RANKS meeting on the level," &c.

(1.) The present Prov. G. Treas. has said so, and begs to repeat the statement. He has said it to Bro. Percy Wells, P.M., Royal Cumberland Lodge, with whom "Justitia" appears to be INTIMATELY connected. There may be general or local reasons for such an opinion. The distinction existed between the Royal Cumberland Lodge and the Lodge of Honour, until Bro. Percy Wells broke through the understanding, or resolution of the former Lodge, on which it was founded. This distinction, however, as the minutes of both Lodges will abundantly prove, *never* prevented the most cordial and pleasing intercourse between the two Lodges, until the period when Bro. Percy Wells obtained influence in the Royal Cumberland Lodge, since which time the intercourse between the two Lodges has gradually declined.

(2.) The Prov. G. Treas. denies this statement. What he has said is, that while Brethren of all ranks should meet in Lodge, yet *that* union constitutes no ground for their associating out of Lodge: a well-bred gentleman would not thrust himself into the society of tradesmen, any more than a respectable tradesman would intrude on the society of gentlemen, merely because both may chance to be Masons.

(3.) The above reasons, however, are not incongruous with the sentiment attributed to the Prov. G. Treas., for it is pleasant, when circumstances permit it and fit occasions occur, for ALL RANKS to meet "on the level" in promoting a good and useful purpose.

As to the statement respecting the appointment of Prov. Grand Lodge officers, there is a certain approximation to the truth; but I refrain from detailing the facts, as matter more important demands attention.

"Justitia" wishes to eject the present Prov. G. Treas. and appoint to that office a Brother, (1.) "whose well-known habits of business will enable him to send out a statement of account, without any such glaring errors as mistakes in wording the Dr. and Cr. sides of a cash account; (2.) and by taking nearly six months to make out that which a school-boy could do in a few hours!"

(1.) It is insinuated that the errors complained of have been committed by the present Prov. G. Treas. He has not, however, yet delivered any account of his own. He has only superintended the printing of the account of the deceased Prov. G. Treas., his predecessor; and in so doing adhered *verbatim et literatim* to the account as passed by Prov. Grand Lodge. Moreover, at the end of that account the Prov. G. Treas. inserted a copy of the minute passed at the Prov. Grand Lodge, which showed that no responsibility attached to him respecting that account.

(2.) There was a delay in the delivery to the Lodges of the province of the account above alluded to, but not because it was not made out, but for reasons which do not require to be detailed.

(1.) "The esteemed Brother who was unsuccessful last year was one of the foremost pioneers in bringing about an investigation into the affairs of the province, (2.) the present Prov. G. Treas. coming in as it were at the death, (3.) and by clique influence reaping the reward."

(1.) The unsuccessful Brother was Bro. Bridges, who aided in promoting the movement which brought about an investigation into the financial affairs of the province.

(2.) The present Prov. G. Treas. has by him, correspondence extending over nine or ten months, viz., from April, 1853, to Jan. 1854, including circulars to Lodges, and replies from them, and a copy of a requisition to the Prov. G.M. for a Lodge of Emergency, for the special purpose of investigating the financial affairs of the province, which Lodge was summoned Dec. 21, 1853. This is what "Justitia" designates, as "coming in as it were at the death!"

(3.) If "Justitia" means by the "reward," the appointment to the office of Prov. G. Treas., I deny that it was obtained by "clique influence," many Brethren recording their votes in my favour, solely on the ground of the interest which I had taken in the financial affairs of the province.

(1.) The "acting P.M.," of "Justitia's" Lodge, namely, Bro. Percy Wells, of the Royal Cumberland Lodge, was the very individual who proposed the investigation into the affairs of the province, (2.) and who nominated the committee.

(1.) Bro. P. Wells did not propose the investigation into the affairs of the province. He proposed, Dec. 21, 1853, as a substantive motion, the notice *placed by another individual* upon the circular summoning Prov. Grand Lodge, to the effect that a committee should be appointed to examine the financial affairs of the province, which was seconded by a member of his Lodge, viz., Bro. Haseler.

(2.) Bro. P. Wells did not nominate the committee. He named, it may be, some of its members, but the names were, for the most part, proposed singly by different Brethren. I have notes of all those appointed on the committee, and of those who declined. Bro. P. Wells' name is not mentioned in them; and if there was any merit in declining to be of that committee, the Prov. G. Treas. declined it, though subsequently he consented to be nominated.

(1.) "So much," says "Justitia," "for the claims of the past (present?) G. Treas., who did nothing but make a couple of speeches, attend about two committee meetings, and eat a good dinner, (2) all his travelling expenses being paid; (3) the actual work being done by a Brother who is a professed accountant."

(1.) As to the "claims" of the present Prov. G. Treas., what he did has been briefly stated above, and it may be added that he drew up the report of the committee, which was submitted to Prov. Grand Lodge; he attended two committee meetings, and dined with the committee, (2.) ALL of whose dinners and travelling expenses were paid in accordance with a resolution passed at Prov. Grand Lodge, Dec. 21, 1853.

3. The committee found it necessary to examine the Prov. Grand Lodge accounts for a period of *ten* years, viz. from 1843 to 1853. They could not succeed in reducing them to a satisfactory state, and unanimously agreed on placing them in the hands of an accountant: Bro. Bridges either proposed Bro. Harwood, or suggested his name, and the committee appointed Bro. Harwood to do the work, which could not have been very slight or unimportant, as at the Prov. Grand Lodge, when the report of the committee and the accounts were passed, the sum of £5 was voted to Bro. Harwood, over and above his fee.

I have now given as brief and as clear replies to the charges of "Justitia" as I can. It is left to the Brethren who may read the correspondence to decide, whether "Justitia" has shown proper care in investigating the circumstances on which he attempts to found assertions and insinuations, the manifest object of which is to injure the Prov. G. Treas., and create such a feeling against him, that he may be ejected from the office he holds. Whether such a disposition as "Justitia" exhibits will be sanctioned by the Brethren of the province of Somerset, time, I doubt not, will decide.

I remain, Sir, &c.

R. WILBRAHAM FALCONER, M.D.

P.M. No. 528, Prov. G. Treasurer, Somerset.

P.S.—I should have stated when alluding to the appointment of the committee for investigating the financial affairs of the province, that after the names had been individually proposed in the manner described, Bro. Percy Wells proposed them in the aggregate, and was seconded by Bro. Rich.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Having been pointedly alluded to in a letter signed "Justitia" in your last number, I feel that a reply is incumbent on me, if it be only to corroborate some of the statements of "A. Z.," to whom I furnished information. I am most unwilling to obtrude on the Craft, but it is due to them as well as to myself that matters should not rest where they are.

"Justitia" states that I left the Royal Cumberland Lodge, Bath, because the S. W. Collar was not offered to me. This is incorrect, and the then W. M. Bro. Percy Wells must know it to be so. He put these questions to me: "Did you expect the West?" I replied that I did not. "What did you expect?" I answered that I expected to be allowed to maintain my position, and not to be passed over.

"Justitia" next states that I have since said I seceded because no member of the Royal Cumberland Lodge could ever obtain the purple. This is entirely without foundation. To the best of my knowledge, I never made such a remark; and I think the following fact will furnish a sufficient answer to the charge. At the last Prov. Grand Lodge at Highbridge, whilst I was an active member of the Royal Cumberland Lodge, the Prov. G. M. did me the honour to name me for a Prov. G. office; but not being present, from reasons it is not necessary to explain, I of course could not receive it. I do not deny that a purple apron was an object of my ambition, and I humbly conceive a laudable and Masonic one.

I now proceed to corroborate some of the statements of "A. Z.," who very justly complained of the appointments in question. I complain also. I think the principle of placing Brethren of eleven months' standing over those who have served much longer periods, and whose qualifications are at least equal, an incorrect one, except for good and Masonic reasons. The chief promoter of the objectionable camp was Bro. Percy Wells, the W. M. of the Royal Cumberland Lodge; and it being well known that Bro. Bagshawe rendered him such assistance in its formation as it is probable no one else could have done, it was the opinion of many others as well as "A. Z." that his sudden promotion in the Lodge was the consequence.

With regard to Bro. Percy Wells's refusal of the Collar of Prov. Grand Reg., "Justitia" indignantly asks what right "A. Z." has to attribute his refusal to so unworthy a motive. I gave this fact to "A. Z." upon the authority of Bro. Percy Wells himself, who told me that anything below the Prov. G. S. W. was beneath the dignity of his position as W. M. of his Lodge.

The next point on which I furnished information to "A. Z.," and which "Justitia" is instructed to deny, was the odium which Bro. Percy Wells, when W. M. of his Lodge, showered so plentifully on the Prov. G. M. I did not allude to any particular case. I meant the unjust and sarcastic remarks—not once or twice, but frequently, in Lodge and out of Lodge, in public and private—which I have heard Bro. Wells make on the Masonic conduct of our venerable Prov. G. M., whose only fault appears to have been that he failed to discover the great merit which that Brother supposes himself to possess. I do not make an unsupported assertion. I assure you that whilst I was a member of his Lodge I had frequent conversations with the present S. W. Bro. Bagshawe and the Secretary Bro. Haseler on the subject, in which they lamented equally with myself that Bro. Wells should pursue such an objectionable course. I am quite sure they will corroborate me in this.

Having shown as briefly as possible that the remarks of "Justitia" are far from true, the Craft shall now judge how far he is entitled to credit; and I hope that the next time he appears in your pages he will have the moral courage to give his name.—I am, dear Sir, your faithful Brother,

CHAS. W. OLIVER,
J.W. 61 and J.W. 420.

BATH, June 10, 1856.

[Any reply to the above must be accompanied by real name and address, to be published; but we think the correspondence had better end here.—
ED. F. M. & M.]

THE "MARK" DEGREE.

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

SIR,—I see by an advertisement in this day's *Times*, that a Grand Mark Lodge has been established. Can you favour those of your readers who take an interest in this Degree, with the meaning of this extraordinary announcement? Where has this "Grand Mark Lodge" sprung from? What daughter Mark Lodges does it represent? Have any circulars been sent, or any announcement been made whereby those who are Mark Masters have been called together, and the present movement arisen out of such convention? If so, I, who read almost everything Masonic, have neither seen nor heard of any such assemblage. Or is this some upstart self-constituted Grand Lodge that has called itself into existence, dignified itself with a *Grand* name, and by an act of usurpation, assumed to take the management of this interesting Degree in England?

If you can give any information, showing that this Grand Mark Lodge has been formed in the manner usually observed among Masons, that it is a genuine one, and such a one as I can with propriety apply to for a warrant, and that it is not, as I suspect, a self-elected, and therefore a sham and a spurious Grand Lodge, I shall esteem it a favour. I enclose my mark, &c., And remain, yours fraternally,

LONDON, *June 26th*, 1856.

A MARK MASTER.

THE CHRISTIANITY OF MASONRY.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—In your notice of the proceedings in the Old Concord Lodge (No. 201), in the last number of the Magazine, page 436, I find the following words, reported as spoken by the Rev. Bro. Laughlin, the Chaplain of the Lodge:—"The wisest and best of beings whom the world has ever seen had belonged to the noble Order,"—alluding, of course, to the Order of Masonry. I presume there can be no doubt that the reverend Brother here alludes to the Saviour of the World, whom he describes truly as the wisest and best of beings. If so, would it be out of place, or out of character as a Mason, if Bro. Laughlin, yourself, or some other learned and skilful Brother, would explain what is meant by the above passage, and give some reasons for making such a statement. I am not disposed to doubt the truth thereof; but it is of so important a character that I think an inquiring Mason cannot be doing wrong by asking for information, if such can legitimately be afforded.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

DONCASTER, *June 13th*, 1856.

B * * *.

THE GOLDEN LECTURESHIP.—Several of the most popular metropolitan preachers are in the field as candidates for this piece of preferment, which is in the gift of the Haberdashers' Company. The leading names on the list are the Rev. R. Bickersteth, rector of St. Giles'; the Rev. W. Cadman, rector of St. George's, Southwark; the Rev. W. Curling, incumbent of St. Saviour's, Southwark; and the Rev. O. Freire Owen. The last-named gentleman, incumbent of a small living in Gloucestershire, on which on account of his wife's health he is unable to reside, was formerly curate of St. John's, Southwark, and on the avoidance of the incumbency the parochial officers and parishioners spontaneously, and wholly unsolicited, addressed a unanimous appeal to the Lord Chancellor, with a view of permanently securing his services. Being called upon last year to preach before the University of Oxford, he delivered the first extempore sermon addressed to that learned body for the last 150 years; a circumstance which, together with the Christian boldness and earnestness that characterized his discourse, attracted a good deal of attention at the time. Besides being highly gifted as a pulpit orator, he holds a distinguished position in the literary world, and as he has the additional recommendation of not being, like his competitors, encumbered with a large parochial charge and lucrative preferment, it is thought that the Company will avail themselves of the opportunity presented by the avoidance of the valuable lectureship in their patronage, for the purpose of obtaining for the metropolis the benefit of talents eminently calculated for so influential a sphere.—*John Bull and Britannia*.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

THE MARK DEGREE.

WE had hoped that we should be enabled in our present number to announce that Grand Lodge had consented to acknowledge this Degree, in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee, which had twice been marked "approved" by the Grand Master, and afterwards adopted by Grand Lodge. But we have been disappointed; and the question is now in a more unsatisfactory state than before it was first mooted in Grand Lodge. In the Colonies, where there are Lodges holding alike under the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland, there is great difficulty with regard to the "Mark," as the Companions belonging to English Chapters cannot visit those holding under the other Constitutions, without taking a farther obligation, or until a large portion of the business is transacted; and the result is, that in the majority of Colonial Chapters the "Mark" is given as a preparatory step to the Royal Arch, in defiance of the English Constitutions. Indeed, in these days of universal travelling, when every man of any position in society at all visits not only the Continent, but of necessity Ireland and Scotland, while very many cross the Atlantic to shake hands with brother Jonathan, the "Mark" has become almost equally essential to the English Mason; and only in September last we were ourselves witnesses of three English Brethren being called upon to take an obligation in a Scotch Lodge, with regard to the "Mark," before they could be permitted to be present at that Degree about to be conferred on the candidates. We need hardly inform scientific Brethren that the Degree is recognised in all the old tracing-boards of authority. The reason principally assigned at Grand Lodge on the 4th ult. for refusing to confirm the minutes so far as they referred to the "Mark" Degree, was, that it interfered with the principles settled at the time of the Union, that Masonry consisted of three Degrees, and no more; and that were the "Mark" acknowledged, it might lead to other innovations: and this view of the question was indorsed by the Grand Master, notwithstanding that the report of the Committee which stated that the "Mark," though not essential, would form a graceful addition to the Fellow Crafts Degree, bore the words, "Approved—Zetland." It was somewhat curious that nearly all the speakers admitted that the "Mark" was an integral portion of Masonry, although they declared their intention to vote against its adoption, most of them having taken the Degree in the London Bon Accord Lodge.

It is not our intention to re-enter on the discussion relative to the legality or illegality of the charter under which that Lodge was originally constituted; but there can be no question that for some time past they have been acting without a charter, the body under whom they held having resigned their own charter into the hands of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, rather than acknowledge themselves in error; and during that time the principal Brethren advanced in the

Order have been those who have been favoured by the Grand Master with the distinction of Grand Officers.

The refusal of Grand Lodge to acknowledge the Order left the "Bon Accord" to consider what was to be done with regard to a charter; and their Committee have, it would appear, from an advertisement we have seen, resolved themselves into a Grand Lodge of Mark Masters for England and Wales and its colonial dependencies. This step, it is but fair to add, is the work of only six or seven men, several of the members of the Lodge having been refused admission to the last meeting, notwithstanding that a portion of the business of the evening was the advancement of candidates. Before they took any such course, surely the Brethren who hold the "Mark" Degree, many of whom have taken it in the legal Lodges of Scotland, Ireland, and the Colonies, ought to have been consulted as to their wishes on the subject. Lord Leigh, the Prov. G. Master for Warwickshire, is the so-called Grand Master of this new Grand Lodge; and we much mistake if the Earl of Zetland will not consider it as an infringement upon his authority which calls for his interference.

In the mean time, another body of Mark Masons have taken a different course, and applied to the Grand Chapter of Scotland (the memorialists being all members of a Scotch Chapter) for a charter, which has been granted; and the "St. Mark's Lodge of Mark Masters," under the charter of Scotland, will commence working in a few days.

In our opinion, it would be better for all Mark Masons to apply to Scotland—at all events for the present—for such charters—and we will willingly give them every assistance to do so,—and thus give Grand Lodge an opportunity, when the Degree is better understood, of reviewing the decision they came to at the last meeting. We are bound to say, that such decision was in the very face of the opinion entertained by our worthy Bro. Dobie, whose sound, practical common sense would save Grand Lodge from repeated self-stultifications, if he were not impeded, as in this case, by a "packed" opposition.

Under any circumstances, the "Bon Accord" Officers can have no better claim to constitute themselves into a Grand Lodge than have any other half dozen Mark Masons, whether legally or illegally advanced to the Degree.

Since the above was in type, we have received the following letter for publication.

To the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, W.M. of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons, Prov. G.M. for Warwickshire, &c. &c.

LONDON, June 28, 1856.

MY LORD AND W.M.,

We, the undersigned Members of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters, appeal to you, as its W.M., and beg most respectfully to call your attention to the great irregularities which have been practised in your name, during the time the Lodge has had the honour of being presided over by your lordship. It lately came to the knowledge of the undersigned, that Lodges of Emergency were being held to advance Masons to the Mark Degree, and instead of the whole of the Members being summoned, only a few, such as the immediate P.M., Treasurer, Secretary, and other Officers, were called together, who balloted for, and advanced Members, contrary to the bye-laws, and in defiance of that wholesome custom observed in all Masonic Lodges, and other Institutions,

whereby every member has an opportunity of objecting to any one about to be introduced amongst them. The undersigned accidentally hearing that another of these Lodges of Emergency was called for Monday the 23rd inst. (to advance candidates who had not been previously proposed or balloted for in open Lodge), attended the said meeting as members, as they had an undoubted right to do, and determined to express their objection to such illegal proceedings by every means in their power. On presenting themselves, their presence was objected to; and on their not leaving the Lodge, the P.M. and Officers retired to another room, and at their return, to the astonishment of the undersigned, immediately proceeded to advance six or more candidates, without even balloting for them in open Lodge, nor is it believed that they were balloted for, even by the P.M. and Officers whilst in another room. These proceedings the undersigned conceived to be so grossly illegal, and contrary to all Masonic usage, that they appealed to your lordship, who had then taken the chair and opened the Lodge. And mark this, my Lord! it was after the proceedings we have enumerated had taken place, that you opened the Lodge. Your lordship having opened it, we appealed to you, on behalf of ourselves and the absent Members, to interpose your authority against such illegal proceedings, when we—members of the London Bon Accord Lodge, in which we were advanced, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership—were told by P.M. Jones that our presence was an intrusion! Upon this we requested to have the bye-laws read. They were accordingly read to your lordship, acting as W.M., when it was shown that they distinctly provide that *all* members for advancement must be proposed and balloted for in open Lodge, and that one black ball shall exclude the candidate from advancement; yet, in defiance of this objection, the said six or more candidates were advanced, the only justification offered being another bye-law, which states that a Committee shall be appointed, consisting of the W.M. and his Officers, who shall meet between the months of May and October to audit the accounts, and for other business. Now, my Lord, every one conversant with the government of a Masonic Lodge perfectly understands what meaning to attach to the term “other business,” and could not by any chance suppose that the provision could overrule the clause specially providing for a ballot in open Lodge.

But, my Lord, what was our further astonishment, when on appealing to you, and having these particular bye-laws read, you proposed to put it to the vote whether they had acted legally or not. Put it to the vote! Who were to vote? Why the very men, and those only, who had to justify their own illegal conduct. Could it be doubted that those who could act so contrary to all Masonic and other proper usage would hesitate to vote themselves right? They did so, eight votes being recorded against four; the eight voters for themselves, consisting of Bros. Jones, P.M.; Norton, P.M.; J. Hervey, a P.G. Officer; Cole, J.W.; Spencer, the I.G., and another member,—one officer, and one only, Bro. Johnson, to his honour, did not vote at all. Thus they voted themselves right against the four independent members, who, after again protesting against the illegality of the proceedings, left the Lodge.

Such, my Lord and W.M., is a plain and simple statement of what we conceive to be the grossest piece of illegality ever perpetrated under the name of Masonry.

We have the honour and prosperity of the noble Craft too much at heart to allow such proceedings to pass without seeking redress; and as they have taken place under the sanction of your lordship's name as W.M., whilst you were in the chair, we appeal to your sense of justice to have the legality of such proceedings more thoroughly investigated, and not to allow the London Bon Accord Lodge to lay under the stigma that must otherwise for ever attach to it.

We ask you, my Lord, as a Prov. G.M., whether such a proceeding was ever heard of in your province or any other? and if such were possible, whether the W.M. and Officers would not shortly find the subject brought before the Board of General Purposes and Grand Lodge? Unfortunately the Bon Accord Lodge has no such authority to appeal to. Originally founded, though no doubt unknowingly, under an illegal charter, and having been repudiated by the Grand Chapter

of Scotland, under whose constitution the Lodge professes to work, we cannot but think that the uttermost circumspection should be observed to do equal justice to all the members.

One more objection, my Lord, and we have done. The W.M., P.Ms., and Officers should be the guardians of the funds in trust for the general body of the Lodge ; but can it be admitted for a moment they are faithfully performing that duty, when since our last regular meeting they have had two illegal Emergencies, such as we have described, and banqueted amongst themselves at the heavy expense of the Lodge funds ? Can such things be allowed ? If so, you will probably have several more such Lodges between this and October, our next regular period of meeting, should you be enabled to find candidates for an excuse to call them ; unless, indeed, your lordship, as W.M., control the proceedings more in accordance with the letter and spirit of the bye-laws of our Lodge.

(Signed) A. H. HEWLETT, P.M., No. 23.
 W. KENNADY, P.M., No. 201.
 W. PAAS, W.M., No. 30.

GRAND LODGE.

The quarterly communication was held in Freemasons' Hall, on the 4th June, the M.W. G.M. presiding ; Bros. Stewart, P.G.W., as G.S.W. ; Tooke, G.J.W. ; Jones, G.S.D. ; Norris, G.J.D. ; Walmisley, G.S.B. ; Rev. J. E. Cox, G. Chap. ; White, G. Sec. ; Farnfield, G. Assist. Sec. ; Chapman, G.D.C. ; Smith, G. Pursuivant, and a more than usually full attendance of P.G. Officers, Masters, and Wardens of the different Lodges.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read,

Bro. John Henderson, P.G. Registrar, rose to move the non-confirmation of that part of them which referred to the Mark Degree. He called upon Grand Lodge not to consent to any innovation on their present ceremonies, as, should they do so, the most disastrous consequences might result. If Grand Lodge were to consent to the proposed innovation, they would be laying the axe to their prosperity, and violating not only the letter but the spirit of their Masonic union. He trusted the day would never arrive when Grand Lodge would give its sanction to so important an alteration in their laws and discipline as was then proposed. Indeed, he denied that they had the power to make so great a constitutional change as that of adding a new Degree to the Order. They were pledged against all false doctrines, all innovations on their landmarks, and he contended that no man, nor body of men, could make such innovations as that now proposed without endangering the stability of the whole Institution. What was the proposition ? To add a new Degree to their Order, of which thousands of their Brethren knew nothing, nor could know anything. Indeed he doubted if many present knew what the Mark Degree really was, and many even of the Committee appointed to consider the matter, were themselves not Mark Masons. He held, therefore, that to bring the proposition forward was clearly wrong, or at all events inopportune. All history showed them, that in every country where attempts had been made to introduce changes into their discipline, they had been productive of dissension and disunion. In France and other countries such innovations had been made, until Degree multiplied upon Degree, until at last they had Female Masonry ; and the utmost disgrace was brought upon the Order : and it was only within the last few years that a few zealous Brethren had been enabled to re-establish it in these countries. They must recollect that even with themselves there had been opposing interests, which had only been settled through the intervention of their royal and distinguished Brethren, and which led to the union of the two antagonistic Grand Lodges. He trusted they would not now attempt to disturb the arrangement arrived at upon that occasion, lest it might lead to dissension, and the upsetting of that harmony and good-feeling which had existed amongst Masons ever since that act of union was ratified. By the Act of Union it was declared, that Freemasonry consisted of three Degrees, and no more,

including the Royal Arch ; and yet now it was proposed to add an additional Degree. (Cries of No, No.) It was clear that if it were not a new Degree, it must have been known at the time of the Union, and that those who had had the charge of that measure had come to the conclusion that it was unnecessary to the well-being of the Order. If they acknowledged this new Degree, they knew not where they would be able to stop, and they might be led into connection with Odd-fellowship, or any other Society. He knew but few of the Committee who had recommended this measure to their notice, but he believed that one of the Committee was Bro. Herbert Lloyd. He had not the pleasure of the acquaintance of that Bro., but he knew him to be an honourable and conscientious man, and he trusted he would see the value and importance of the observations he (Bro. Henderson) had felt it his duty to lay before the Brethren. When the late regretted G.M. the Duke of Sussex did him the honour to appoint him as G. Registrar, he particularly enjoined him to see that no innovations were made in the Order ; and he could scarcely conceive that the present Registrar had used sufficient authority in allowing the matter to be brought forward. If this measure became law, it would give an excuse to the disloyal to bring forward constant innovations, or oppose the authority of the Grand Lodge ; and he therefore prayed them to join with him, and vote that so much of the proceedings of last Grand Lodge which related to the Mark Degree be not confirmed.

Bro. Savage congratulated the Brethren that Bro. Henderson had again appeared at Grand Lodge, and implored them to listen to the words of warning they had heard. He thought they were called upon to arrive at too hasty a result upon so important a question as that of altering their ceremonies, and he therefore had great pleasure in seconding the motion.

Bro. Aria opposed the resolution now brought forward, and urged upon the Brethren the propriety of supporting the minutes of the last Lodge. He could see no injury that could possibly be inflicted on their Order by legalizing the Mark, as throughout the world, in Lodges holding from the Irish, Scotch, or other Grand Lodges, a Brother could not be exalted to the Royal Arch without going through the Mark Degree. He knew that throughout the West Indies and other colonies the Mark was given as a preliminary to being exalted, even under the English constitution ; and would they stigmatize such Brethren as acting illegally, when it was done by every Lodge every day in the week ?

The G.M. begged to observe that that was a question for the Grand Chapter to consider, and not for Grand Lodge.

Bro. Dobie could not feel with Brother Henderson, that he had not done his duty, but would be glad to resign his position to that worthy Brother, if he would again take it. He was no Mark Mason, but from what he had heard of it, it was no deviation from the landmarks of the Order ; and as a member of the Committee, after witnesses had been examined, including the G. Sec., who had taken the Degree in the Isle of Wight, he had come to the conclusion, in the words of the report, that it formed no portion of the Royal Arch ; and that whilst it was not essential to the Craft, it could not be considered as opposed to it, and might prove a graceful addition to the Craft Degree.

Bro. Beach would merely suggest that the matter had been referred to a combined committee of G. Lodge and G. Chapter, and that they ought to repose their confidence in them.

Bro. Hearn, P. Prov. D.G.M. for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, denied that the Mark was a new degree, it only filling up a gap which existed in their history, and which made the three acknowledged degrees complete. As an antiquarian, he loved to trace the progress of Masonry, and this he was enabled to do by the Marks of the Mason on the stones of the churches and cathedrals throughout the country. Were they to be told that a most beautiful ceremony was to be repudiated because it was not properly understood at the time of the Union ? Surely, if it were a portion of Freemasonry,—and nobody who had spoken had denied it to be so,—they ought to restore it to its proper position ; and this was what they were asked to do when it was proposed to consider it as the completion of the Fellow Crafts degree. He pledged his Masonic honour that its beautiful legend showed it to be an integral portion of Freemasonry, and he there-

fore called upon the Grand Lodge to confirm the minutes, and support the decision at which they had previously arrived.

Bro. Havers did not know that he should have addressed Grand Lodge at all but for the observations of the previous speaker; but when he told them that he was an antiquary, he was almost inclined to doubt him, or he must have known that at the time of the Union there were far more Mark Masons in England than at the present time. Were they to suppose the Committee who had arranged that act, and H.R.H. who had sanctioned it, would have declared that Ancient Freemasonry consisted of three degrees, and no more, without good cause? It was clear that they well knew what the Mark consisted of; and having rejected it, were they now to be called on, after a lapse of forty years, to restore it? He felt that they ought not; and that the Board of General Purposes did not consider it essential, was shown by the fact that they proposed to leave the Brethren to take it or not, and to charge 7s. 6d. for an additional certificate. At the time of the appointment of the Committee, he believed that it was a portion of Arch Masonry, but he now knew to the contrary. He had himself lately taken the degree, and though he admitted there was nothing inconsistent with Masonry in it, and that it might prove a graceful addition to the Fellow Crafts degree, he felt he could not, without violating his obligation, vote for the disturbance of the arrangements entered into at the Union, and he must therefore support the motion of Bro. Henderson.

The G.M. seeing that the Book of Constitutions called upon all Masters to declare that no man, or body of men, could make innovations in the tenets of Freemasonry, and that by the Act of Union their Order was declared to consist of three degrees, and no more, could not do otherwise than record his vote in favour of the non-confirmation of the minutes.

The question was then put, and the motion of Bro. Henderson for the non-confirmation of the minutes of Grand Lodge with regard to the Mark Degree carried by a large majority.

The remainder of the minutes were then confirmed, as were those relative to the Grand Festival.

THE CHARITIES.

The M.W.G.M. rose and said, that their funds were now in so satisfactory a state, that he felt he was justified in moving a vote of a considerable sum in support of the charities of the Order. Great exertions were making to raise funds for the building of a boys' school, and he thought there could not be a more legitimate use of their funds than the assisting such a cause. The girls' school, too, had but a small balance in its favour, owing to the expenditure consequent upon the building of their new school-house; whilst the funds of the Benevolent Institution for Aged and Decayed Masons and their Widows were so low, that they had not been able to have an election this year. As the funds of Grand Lodge could now well afford it, he hoped the Brethren would agree with him in the proposition he was about to make; viz. that £1,000 be granted to each of the Masonic schools, £1,000 to the Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons, and £500 to the Widows' Annuity Fund.

Bro. Dobie seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

A ballot then took place for fourteen members of the Board of General Purposes, and at a later period of the evening was declared as follows:—Hillman, W.M., No. 18, 175; W. P. Scott, W.M., No. 2, 159; Green, W.M., No. 212, 153; Burgess, W.M.G.S.L., 152; G. Singer, W.M., No. 21, 135; Paas, W.M., No. 30, 129; H. H. Lyall, P.M., No. 10, 128; J. Symonds, P.M., No. 275, 123; G. R. Portal, P.M., No. 460, 119; D. Gooch, P.M., No. 38, 117; A. J. Filer, W.M., No. 955, 117; Collard, W.M., No. 209, 113; J. S. Hopwood, P.M., No. 7, 112; J. Barrett, P.M., No. 188, 107; Bisgood, P.M., No. 8, 107; C. L. Webb, P.M., No. 4, 100; F. Binckes, W.M., No. 11, 93; E. Roberts, P.M., No. 167, 82; H. G. Warren, P.M., No. 202, 78; S. B. Wilson, P.M., No. 147, 39; A. W. Woods, P.M., No. 54, 35; T. Gole, P.M., No. 18, 31.

The first fourteen were declared elected, the M.W.G.M. giving the casting vote in favour of Bro. Barrett as against Bro. Bisgood, both having the same number of votes,—107. The following were appointed on the Board by the G.M.:—Bros. Dobie, president; Crohn, Parkinson, J. B. King, J. Hervey, J. N. Tomkins, H. Lloyd, S. W. Dawkes, R. W. Jennings, W. E. Walmisley, and J. L. Evans.

The Committee of the Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons having been elected:—

THE CANADAS.

The M.W.G.M. said he had a communication of some importance to make to Grand Lodge, and he trusted that they would give him a patient and attentive hearing. Amongst the other notices of motion on the *agenda* of business, he saw there was one by Bro. Portal, relative to the Canadian Lodges. He imagined that that notice was founded on the petitions already presented to Grand Lodge from some Lodges in Canada; and though he was not aware of the terms of the motion, or perhaps had not the right to anticipate the discussion, he considered it possible that that motion might be so framed as to render it imperative upon him to refuse to put it from the chair. He would now state the course he intended to pursue with regard to the petition which had been presented to Grand Lodge. The petition lately presented to Grand Lodge alluded to a previous petition, and complained that no answer had been given to it. He admitted he had received such a document, but it was directed to the G.M., and not to the Grand Lodge. That petition prayed that such an alteration might be made in the constitution as to permit the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West to elect their own Prov. G.M. This was so opposed to the principles upon which their Order was founded, that he did not deem it necessary to answer the petition, as the proposed alteration would have detracted from the prerogative of the G. Master. He considered himself bound by his obligation to hand over the office he had the honour to hold to his successor, without any detraction from the prerogative, and if Grand Lodge differed with him, he at least would leave the chair to his successor unfettered by any act of his. The petition alluded to in the one presented to Grand Lodge, he had told them, was directed to the Grand Master, and not to the Grand Lodge, and he therefore had not thought it necessary to bring it before them. The petition presented to Grand Lodge stated, that in consequence of the refusal of Grand Lodge to listen to their petitions, a meeting of delegates had been held to consider on the expediency of establishing a Grand Lodge for Canada. He should like to know how those delegates were chosen, and by whom they were appointed. Under their charters the Lodges could have no power to appoint delegates to consider the propriety of throwing off their allegiance to the Grand Lodge, and therefore all that had taken place must be looked upon as the act of individual Masons, assuming a power which did not belong to them. The petition talked of their various applications to Grand Lodge; but the only other petition which had reached England was the one he had alluded to, addressed to the Grand Master; and they were now called upon to acknowledge this self-constituted Grand Lodge of Canada. If such were the object of Bro. Portal's resolution, he felt bound to say that it would be impossible for him to allow it to be entertained by Grand Lodge.

Bro. Portal wished to know whether the G.M. would refuse to put his motion to Grand Lodge, the terms of which motion the G. Sec. had informed him he had communicated to the noble lord.

The G.M. having asked for the resolution, read it, and said that he had forgotten having seen it before; but he had no hesitation in saying that he could not put it to Grand Lodge.

Bro. Portal thought it would have been more courteous to him as a Mason and a P.M. of a Lodge, if that determination had been previously communicated to him.

The G.M. did not feel bound to tell any individual Brother what course he should pursue as G.M. Indeed, the proper place for him to deal with notices of motion placed before the chair was in Grand Lodge; and to the members of that body only, when sitting as Grand Lodge, did he consider himself called upon to explain his views. Indeed, until within the last few days he had scarcely

determined what course he would pursue. Within that time he had received a letter from the Hon. Bro. Badgley, the Prov. G.M. for East Canada, dated Montreal, in which he stated, that as far as he could learn, the Brethren generally did not wish to throw off their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the mother country; and that as yet only two or three Lodges had given up their charters. He also alluded to certain alterations in the management of Lodges, which he thought might be made with advantage, and which, of course, would receive the deepest consideration. He (the G.M.) could not, however, give way to the opinions of the rebellious Brethren. (Oh! oh!) If they were not rebellious Brethren, what were they? They had not returned their warrants to Grand Lodge; and whilst they held them, they were bound to act in accordance with the constitutions of the Craft. He was most anxious that every justice should be done to the Canadian Lodges; and, indeed, that the interests and position of the whole of the colonial Lodges should be studied; but he deprecated the hasty course taken with regard to the Canadas, and he could prove that resolutions had been come to by some of the Brethren to throw off their allegiance to Grand Lodge months before even the first petition was addressed either to Grand Lodge or himself. He would now tell them that he had under his consideration a scheme which he hoped ere long to be able to lay before Grand Lodge, and which he trusted would prove satisfactory to the colonial Brethren, without interfering with the prerogatives of the G.M., or making any material alterations in the laws or constitutions of Grand Lodge. If in the course of his observations he had spoken warmly, so as to give offence to Bro. Portal or any other Brother, he sincerely regretted it; but he felt, in his position, he was bound to do all in his power to preserve the integrity of their constitution.

Bro. Portal expressed his satisfaction with what had fallen from the G.M., and gave notice of motion for next Grand Lodge, expressing the deep regret of its members that so little attention had been paid to the communications from Canada in the G. Sec.'s Office, that they had been allowed to remain unanswered for a space of two years.

Bro. Havers denied the right of Bro. Portal to give notice of motion in Grand Lodge. It must be done at the Board of Masters.

Bro. Portal stated the same course had been pursued on previous occasions.

Bro. Dobie objected to the motion, it being a censure on the G.M.

The M.W.G.M. said, that the notice of motion must be given at the Board of Masters, and he trusted it would be so given, for the resolution now proposed could only be regarded as a censure on his conduct as G.M., and he hoped the Brethren would know how to treat it.

It being now past eleven, Grand Lodge adjourned, without even the reports from the Board of Benevolence and General Purposes being brought under consideration.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, GRAY'S-INN ROAD.

INAUGURATION OF THE SUSSEX WING.

This interesting event took place on the 18th June, in the presence of a large number of the friends of the institution—the majority of whom were Freemasons. It may be remembered that it is now about thirty years since, when, urged on by the accidental circumstance, in a most miserable night, of finding a girl in the streets in the last state of destitution and disease, and discovering that there was no hospital open for her reception without a ticket of recommendation from a governor, which could not be obtained until the following morning—Dr. Marsden determined to endeavour to found an hospital for admission to which no other recommendation should be required than that of being in disease and needing assistance. The idea was in the first instance carried out by the opening of a dispensary in Greville-street, Hatton-garden, which ere long expanded into the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road. It is no wonder that the claims upon such a charity should be unusually large; and accordingly we find that,

whereas at the commencement of the institution the number of patients only amounted to a few hundreds, they had last year increased to nearly 40,000. At the death of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master of Freemasons, a subscription was entered into to erect a memorial to his memory. This subscription amounted to about £1,600, and after some deliberation it was determined to present it to the Royal Free Hospital towards the erection of a Sussex Wing, on their obtaining a further sufficient sum to carry out such a design. A sufficient amount was considered to have been reached last year to justify the committee in proceeding with the work ; and accordingly, in July last, the foundation-stone was laid, with Masonic honours—Bro. Dobie, G. Reg., officiating for the Grand Master, who was prevented from being present at the ceremony by the illness of the countess. The work was intrusted to Mr. C. Innes, and has been most admirably carried out—the new portion of the building being calculated to afford accommodation for 135 beds, fifty-four of which, however, were displaced by the alteration in the building, necessary for the new wing, so that the real number of additional beds is about eighty—making the total number of beds in the hospital about 200. The hospital is still upwards of £2,000 in debt ; and whilst the regular income for subscriptions is only about £1,500 a year, the expenditure exceeds £3,700—leaving the remainder to be supplied by donations and legacies, which last year were of sufficient amount to liquidate nearly £2,500 of debt.

As we have already stated, the opening of the new wing took place on the 18th June, the ceremony being performed by the Right Hon. Leigh, R.W., Prov. G.M. for Warwickshire, supported by the committee and a large number of the Brethren. The ceremony was as simple as possible. Lord Leigh and the committee having seen the patients placed in the beds, a simple and affecting prayer was offered up for the success of the institution, and his lordship declared the wards duly opened. A procession was formed, and Lord Leigh and a number of the committee took up their position on a temporary platform, opposite the hospital ; a statue of his royal highness, by Mr. H. L. Thomas, was unveiled to public view amidst loud cheers. Underneath the memorial is the following inscription :—

“ ‘Blessed is the man that provideth for the poor and needy. The Lord shall deliver him in time of trouble.’—Psalm xli.

“ As a memorial in strict conformity with the tenour of the life of his late Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick Duke of Sussex, and therefore most fitting to perpetuate the memory of his many virtues, this wing to the Royal Hospital was erected in the nineteenth year of her Majesty Queen Victoria.”

His lordship then addressed the meeting as follows :—“ Ladies and Gentlemen, I congratulate you upon the happy circumstance of the opening of the new wing of the Royal Free Hospital associated with the name of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, but I feel that there are others besides yourselves to whom this event must be one of sincere congratulation, I mean the sick and afflicted of this populous city, to whom it is the pride of this hospital to open its gates indiscriminately, and I wish therefore to its noble founder, Dr. Marsden, and its philanthropic supporters, as heartily as I am sure all present must do, all the success and support which their benevolent efforts deserve.” (Cheers.)

After a few words had been addressed to the assemblage by the Rev. Dr. Owen, the Chaplain, the band, which had been in attendance throughout the evening, played the National Anthem, and the proceedings terminated.

In the evening the friends of the Charity dined together in Freemasons’ Hall, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, who was supported by the Earl of Zetland, G.M. of Freemasons ; Lord Denman ; the Rev. Dr. Bowles, Prov. G.M. for Hertfordshire ; Mr. Alderman Spiers, of Oxford, P.G.S.B. ; Dr. Kent, Prov. G.M. for Australia ; the Rev. Dr. Owen ; Dr. Marsden, the founder of the hospital ; Drs. Brinton, Haswell, O’Connor, Glover, and about 140 gentlemen, the large majority of whom were Freemasons.

The first toast drunk was, as usual, the health of her Majesty, his Lordship informing the company that a letter had just been received from Col. Phipps, enclosing her Majesty’s donation of £105. The next toast was Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, and the rest of the royal family,

the announcement that the Duke of Cambridge had forwarded a donation of £10 being received with loud applause.

The Army and Navy having been duly honoured, the noble Lord said,—

My Lord and Gentlemen,—The next toast I rise to propose to you is the toast of the evening, “Success to the Royal Free Hospital,” a wish which I am sure all hearts here will readily re-echo. If the success of an institution depends upon the degree in which it answers to the ends for which it has been founded, I cannot but, for my part, consider that the Royal Free Hospital has up to this time met with great success ; for, from a report of its operations for the present year, I find that during the time of its existence, a period of less than thirty years, the number of cases relieved by it is 521,493, and the yearly applicants for its charities have annually increased in an enormous proportion, numbering in 1828, 926 persons, but in 1855, 39,891 persons. (Hear, hear.) The principles upon which this valuable Charity conducts its operations appear to me to deserve from the public generally the support which will, with the blessing of Providence, insure its continued success. In hospitals generally, I believe, it is a stipulation made, upon the admission of a patient, that he shall not present himself if afflicted by any contagious disease ; but the Royal Free Hospital stands preeminent, as affording to such persons shelter and medical relief when all other hospital doors are closed to them, and by this means is an extensive benefit to the City at large, by assisting in arresting the progress of contagious maladies, in addition to the relief it affords to those actually suffering from them. During the year 1832, when the cholera first made its appearance among us, the hospital gave relief to 700 persons, and 9,000 persons suffering from that fearful disease have since then been at various times relieved. Moreover, the hospital does not confine its benefits to the inhabitants of London only, but persons from all parts of the country, nay, from all parts of the world, have been received by it, and sufferers of every description are relieved here. Large numbers of destitute unfortunate females are annually admitted into the wards, not a few of whom, on being cured, are, by the exertion of the rev. the chaplain and the committee, restored to their families and friends, with every prospect of becoming respectable members of society ; and these, as well as other destitute patients, are, on leaving the hospital, assisted with clothes and small sums of money, which appears to me to be a most interesting feature in the operations of this society. In fact, this hospital has from the first made its boast to do good to all, of whatever sex or people, and truly deserves the name of the Royal Free Hospital, for it *is* and *always has been free* to all, patients being *here* received without letters of recommendation ; and, whereas in other hospitals this is only occasionally and exceptionally done, at the Royal Free Hospital it is the *rule* that they shall be so admitted. The completion of the new wing, which we are met this day to commemorate, affords increased accommodation, and funds alone are wanted to maintain the additional number of 135 beds, and enable the committee greatly to extend the benefits of the Charity to the destitute sick. Gentlemen, I give you, in a bumper, “Success to the Royal Free Hospital.” (Loud cheers.)

The health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of Masons, having been drunk, the noble Earl acknowledged the compliment, and proposed “The Memory of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.” In doing so, he stated that the name of his Royal Highness became connected with the hospital from a subscription having been entered into on his demise to raise a monument to his memory. At a general meeting of the subscribers to that fund it was, after much deliberation, “Resolved—That the most appropriate memorial, and one strictly in accordance with the humane and benevolent character of his Royal Highness, would be the erection of a wing to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray’s Inn-road.” The foundation-stone was laid in July last, in full Masonic form, by the Grand Lodge of England, and was now completed, funds alone being wanted to maintain the new wards, which would accommodate 135 beds in full efficiency.

The toast having been drunk in solemn silence, a variety of other toasts were duly honoured, including the health of the chairman, Dr. Marsden, the honoured founder of the hospital, which was most cordially responded to, the Committee of Management, &c.

The subscriptions of the evening amounted to about £1,400.

Mr. Donald King conducted the musical arrangements, assisted by Mdme. Ella Henderson (a young lady of great promise), Miss Heywood, Mr. Lawler, Mr. Young, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Coward, who presided at the pianoforte.

[We have been compelled to publish our notice of this interesting event thus abridged, our own report not having reached our office in time for publication.]

METROPOLITAN.

THE LODGE OF ANTIQUITY (No. 2) met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, June 25th. The business was merely formal, his Grace the Duke of Manchester being at this period unable to attend for the purpose of being passed.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—This excellent Lodge held its last Meeting, for the season, on June 18, upon which occasion a large number of the Members were present; among whom we were glad to see again in his place the venerable P.G.S.D. Bro. Goldsworthy, the Father of the Lodge, and who had taken his Degrees more than fifty years ago. Bro. Shackelton, W.M., presided with his usual urbanity, and performed the duties of the Lodge in a manner to elicit the encomiums of all present. Lodge business being ended, the Brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, the comforts of the Brethren being much enhanced by the courtesy and attention of P.M. Bro. Dearsley, the M.C. The visitors were Bros. George Bigg, Lowick, and G. F. Taylor.

WESTMINSTER AND KEY-STONE LODGE (No. 10).—At the meeting of this Lodge on Wednesday, June 4th, at Freemasons' Tavern, present, Bros. W. S. Portal, W.M.; the Earl of Carnarvon, S.W.; R. A. Benson, J.W.; Bros. H. C. Finch, of the Apollo University Lodge, No. 460; Colonel Burlton, P. Prov. G.M. of Bengal; and W. H. Fenn, P.M. of No. 23, were elected joining members. Mr. Bulkely H. Owen was regularly initiated. Bro. the Rev. H. Lyall, P.M., having resigned the Office of Treas., Bro. P.M. Beach, was unanimously elected his successor. Bro. Samuel Lancaster Lucas was raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. The only visitor was Bro. Close, of No. 460. The Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the banquet; and, afterwards, those members who were qualified attended the Grand Lodge.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE AND OLD CUMBERLAND (No. 12).—The last Meeting for the season was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 9th June, Bro. Donald King presiding, when a candidate was initiated into the Order, and a Brother passed to the second Degree. The Brethren subsequently repaired to the Crown and Sceptre, Greenwich, to hold their summer banquet.

KENT LODGE (No. 15).—This flourishing and well-conducted Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 14th May, at Bro. Harris's, the Three Tuns Tavern, High-street, Borough. The business of the evening consisted of a Crafting and four initiations, which ceremonies were admirably performed by Bro. Whitehouse, P.M. (who presided as Master in the absence of Bro. Trebeck, W.M.), assisted by Bro. Gibbs, S.W., and Bro. Rogers, J.W., in conjunction with the other officers of the Lodge, to whom great credit is due for the very efficient manner in which they discharged their respective duties. The Lodge being closed, the Brethren, about thirty in number, adjourned to the banquet. The usual toasts were given and responded to in a very cordial manner, and the Brethren expressed themselves highly delighted with the harmony of the evening and the increasing prosperity of the Lodge.

ST. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).—The members of this Lodge held their last meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 12th June, Bro. Staite,

W.M., presiding, when a Brother was duly passed to the 2nd degree. About a dozen of the Brethren afterwards adjourned to the Nell Gwynne Tavern, Strand, to dine with their respected P.M., Bro. Frampton.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 196).—This Lodge held its second meeting for the season on the 10th May, Bro. Samuel Aldrich, W.M., when Bro. Aspinal was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, Bros. Stopher, Douglas, and Birchmore, passed to the 2nd Degree, and Messrs. Thos. W. Purkiss and John Phillips initiated into the Order. No banquet was provided on this occasion, in order that, by limiting their expenditure, the Lodge might be able to render a more generous support to the Masonic institutions generally, and to the Benevolent Fund in particular,—an example which we trust will be emulated by every Lodge.

ST. JAMES'S UNION LODGE (No. 211).—The members of this Lodge met, on a summons of emergency, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, June 13th. The W.M., Bro. John Gurton, assisted by his officers and Past Master, raised two Brethren and passed two to the second degree, in that excellent manner for which this Lodge is now so much distinguished.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, May 30th. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. Spooner, P.M., officiated in his usual able and efficient manner, by raising Bro. Dyer to the third degree. Labour being ended, the Brethren retired to refreshment; and to a repast which reflected great credit on the establishment, succeeded a most pleasant evening. The only visitor present was Bro. Burton, W.M. (No. 202). We may remark, *en passant*, that the newly-established Lodge of Instruction, held under the warrant of this Lodge, met for the first time at Bro. Sheen's, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane, on Friday, June 6th, when about thirty Brethren were present. We make no doubt but this Lodge of Instruction, being held in the summer months (when most others are closed), will be numerously attended. We can confidently say it is conducted under the most favourable auspices, and heartily wish it success.

POLISH LODGE (No. 778).—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 12th June, when Bro. Charles Duvé was raised to the 3rd degree; Bro. Wm. Watson then proceeded to install Bro. Johnston as W.M. for the ensuing year. The new Master invested his officers as follows:—Bro. Samuels, S.W.; Lord Raynham, J.W.; Lemanski, P.M., Treas.; Detkins, P.M., Sec.; Arnold, S.D.; Ionides, J.D.; Louringer, I.G. Mr. Stanislaus Nowakowski was initiated into the Lodge, and Bro. Truss, of No. 671, elected a joining member. The Brethren afterwards adjourned to supper, and spent a very pleasant evening.

CANONBURY LODGE (No. 955).—A full attendance of the Brothers of this Lodge took place at Bro. Todd's, Canonbury Tavern, on the 10th of June. Amongst the Brothers present we observed A. J. Duff Filer, Samuel Hill, Wm. Harrison, Alfred Wilson, H. Friend, H. G. Buss, T. Bohn, J. Cutts, W. Halston, H. Salt, R. Sanderson, W. Underwood, J. Smith, D. Bishopp. The Lodge was opened with solemn prayer, and Bros. Cutts, Halston, and Salt were most effectively raised to the Sublime Degree of M.Ms. At the conclusion of the labour of the evening, the Brethren adjourned to one of Bro. Todd's excellent repasts: good speeches and choice singing illustrated the refreshment. The speeches of the evening were by Bros. Filer and Bohn; Bro. Filer having taken the opportunity of proposing the health of Brother Thomas Bohn, the founder of the Lodge, whom he characteristically denominated "Everybody," inasmuch as he was open to do any duty in the Lodge. Bro. Bohn made a most excellent speech in reply. The remembrance of those excellent speeches served as our lullaby that night.

INSTRUCTION.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 196).—The third anniversary of the establishment of the above Lodge was held at the Holly-bush Tavern, Hampstead, on the 18th June, Bro. Thomas A. Adams, P.M., No. 196 and 206, in the chair. M. Leivenson, S.W.; J. Leivenson, J.W.; H. Arless, S.D.; J. Thomas, J.D.; — Grey, I.G.; R. Hazard, Treas.; and S. Aldrich, Hon. Sec.

The sections of the first lecture were most efficiently and eloquently worked by the following Brethren:—H. Baker, John Thomas, Joseph Smith (who was initiated by Bro. Aldrich, W.M., No. 196, in October last, and under whose instruction he has acquired a perfect knowledge of the Three Degrees), R. Armstrong, J. Lowenstark, M. Leivenson, and R. Collard.

The second by Bros. Le Gassick, Allen, Tyrrell, Collard, and Armstrong.

The third by Bros. M. Leivenson, Tyrrell, and W. Shury. The several Brethren were warmly applauded by the whole body present. Thirty-three visiting Brethren were severally elected members of the Lodge of Instruction.

The Lodge having been closed eighty-six Brethren adjourned to the banqueting-room, Bro. Adams presiding, supported on his right by Bro. Joseph Smith, Grand Pursuivant; Aldrich, W.M., No. 196; Hazard, S.W. and Treas., &c.; and on the left by Bro. O. U. Thiselton, Secretary to the Boys' School; Geo. Barrett, P.M., No. 188; Muggridge, &c. Among other Brethren we noticed T. W. J. Goldworthy, Kennedy, Gingall, Lambert, Wenham, McEntire, Glover, Cotterrell, Speer, C. Huser, Pritchard, Hamilton, Jones, Spooner, Skiffington, Frampton, Pennington, Cornick, Johnson, Galloway, Carpenter, Waterhouse, Thomas Barton, Dearth, Perkins, Douglas, Rowe, Ware, &c. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were severally proposed from the chair; Bro. Joseph Smith returned thanks on the part of the Grand Officers, and in doing so applauded the excellent and most able way in which the several lectures had been worked.

"The health of the presiding Master, Bro. Thomas Adams," was proposed in a neat speech by Bro. Joseph Smith, who warmly eulogized the many Masonic and private virtues of that excellent Brother, whom he had had the privilege to initiate into the Order, and who was not only entirely master of all the ceremonies of Craft Masonry and of the fifteen sections, but of every portion of the Royal Arch. Bro. Adams was not one of those who thought it too much trouble to impart instruction to all who required it, there not being a Lodge of Instruction from east to west of the metropolis, or between north and south, that he did not attend, or a Brother within that circle who had not received instruction from him, either in the Lodge or in private. He could not close his remarks without expressing his admiration for the many Masonic and personal qualifications of their respected Bro. Aldrich, W.M., of the Mother Lodge, No. 496, and Hon. Sec. of their Lodge of Instruction. He not only spoke his own sentiments but those of a numerous body of the Masonic world. His correct knowledge of the several Degrees, and the impressive way in which he performed all the ceremonies, were universally known and appreciated. There were not two more efficient Brethren in the Craft than Bros. Adams and Aldrich. He, therefore, called upon the Brethren to respond to the toast in a truly Masonic manner.

The W.M., in returning thanks, said that from the bottom of his heart he thanked Bro. Smith for the kind way in which he had introduced his name to the notice of the Brethren, and the Brethren for the cordial and hearty manner in which they had received it, which, believe him, he should never cease to remember with gratitude. It was true that Bro. Smith had initiated him into the excellent principles of the Order, of all the duties of which, he would state, and trusted he should not be deemed egotistical, he was entirely master—from the initiation to every degree in the Royal Arch. It was a pleasure to him—and he did so almost daily—to afford instruction to Brethren at his own house. He did not care where a Lodge of Instruction was established, it was his greatest pride to be present and to render assistance when called upon to do so; and to every

Brother he would say, "If you require instruction come to 77, John-street, Fitzroy-square, and you shall ever find me willing to qualify you for every Degree."

The W.M. then proposed "The officers of the St. John's Lodge of Instruction," coupled with the name of Bro. Samuel Aldrich, to whose exertions and kind care they were indebted for their personal comforts on that day; for large and influential as that meeting was—and he observed eighty-six present—but for the watchful care of that excellent Brother, the number would have been more than double. After having sold 110 tickets he stopped the sale of any more, which he need not say had tended greatly to the personal convenience of those present. He not only performed the functions of the St. John's Lodge, of which he was W.M., but conferred great benefits upon the Benevolent Institution.

Bros. M. Leivenson, as S.W.; J. Leivenson, J.W.; and Hazard, as Treas., severally returned thanks. Bro. Aldrich, in returning thanks, said that he was much indebted to the kindness of Bro. Smith, and their W.M., for the sentiments they had expressed in his behalf, and that he should ever remember with pride the kind way in which his name had been received. Certain he was that his merits, if any he had, fell far short of the high eulogium passed upon him that evening. However, he trusted that, by integrity of purpose and courteous demeanour, not only in his Masonic, but in his private or every-day life, he should ever retain their esteem. He felt that he had been honoured by having been placed on the committee of management of their hitherto much-neglected Benevolent Institution, in the improvement of which he had felt the deepest interest, and which he should never fail to do his utmost to promote.

The Brethren were highly entertained during the evening, by the excellent singing of the W.M., Bros. Thomas Jones, Hazard, Purkiss, Skiffington, &c.

PHŒNIX (No. 202).—The anniversary festival of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction was celebrated on the evening of the 7th of June, at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the able presidency of the W.M. of the parent Lodge, Bro. J. Burton, who was well supported by his Wardens and other officers. The Lodge, which was attended by about forty of the most zealous and skilled members of the Craft, having been opened in due form, the five sections of the Second Lecture were worked by the Brethren in a manner highly satisfactory to the visitors in attendance. At the banquet, which was of an excellent character, and numerous attended by the members of the parent Lodge, among the guests we recognised several of the Brethren connected with the Royal Free Hospital, including Bro. Fenn, the excellent secretary of that noble charity, and Bro. Dr. Marsden, the gentleman to whose philanthropy the public is mainly indebted for the establishment of the institution. The usual Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, Bro. Warren, in returning thanks for the health of the founders of the Lodge, took occasion to remark on the recent decision of the Grand Lodge, in refusing to confirm the minutes of the proceedings of its former meeting in reference to the recognition of the Mark Degree; and announced, to the great joy of all present, that he was in the position of saying, that before a month passed over their heads, he should have from the Grand Chapter of Scotland a legitimate warrant, authorizing himself and other regularly made comps. of that Chapter to practise Mark Masonry in London; and he added that he had been promised the adhesion and support of many of the most eminent members of the Craft in carrying out that object. The enjoyment of the evening was considerably enhanced by the singing of Bros. Donald King, Webber, Crawley, Mitchell, &c. &c., and the Brethren separated at an early hour.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—This Lodge held its meeting on Friday, the 20th June, when the fifteen sections were most ably worked by the following Brethren:—1st Degree, Bros. W. Braham, F. Geider, J. Pearson, J. Ansell, H. Garrod, D. R. Farmer, W. R. Warren. 2nd Degree, Bros. W. H. Luckins, J. Collins, F. Geider, W. W. Charnock, D. R. Farmer. 3rd Degree, Bros. P. Moss, J. Pearson, D. R. Farmer. A vote of thanks was passed to the W.M., Bro. J. R. Warren, for the correct manner in which he put the questions.

PROVINCIAL.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

AYLESBURY.—*Buckingham Lodge* (No. 861).—The Brethren of this Lodge met on Monday, June 23rd, at the White Hart Hotel, when Bro. E. T. Boorman was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Rev. W. Bousfield, the W.M., performed the ceremony in a very impressive manner. Labour being over, the Brethren partook of refreshment, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

DEVONSHIRE.

TAVISTOCK.—*Bedford Lodge* (No. 351).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on the evening of Wednesday, June 4th, when a goodly number of Brethren were present, and proceeded to business at seven o'clock. The W.M., Bro. J. H. Snell, occupied the chair, and passed Bro. E. W. Nettle to the 2nd Degree; Bro. Merrifield, P.M., giving the working tools; and Bro. Cross, P.M., the explanation of the tracing-board. The Lodge was then closed down to the 1st Degree; and the W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Cross, P.M.; who, in his usual able manner, initiated Mr. T. M. Leamon, *M.R.C.S.* and *F.S.A.*, into the mysteries of the Order. Another candidate was proposed for admission into the Craft, to be balloted for at the next monthly meeting.

STONEHOUSE.—*Lodge of Sincerity*, No. 224.—Tuesday being the anniversary of the festival of St. John the Baptist, the Brethren of this prosperous and increasing Lodge assembled at St. George's Hall, for the purpose of installing the W.M. for the ensuing year. There was a full attendance of Brethren, including P.Ms. W. Damant, R. Dowse, P. G. Rowe, T. Russell, J. Ferris, J. C. Stephens, J. Rogers, and W. Chapman. The Installation was admirably performed by Bro. P.M. Dowse. The W.M., John Cree Hancock, having been installed, appointed Bros. William Hunt (late Sec.), S.W.; Jame Gilbard (late S.D.), J.W.; R. Robinson Rodd, S.D.; G. J. Gilbard, J.D.; L. P. Tripe, Treas.; R. Lidstone, Sec.; and T. C. Gill, I.G. Bro. W. H. Evens (late W.M.), the P.M., during his year of Office, initiated eight members, and performed as many passings and raisings; and, during the same period, the Lodge had also an accession of eight joining members.

ESSEX.

CHIGWELL.—*Chigwell Lodge* (No. 663).—The Brethren of this Lodge met, for the first time this season, at the King's Head Inn, on the 19th June, when the W.M., Bro. F. F. Toole, in the name of the members, presented a splendid jewel to Bro. T. H. Devonshire, P.M., as a memorial of their high esteem and fraternal regard. At the close of the Lodge the Brethren and several visitors sat down to a banquet of quite a *récherché* character, whereat kindred feelings and humour were spiritedly interwoven. The Wardens were Bros. Edward Storr, P.M., and Dr. Bowman.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

NEWPORT.—*Albany Lodge* (No. 176).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Newport, June 9th, when Bros. W. J. Carden, Captain 77th Regt., and Thomas Moore, Quartermaster, were raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M.

On the 16th June, at 5 o'clock P.M., a Lodge of Emergency, for the purpose of initiating Thomas Lynden Bell, Capt. 28th Regt.; Napoleon Fitzstubbs, Ensign 28th Regt.; Norton Knatchbull, Lieut. 95th Regt.; and Martin Samuel Sharp, Ensign 4th K.O. Regt.

Same day, at 7 o'clock, P.M., by command of the "Master Overseer," a muster of Mark Masons was held at the Office of Works No. 176, adjoining the Quarries, when a large number of Brethren from the Minden Lodge, No. 63, assembled,

with others, for the purpose of inspecting and marking materials. Amongst the Craftsmen whose work was finally approved, marked, and numbered, were Bros. Carden, Capt. 77th Regt. ; W. Winniett, Capt. 4th K.O. Regt. ; H. F. Morgan, Capt. 28th Regt. ; Thomas Moore, Quartermaster ; J. W. Oakshott, No. 717 ; Edwin Galt, P.M., No. 717 ; and S. H. Clarke, P.M. No. 872, of Peshawur and Murree, East Indies. After the labours of the day, the newly-initiated and enrolled, with the Brethren of No. 176, and visitors, adjourned to the Star Hotel, where a liberal supper was provided by the host. Bros. Joseph and Edwin Galt, P.Ms. of No. 717 ; George Rake, Sec., No. 717 ; Capt. Morgan ; and Braithwaite, M.D., J.W., No. 176, contributed to the enjoyment of the evening by singing, accompanying themselves on the pianoforte : thus ended one of the many pleasurable meetings enjoyed by the Fraternity of our island.

The W.M., Bro. George Wyatt, notified that the Prov. Grand Lodge meeting would be held on the 3rd of July inst., at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, where he hoped all would make it convenient to attend, to honour the Prov. G.M., Bro. Thomas Willis, by their presence on that occasion.

KENT.

DARTFORD.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—The annual gathering of the Freemasons of Kent was held under the warrant of the Lodge of Emulation, No. 376, at Dartford, on Monday, the 16th of June, and the entire day was devoted to the proceedings of the occasion. The Lodge of Emulation having been duly opened at eleven o'clock, and about eighty of the Brethren assembled to greet the Prov. G.M., the W.M. vacated the chair, which was assumed by the R.W. Prov. G.M. The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened—present, Bros. Charles Purton Cooper, R.W. Prov. G.M. ; the V.W. Ashley, P.D., Prov. G.M. ; the W. Frank Southgate, Prov. G.S.W. ; the W. Saul Isaacs, Prov. G.J.W. ; the W. Campbell, Harvey Boys, Hallows, Reddell, and other Prov. G.Ws. ; the W. Saunders, Prov. G. Treas. ; the W. Charles Isaacs, Prov. G. Sec. ; the W. Nicholl, Prov. G. Reg. ; the W. Poussett, Prov. G.D. Cer. ; and many more Past Grand Officers of the Province ; also most of the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of the fourteen Lodges of Kent.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and with solemn prayer.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The minutes adopted at a preparatory meeting held at Maidstone, in May, were approved and confirmed.

The re-election of Bro. W. Saunders as Prov. G. Treas. was carried by acclamation.

The Prov. G.M. then appointed and invested the following Brethren as Officers for the year ensuing :—Delmar, P.M., No. 34, Prov. G.S.W. ; De Rhe Phillipe, jun., Prov. G.J.W. ; Nicholl, Prov. G. Reg. ; Charles Isaacs, Prov. G. Sec. ; Munns, No. 376, Prov. G.S.D. ; H. Morriss, W.M., No. 216, Prov. G.J.D. ; Walker, Prov. G. Supt. Works ; Poussett, Prov. G.D. Cer. ; O. G. Phipps, Prov. G. Org. ; Beechin, Prov. Asst. G.D. Cer. ; W. Prescott, Prov. G.S.B. ; L. Briveau, Prov. G. Purs. ; Breas, Prov. G. Tyler. Walton, No. 149 ; Hartness, No. 184 ; Kingston and Lee, No. 376 ; Hiscock, No. 621 ; and Day, No. 741, Prov. G. Stewards.

The Prov. G.M. and G. Officers were then saluted with grand honours.

It was proposed by Bro. Cook, and seconded, "That a small balance due to Bro. Cruttenden, the treasurer of the Ashley Testimonial, be paid out of the Grand Lodge Funds," which was agreed to.

Bro. Keddell, Past Pro. S.G.W. then rose, and in pursuance of a notice he had submitted, moved :—

"That in recognition of the long and faithful services of Bro. Charles Isaacs, the Prov. G. Sec., a Testimonial of the respect, esteem, and gratitude of the Prov. Grand Lodge be presented to Bro. Charles Isaacs ; and that in furtherance of the foregoing object, both general and individual subscriptions be solicited from the Lodges in the Province, and that the W.Ms. be requested to advocate the same by submitting it to their respective Lodges at their earliest convenience."

Bro. Keddell said, did this subject require eloquence, he should not have ven-

tured upon it; but Bro. Isaac's services were so universally acknowledged, that it was only requisite to bring the question before the Masons of Kent. For a period of eleven years Bro. Isaacs had faithfully discharged the arduous duties of Grand Sec., and his merits had been recognised by three G.Ms.; those duties had been gratuitously and cheerfully rendered, and the time had now arrived when they should meet with some mark of gratitude.

Bro. Hallows, P. Prov. S.G.W., in seconding Bro. Keddell's motion, was desirous only of bringing the subject properly before the Brethren; at the same time he thought the most proper way to acknowledge Bro. Isaac's services would be by an especial grant from the Grand Lodge funds.

Bro. Harvey Boys, P. Prov. G.S.W., perfectly agreed with every word that Bro. Keddell had advanced—they had both the same object in view—but he was more decidedly in favour of Bro. Hallows' suggestion; and had he known the state of the Grand Lodge funds when he framed the motion of which the Brethren had notice, he would have proposed the amount should be £40 instead of £20, which he had named.

The Prov. G.M. hereupon suggested that the motions of Bros. Keddell and Boys should be amalgamated, which was acceded to, and Bro. Boys moved:—

“That in consideration of the arduous duties of the Prov. G. Sec., as prescribed by the 7th bye-law of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and of the very efficient manner in which these duties have been performed by Bro. P.M. Charles Isaacs, P.P.S.G.W., for a period of eleven years without any salary (though such remuneration is provided for in the bye-laws), the sum of £40 be voted from the Prov. Grand Lodge funds towards the presentation to him of a service of plate; and that the several Lodges in the province be solicited to contribute to promote the same object.”

This, being advocated by other Prov. Grand Officers, was carried with enthusiastic cheers.

Bro. Boys then moved that a committee be named to carry out the resolution, which was also acceded to, and Bros. Ashley, Boys, Campbell, Hallows, and Keddell, were appointed.

It was moved by Bro. Pearson, P.J.G.D., “That two or more Lodges in the province receive the amount necessary for the purchase of a life governorship in the Schools this year from the Charity Fund,” which motion was seconded by Bro. Poussett, P.G.D. Cer., and after some discussion it was resolved the sums of thirty guineas each be awarded to the Adams Lodge, No. 184, at Sheerness, and the Royal Naval Lodge, No. 621, at Ramsgate, which amount was considered as much as the present state of the charity fund would allow.

The business of the province being disposed of, the Prov. G.M. commanded that Bros. Poussett and Beechin, the Directors of the Ceremonies, would marshall the Brethren to form the procession to the church for Divine service. Bro. Beechin led the way, and was followed by the band of the Royal Marine corps; next came two Tylers, and then the members of the following Lodges of the province:—The Temple Lodge, No. 816, of Folkestone; the Belvedere Lodge, No. 741, of Maidstone; the Lodge of Sympathy, No. 709, of Gravesend; the Royal Navy Lodge, No. 621, of Ramsgate; the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 235, of Dover; the United Lodge of Benevolence, No. 216, of Chatham; the Adams Lodge, No. 184, of Sheerness; the Lodge of Harmony, No. 155, of Feversham; the Union Lodge, No. 449, of Margate; the Prince Edwin's Lodge, No. 147, of Hythe; the Lodge of Freedom, No. 91, of Gravesend; the United Industrious Lodge, No. 34, of Canterbury; the Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity, No. 20, of Chatham; and the Lodge of Emulation, No. 376, of Dartford; each Lodge displaying its banner.

Visitors of distinction.

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|
| Provincial | } The Banner of the Prov. Grand Lodge carried | } Provincial |
| Grand Steward. | | |
| | The Prov. Grand Pursuivant, Bro. Broveau. | |
| | The Prov. Grand Organist, Bro. Phipps. | |
| | Past Prov. Grand Sword-Bearers. | |

The Past Prov. Grand Superintendents of Works.
 The Prov. Grand Superintendent of Works, Bro. Walker.
 Grand Director of Ceremonies, Bro. Pousset.
 Past Prov. Grand Deacons.
 The Prov. Grand Secretary, Bro. Charles Isaacs, with Book of Constitutions.
 Past Prov. Grand Registrars.
 The Prov. Grand Registrar, Bro. Nicholl.
 The Prov. Grand Treasurer, Bro. Saunders.
 The Past Prov. Grand Wardens.
 The Corinthian Light, borne by a Master Mason.
 The Column of the Junior Prov. Grand Warden, borne by a Master Mason.
 The Prov. Junior Grand Warden with Plumb Rule, Bro. Phillipe.
 The Doric Light, borne by a Master Mason.
 The Column of the Senior Prov. Grand Warden, borne by a Master Mason.
 The Senior Prov. Grand Warden with the Level, Bro. Delamer.
 The Junior Prov. Grand Deacon, Bro. Morris.
 Provincial } A Past Master with the Volume of the } Provincial
 Grand Steward. } Sacred Law. } Grand Steward.
 The Rev. Bro. Octavius Freire Owen, Prov. Grand Chaplain of Surrey.
 Bro. Ashley, Past Deputy Prov. Grand Master.
 The Ionic Light, borne by a Master Mason.
 Bro. Bisgood, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master with the Square.
 A Past Master, bearing the Gavel of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master.
 The Prov. Grand Sword Bearer, Bro. Prescott.
 The R.W. Prov. Grand Master.
 The Senior Prov. Grand Deacon, Bro. Munns.
 Two Prov. Grand Stewards.
 Provincial Grand Tyler.

The evening service of the day was read by the Rev. the Curate of Dartford, which ended, the Rev. Bro. Owen ascended the pulpit and delivered a sermon, which was attentively listened to by the Brethren and a numerous congregation, taking his text from the 10th chap. of Luke and part of the 30th verse:—"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves."

As a preliminary observation, the preacher remarked, that states, like individuals, have their peculiarities, which certain epochs develop in variety; but Christ, in the lessons he gave to His disciples, took some points of man's character which were the same then as at the present time, and which existed in the days of Adam. The vice predominant throughout all ages of the world's history was the love of gold; and the selfishness thereby engendered in the heart of man deadens all kind feeling for the sufferings of his fellow-creatures. The boasted knowledge of the present day we find to be of no assistance in checking this evil, by awakening us to the opposite duties. The words of the text show us the obtuseness of our hearts toward our brother's claims, when we find that a certain lawyer asked of Lord, "Who is my neighbour?" On our entrance into this life we may be considered as travellers thrown among thieves. The priest sees a man in distress and suffering; but clad in purple and fine linen, with the riches of the world and their attendant comforts engrossing him, he daily stands up in the temple enjoining the people to obey that law which, as we see by the Book of Leviticus, was a series of mercy and justice; and so he looks on the man, sees he does not belong to his creed, and passes him by on the other side. It is so through all time; is there not at the present day a perpetual system of building up walls to shut out our fellow-creatures? Is it not true enough we are a den of thieves? Is it not the custom at the close of the day to calculate how much we have added to our own hoard from our brother's loss? Are not the means by which we raise ourselves to power not unfrequently slandering him we desire to supplant? Are there no such things as the meaning nod—the significant shrug—the reputation murdered by a smile? Seeing, then, the vile mockery of human life, is there not some necessity for a society that shall protect us from miseries—some bond of union that shall link man to his fellow when the hour of need comes? When a

man is starving, there is no time to debate of what country or parish he is a native : when a man is in a ditch, it is not the minute to consider to what church he belongs. The Universality of Brotherhood, which is the leading feature of our Institution, does that which has never yet been effected by any other means ; difference of clime or sect is unknown ; the certainty of good offices to a Brother in the hour of distress is equally awarded, whether he is a Mahometan, a Jew, or a Christian ; for Masonry is a kind of telegraphic wire, by force of which we affect men by their predilections, disarming their prejudices, and becoming a bond of union which is never broken. Objections are started to Freemasonry by some, who fancy we are going to supplant Christianity ; if so, why are we here to-day ? Undoubtedly, if Christianity were universal, there would be no need for such an institution as ours. We all know that the chief object of our Institution is charity—that great scheme which Christ came into the world to establish. To the external world it might be said, the design of Masonry was to keep out the knave and the fool ; for its entire system of teaching consists of powerful morality, universal virtue, enlarged charity, and comprehensive knowledge. With regard to what our predecessors have done for Christianity, look to all the great Christian temples, and see the marks of the Guilders. Like the sun, Masonry gilds the horizon, and lights man's path through the shadows which error casts in his journeyings ; and if we choose to see the real issues of the types in the highest Masonic orders, we should clearly perceive that they all point to Christianity as the only perfect remedy for a fallen world. Masons are exhorted to the practice of Christian love and Christian duty, and by the purity of their own lives to set an example to others. As a further illustration of Masonry being the assistant of Christianity, instead of ignoring it, we enforce the great truth of the impartial and unerring justice of the Most High, who, having defined the limits of good and evil, will reward or punish us as we have obeyed or disregarded His law. This involves the great points of man's personal responsibility, the resurrection, and a future state. Knowledge was the parent of Masonry. Let knowledge increase, but, above all, soul-knowledge, and we may in this crooked and perverse world walk as lights, and by acting thus, make Masonry a handmaid to Christianity until that perfect time appear when, in the Great Lodge above, we shall for ever witness, as well as experience, joy without remorse—purity spotless—hope passionless—intellect exhaustless—obedience faultless !

The Brethren, at the conclusion of Divine Service, returned in the same order to the Lodge-room.

The Grand Lodge being re-formed, the R.W. the G.M. proposed that the thanks of the Prov. Grand Lodge be given to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the church, and also to the Rev. Bro. Owen for his very excellent sermon ; these votes being duly put, were carried unanimously.

Bro. Harvey Boys then moved that the thanks of the Prov. Grand Lodge be tendered to the Prov. Grand Master for his courteous conduct at all times, but especially on the present occasion, which being seconded by the P.D. Prov. G.M., was carried unanimously.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then duly closed with prayer, and the Brethren, at four o'clock, in regular order, moved to the Bull Hotel, where the refreshments were spread in the saloon in the centre of the building, which, having a glass roof of considerable height and the gallery of the upper chambers of the Hotel running round it, was tastefully decorated with banners, evergreens and flowers ; and among the most attractive of the latter ornaments, were the beauties of Kent, a county proverbial for lovely faces.

THE BANQUET,

which was laid out with commendable taste, was admirable, and the attendance most praiseworthy ; in fact, we cannot find words of eulogy sufficient for what is due to Bro. Landale, the W.M. of No. 376, and Bro. Bray, the landlord of the Hotel, for the arrangements and general excellence of the feast.

Grace having been said by Bro. Owen, and the cloth removed,

The Prov. G.M. rose, and in proposing the health of her Majesty, alluded to her father and uncles' patronage of our Institution, and the early princes of the land

having been active in the practice of our mysteries, more especially referring to Prince Edwin of Kent, in honour of whom a Lodge in the province was named.

The national hymn was sung by the vocalists, under the direction of Bro. Genge.

"The Earl of Zetland, the R.W.G.M. of England," followed in due course ; and to

"The Earl of Yarborough, the D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, including Bros. Dr. Rowe, John Hervey, and Herbert Lloyd, who were present,"

Bro. Dr. Rowe responded, and seeing so many ladies witnesses of the proceedings, showed them what Masonry did in the case of the Rev. Bro. Hewlett's family, when for a bereaved widow and family of nine young children £4,000 were subscribed by the Masons ; such narratives as this would induce the ladies to say, when they miss the husband from his fireside, "Well, he's engaged in a *good cause*." In conclusion, Bro. Rowe congratulated the Masons of Kent on having such a G.M., and Bro. Cooper on such an assemblage as was there present to greet him.

Bro. Owen, taking up the gavel provided for the use of the G.M., which was a carpenter's mallet of the largest size, said, If any one doubts our being practical Masons, look at this. (Laughter.) The use to which I intend to devote it is not to knock off useless knobs, but to claim your warmest wishes for one who is neither a useless "knob" nor an excrescence, but one of the most practical men living. Your Prov. G.M. was among the first to enter Paris with the allied troops in 1815, and upon his return to England took a Double First Class at Oxford ; his career at the Bar was of that distinguished character that he might have had the Great Seal, had he been willing to sacrifice what sits very light upon some people ; I mean his integrity. At one time he had, under Government, the disposal of some £30,000 a year, and the only able man he did not seek to provide for—was himself. In mentioning these facts, I think you will agree with me, you have presiding over you a practical and remarkable man, the excellence of whose public character and exuberance of whose private virtues deserve your warmest applause. (Loud cheers.)

The Prov. G.M., in returning thanks, said the only way in which he considered himself to be "remarkable" was his being able to preside with any credit over such a distinguished body as the Masons of Kent : to be their Provincial Grand Master would ever be his greatest boast.

The Prov. Grand Master then gave the Grand Officers, past and present ; to which Bro. Bisgood, the D. Prov. G.M., said in reply, that Bro. Cooper was so constant and regular in attendance on every occasion, that he literally left his Deputy nothing to do.

The Prov. G.M. said he had received a communication which demanded his notice, and the especial attention of all present. A paragraph that he would read to them had appeared in a Kentish newspaper ; it was headed, "*Freemasonry and the Clergy*:" "The Provincial Grand Master of Kent has stated that in his province Clergymen shall have nothing to do with Freemasonry." Now having heard their Rev. Bro. Owen's sermon to-day, who was present at his especial invitation, he left them to judge whether this statement was correct. It had been represented that he had treated the Prov. Grand Chaplain Bro. Jones with disrespect, in objecting to the fee he had been accustomed to receive for his sermon on the Annual Meetings of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and he therefore craved the attendance of Bro. Owen on this occasion ; he believed the payment of the Prov. Grand Chaplain to be without precedent, but he had decided at present not to fill up that appointment. His efforts had ever been anxiously devoted to induce the Clergy to join the Craft, and a Brother who was now present could testify to his expressing those sentiments at the Meeting of a large and influential Lodge in London a few months since. As the head of a popular body he should ever consider it his pleasure and study to attend to the representations of every Lodge in the province, and there was no subject on which he desired to receive the expression of these opinions so much as for that of the appointment of Prov. Grand Chaplain. (Applause.)

The Prov. G.M. then gave their honoured guest, who had *pro. tem.* discharged

the duties of Grand Chaplain, the Rev. Bro. Octavius Freire Owen, the Prov. G. Chap. of Surrey.

Bro. Owen, in responding, said, in reference to the absurd paragraph the Prov. G.M. had brought before their notice, Could it be supposed that Masonry was unworthy of Christians, or the latter of Masonry? Were none but outcasts and bad men to be Masons? He thought the journalist must have had in his mind a satire a celebrated caricaturist had passed on a public institution of his day. A young girl in distress applied to the institution in question for relief, and on being asked as to the crimes or sins she had committed, and pleading not guilty to any, was told that without such awkward qualification she was inadmissible. (Roars of laughter.) Now, the great principle of their institution was universality; it acknowledged no sect, the recipients of its boundless beneficence were of every creed, and the clergy of the Church of England had ever been its promoters. This libel on the Masons of Kent must have emanated from one who knew nothing of the principles of Freemasonry. Human life was too short for any individual to discharge half the claims of his brother man, far too brief to encourage us to fall out by the way! He thanked them for the kind reception he had met with, and having no clerical duties at the present time to perform, his services were always at the command of his Brother Masons. His gratification was increased by again meeting an old college friend in Bro. Campbell, whose services in Masonry, he was much pleased to see, had been recognised by the high and honourable station he had filled.

The toast of "The Past Grand Officers" was briefly responded to by Bro. Harvey Boys.

The Prov. G.M. then gave "The W.M. and members of the Dartford Lodge," who had so well and so amply provided for their comfort and enjoyment that day.

Bro. Landale, the W.M. of No. 376, was pleased to find their labours had been so successful, and assured the Prov. S.W. that great as those efforts had been, the finances of the Lodge had not been imperilled.

The Prov. G.M. called the attention of the Brethren to a communication he had received from the Upper House, that the toast of "The Ladies" should be given by Bro. Owen; he therefore called upon his reverend Brother to discharge that duty.

Bro. Owen, on rising, said, Kent was termed the garden of England, and although perhaps the lateness of the season might be the cause, he thought the flowers of the field were eclipsed by those under the bonnet; and if those assembled doubted his position, let them look at the gallery. In proposing the toast committed to him, Bro. Owen said he knew he was addressing those who were able to set a proper value on the other sex, by inviting such an assemblage of their wives and sisters to grace the meeting, and knowing somewhat of the county, he could assure them, for excellence as well as attractions, they might go further and fare worse. Masons were proverbial for their kindness and consideration for woman, and when a man ignored the female sex, it was the first step to barbarism; amongst the Hottentots the first proof of manhood was to beat one's mother. (Cheers.) To woman the male sex owed everything, as without her, earth would be without "form and void." Dartford was famous for its powder-magazines; he would take a simile from that fact, and express a hope that in their domestic circles, irradiated by female presence, they might always have the fire of connubial affection without any risk of explosion. (Laughter.) He gave "The Ladies." (Reiterated cheers.)

Bro. Campbell, in acknowledging for the ladies the handsome reception of the toast, said, How many thoughtless persons were eloquent in praise of huge head coverings; but if a woman had a face worth looking at, let her adhere to the small bonnet. The poet says—

"Nature needs not the foreign aid of ornament;"

he disputed that much-used aphorism. The ladies' presence was a sanction to the institution, and he trusted that Masonry never would destroy the domestic tie; but on the return to his fireside, every Mason could justify his absence by the cause in which he had been engaged, and he more especially alluded to the charities of the Order.

The Prov. G.M. now rose, and the Brethren separated, after spending most satisfactorily a pleasant day.

Among the visitors present we noticed, besides the Rev. Bro. Owen, Bros. Dr. Rowe, Herbert Lloyd, and John Hervey, P.S.G.Ds. ; and Bro. Patten, P.G.S.B. of England, Bro. How, Prov. G.D.C., Herts, etc.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Freedom* (No. 91).—A very strong muster of the Brethren of the above Lodge took place at Bro. Wates' last week ; and, after opening with solemn prayer, entered upon their duties with all the energy and skill which so distinguish our Kent Brethren. This Lodge, from the sprinkling of purple aprons, is one of the most effective we know of ; and we are happy to see the Prov. G.M. for Kent, recognising the ability of our Bro. Nicoll, has conferred the P.G. apron upon him : and to give every deserving Brother his due, we may be pardoned for noticing the very beautiful embroidery of Bro. Nicoll's apron, &c., all from the workshop of Bro. John Mott Thearle, of Fleet Street. The work of the Lodge consisted in the initiating of E. Norris, the passing of Bro. Gibbon, the raising of Bros. E. Evans and E. Everest. The banquet, which was served up in Bro. Wates' proverbially excellent style, and choicely illustrated by the best wines, passed off most satisfactorily. After the cloth had been removed, and the various established toasts of the evening had been given by the W.M. in his usual happy style, Bro. Briveau rose, and in a most eloquent speech proposed, that in consideration of the very able manner in which Bro. Rt. Spencer had performed the duties of W.M. of that Lodge, a gold jewel in recognition of such services be presented him. Bro. Hill having seconded this, Bro. Dobson rose, and spoke of the ties that bound Masons together, in the past, present, and future ; and of the acts and kindnesses so recorded in all climes, and in the most adverse circumstances, *by* and toward Masons. Bro. Dobson concluded a most effective speech by highly eulogizing the manner in which Br. Spencer had performed the duties of his office. And so, with good speeches and excellent harmony, the hours fled quickly. The chimes from the church struck very sweetly some hour or other,—we had not nerve enough to count which it was : a strong scent of hay greeted us from the south, of sea-weed from the north, and of shrimps from all quarters of the compass, as we went to our Gravesend bed ; and we dreamed that good-tempered Prov. G.M., Bro. Purton Cooper, had, with his usual discrimination (considering we belonged to no Lodge in the province), made us some high Officer or other, but which, memory fails to record.

LANCASHIRE.

MANCHESTER.—*Provincial Grand Lodge*.—A special meeting was held at the Bush Hotel, on Thursday, the 22nd day of May, by command of the R.W. Bro. Stephen Blair, D. Prov. G.M.

A Craft Lodge having been opened in the Three Degrees by Bro. Henry Carrigg, W.M. (No. 52), Manchester, as W.M. ; Bro. John Musgrave, S.W. (No. 44), Bolton, as S.W. ; Bro. John Garside, W.M. (No. 62), Rochdale, as J.W., supported by the usual staff of Craft officers, the Provincial Grand Officers entered the Lodge. The W. Bro. John Bell (No. 177), Prov. S.G.W., presided, and announced to the meeting that he had been requested to do so by the R.W. the D.Prov. G.M., who was unavoidably absent from this meeting in consequence of his attendance in London, on parliamentary business. The W. Bro. John Bell, Prov. S.G.W., declared the Provincial Grand Lodge open in form, and called upon the Prov. G. Sec. to read the circular by which this meeting had been convened.

The Prov. G. Sec. having read the circular convening the meeting—

The W. Bro. Thos. Preston (No. 75), P. Dep. Prov. G.M., offered some observations relative to a fund, raised many years ago, to establish a school for indigent female children. But the meeting, having been convened for a special purpose, could not entertain the question, therefore Bro. Preston did not further press the subject.

The W. Bro. John Bell, Prov. S.G.W., then called upon Bro. T. F. Pollitt, S.W. (No. 177), Manchester, the mover of the resolutions in pursuance of which

the present meeting had been convened, to introduce the subject of a local fund proposed to be established in East Lancashire.

Bro. Pollitt briefly explained the leading features of the scheme for the establishment of a local fund of benevolence, pursuant to Book of Constitutions, under the head of "Provincial Grand Lodges," articles 4 and 5, and concluded by moving the following resolution, which was seconded by Bro. Robert Munn, W.M. (No. 341), New Church, and carried *nem. con.* by 42 votes, there being 48 Brethren present:—

"That a 'Local Fund for Charitable and other Masonic Purposes,' be and is hereby established in the Province of East Lancashire, upon the principles set forth in the Book of Constitutions, under the head of 'Provincial Grand Lodges,' articles 4 and 5, subject to confirmation at a subsequent meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge, as lawfully required."

It was then proposed by Bro. Thomas Parker, W.M. (No. 148), Burnley, seconded by Bro. W. H. Wright, P.M. (No. 170), Bolton, and carried *nem. con.* by 45 votes:—

"That for the purposes contemplated by the foregoing resolution, the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire be fully empowered to require such fees, and call for such contributions from Lodges in the Province as may from time to time be deemed expedient, under the powers of the Book of Constitutions, under the head of 'Provincial Grand Lodges,' articles 4 and 5."

It was also proposed by Bro. Henry Carrigg, W.M. (No. 52), Manchester, seconded by Bro. Thomas Compton, P.M. (No. 226), Bury, and carried *nem. con.* by 41 votes:—

"That in order to carry out the spirit and intention of the foregoing resolutions, and as well to regulate the management of the fund thereby authorized to be raised, as for the future government of this Provincial Grand Lodge, a committee be now appointed, consisting of the Prov. G.M., the D. Prov. G.M., and the Prov. Grand Officers, and the W.Ms. for the time being of the various Lodges in the Province, five of whom shall form a quorum, which committee shall frame a code of bye-laws, to be submitted at a future meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge."

A vote of thanks to Bro. John Bell, Prov. S.G.W., for his efficient conduct in presiding over and promoting the objects of the meeting, was carried by acclamation. And after returning thanks for the compliment paid him, he declared the business of the meeting concluded, and the Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

BOSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 339).—At the May monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge, Bro. Marjason was raised to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason, and Bro. Bland passed to the Fellow-Craft Degree.

At the meeting of the Fraternity, holden on the 10th of June, Bro. Geo. Jackson, W.M. (assisted by Bro. Greenwood, P.G.D.C., in the ceremonies), Mr. Wright, of Hecklington, was initiated into the mysteries of the E.A. Degree, and Bro. W. C. Bland raised to the sublime Degree of a M.M. Bro. Herbert Ingram, M.P. of the Borough, and Bro. Geo. Hackford, were unanimously elected subscribing members. A gentleman was balloted for and elected, and his initiation fixed for the next Lodge night. Bro. Pocklington proposed, and Bro. Bothamley seconded, that a Lodge of Instruction be opened at the Peacock Inn in Boston, and be held on the first and third Thursdays in every month at eight o'clock in the evening, and to be conducted in the same manner as the Metropolitan Lodges.—Carried unanimously.

SPALDING.—*Hundred of Elloe Lodge* (No. 690).—The May communication of this Lodge was holden on the 22nd, in the "Old Turret," the W.M. Bro. Pocklington presiding, and in compliance with the request of the Brethren at the last meeting, he read his second paper upon subjects connected with the second Degree. The W.M., quoting Dr. Oliver in his "Theocratic Philosophy" of Freemasonry, showed that the utility and worth of symbolical instruction was clearly enunciated in the Patriarchal and Mosaic dispensations, and that of all

others the Hebrew language was the most susceptible of allegorical imagery ; giving as instances thereof various portions of Isaiah and the Book of Job. He then alluded to the similarity which appeared to exist between the architecture and sculpture of the Egyptians and Assyrians and that of the royal house and temple of King Solomon, illustrating the latter by extracts from Dr. Oliver's works. The W.M. then gave in detail a description of the architecture and sculptures of the dead city—of Nineveh—twin-sister of Babylon ; which, like the caterpillar, though buried in the earth, had cast aside its crysalis or shroud and been brought forth, revealing to an astonished world monuments of its former glory, and giving additional proofs of the antiquity of the science of Freemasonry ; that the Assyrians' knowledge of architecture was inferior to that of the ancient Egyptians, and though they knew the value of fire-burnt bricks, their buildings were constructed of those which were sun-burnt only. The use of the arch was known to the Assyrians, for at Khorsabad there was discovered one which was fifteen feet in span. The richness of decoration of what may be termed *mud edifices* contrast with the simplicity of their construction, the walls of the interior being covered with beautifully sculptured slabs of gypsum, consisting of illustrations of warfare, divinities, symbols used by the first propagators of the mysteries, &c. The W.M. also contrasted the sculpture of the Assyrians with that of the ancient Egyptians ; for whilst the latter was hard and indestructible in material and compact in design, presenting nothing that could be broken without violence—no limb being separated, and the *action* which would require that never represented—the Assyrians carved their figures in alabaster, and represented them *in action* ; but, strange to say, whilst the tempest had for centuries howled around the monuments of Egypt and left its obelisks, colossal statues, and exquisitely carved capitals in their pristine beauty (save were the hand of man had marred them), even so had the shroud of sand from the desert for 2,000 years preserved the monuments of Assyrian glory. The Lecturer concluded by drawing attention to the Assyrian writing, which was cuneiform, or wedge and arrow shaped, but derived from the Demotic style of the Egyptians, observing that the inscriptions at Khorsabad proved that though the Assyrians had national deities, and Bellis the protector, mother of the gods—they worshipped the G.A.O.T.U., called by them Assara,—the Great Lord—King of all the great gods—the Supreme God of Heaven—the Excellent.

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD.—*Testimonial to Bro. Beech.*—On the 2nd June, being the first day of the Commemoration-week, a Grand Masonic *déjeuner* was given in Worcester College Gardens, in honour of W. W. Beech, Esq., of Oakley Hall, Hampshire, M.A. of Christ Church, Past Prov. G.S.W. of Oxfordshire, and twice W.M. of the Apollo University Lodge. The object of this gathering was to present to Mr. Beech a piece of plate as a testimonial of his zealous and efficient conduct as W.M. of the Apollo Lodge for two years, of his devotion to Masonry, his praiseworthy efforts in the cause of charity, and his affability and courtesy to the Fraternity generally.

Upwards of 100 invitations were issued and accepted ; and when we mention the fact that the company embraced, in addition to the Heads of Colleges and their families, nearly all the distinguished visitors staying in Oxford, it will be seen how difficult it is to give anything like a list of the company. The P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, Bro. Capt. Bowyer, presided, and was supported by the guest of the day, Bro. Beech, the Vice-Chancellor and Mrs. Cotton, the Mayor and Mayoress, the Earl of Carnarvon, Bro. Pickard, W.M. of the Apollo Lodge. Among the company present were the High Sheriff, W. Evetts, Esq., Sir C. Anderson, Bart., Sir W. Napier, Sir W. Clerke, Admiral Lempriere, Lord Lincoln, Lord Vaughan, Lord Skelmersdale, Sir M. H. Beech, Count Saffi, Hon. A. P. Herbert, Lieut.-Col. Capel, Col. Vernon, Col. Dillon Browne, Capt. E. Richards, Capt. F. Scott, Major Starkey, Hon. Col. Spencer, Hon. and Rev. C. Spencer, the Senior and Junior Proctors, and the Head of almost every College and Hall, with their families.

The *déjeuner* was served in a spacious tent, and a more brilliant or animating

scene it would be difficult to conceive. The entertainment was elegant and profuse in its character, and reflected the highest credit on the stewards and all connected with it. On the conclusion of the *déjeuner*, the chairman proposed "The Queen," after which "The health of the guest of the day, Bro. Beech," and in the name of the Brethren of the Apollo Lodge presented him with the costly piece of plate, and an elegant group of figures, which they had subscribed to. Bro. Beech responded in a long and eloquent address. The Earl of Carnarvon proposed the healths of the Provost and Fellows of Worcester College, and thanks to them for granting the use of their gardens for this demonstration. The Vice-Chancellor replied at some length, but was inaudible except to those immediately around him. The Prov. G.M. gave, as the parting toast, "The Ladies," which was responded to by Bro. Beech. Shortly after, the company separated, highly delighted with this interesting gathering, the effect of which was greatly enhanced by the Brethren of the Masonic Order appearing in full costume. On the 2nd and 3rd the Apollo and Alfred Lodges gave grand balls in the evening, which were very numerously attended.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

BATH.—*Royal Sussex Lodge* (No. 61).—A numerously attended Lodge was held at Bro. Amery's, on Monday, June 9th, when three gentleman were initiated into the mysteries of the Order. The ceremonies were most admirably performed by Bro. Biggs, P.M., No. 247, who kindly officiated for Bro. Dr. Tunstall, the W.M., who was unable to attend in consequence of a severe domestic affliction. Great regret was expressed at the cause of the W.M.'s absence, both by the members of the Lodge and also the visitors; and it was unanimously resolved that a letter of condolence be addressed to him, expressive of their sympathy for the loss he had sustained in his family.

On Tuesday, the 17th, another Lodge was held in the same place, when the ceremony of initiation was performed by Bro. Dr. Hodges, P.M., in a manner which elicited the warmest thanks of the Brethren. The lecture on the Tracing Board was given by Bro. Milsom, Sec., and it was most gratifying to the Lodge to witness the talent of this rising young Mason. A letter from the W.M., in answer to the one of condolence which had been sent from the Lodge, was read, and was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. for Somerset, has expressed his intention of visiting the Royal Sussex Lodge, for the purpose of holding his Provincial Grand Lodge, on Friday, the 25th instant, at the Guildhall, Bath. There will be a banquet at Bro. Amery's, Royal Sussex Hotel, in the evening.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

TIPTON.—*Noah's Ark Lodge* (No. 435).—This splendid working Lodge was again honoured with the presence of its Prov. G.M., Col. George Vernon, on Friday evening, the 20th June, when a large number of the Brethren and some distinguished visitors assembled to do him honour. The Lodge was opened by Bro. William Howells, the W.M. (assisted by his officers), in due form. Mr. Samuel Bannister, of the Bloomfield Iron Works, Tipton, was brought forward, and initiated in the 1st Degree of Freemasonry. Bro. George Patterson, of Great Bridge, was then passed to the 2nd Degree, the charge (together with the explanations of the Tracing-Board), was given by the W.M. The good and truly Masonic working of this Lodge has long been a proverb in the district, and it has increased rather than diminished the *éclat* conferred in consequence. The Prov. G.M., during the evening, expressed his pleasure at the satisfactory manner in which the Lodge was working, and announced his intention of holding the Prov. Grand Lodge at Tipton in the autumn, a compliment which he considered the Lodge deserved. This announcement has given great satisfaction, and will impart such a stimulus, as to cause a still further endeavour to render the Lodge worthy of the noble G.M. in whose province it ranks. The most interesting ceremony of the evening was that of the presentation to their highly and deservedly esteemed immediate P.M., the Rev. Bro. E. A. Gwynne, Prov. G. Chap., of a Past Master's Jewel. The jewel was exceedingly handsome,

uniting not only the Past Master's emblems, but also those of the Prov. G. Chap.; was of solid gold, and manufactured by our well-known Masonic jeweller, Bro. Spencer, of the Strand. It was presented in the name of the Lodge by Bro. Howells, the W.M., in appropriate and very feeling remarks. "The duty that now devolves upon me," said he, "was similar to the one I had the pleasure of performing some twelve months since" (alluding to a token of respect presented to the same Brother by his Officers and Brethren). "Allow me at the same time to express the unanimous opinions of the Brethren of this Lodge, that never was Brother more deserving of wearing such a jewel than yourself. May you long live to wear it, and may you live as long as it will wear, for it is of good metal, like yourself."

Bro. Gwynne acknowledged the acceptance of the superb jewel, and stated that he had so often been called upon to acknowledge their almost unparalleled kindness to a humble member of their noble Fraternity (in which kings thought it no disgrace to be enrolled), that he must say feelingly, "some men were born to honour, and some had blushing honours thrust thick upon them;" he was one of the latter. He concluded a speech of some length, by assuring them that, live where he might, or as long as he might, their kindness would never be effaced from his memory.

Bro. Howells hoped they would not consider, from what he was going to say, that he was at all vain or egotistical; but since he had had the pleasure of seeing them, he had visited the Lodge of his native town "Carmarthen," where he had experienced the greatest kindness from the Brethren of St. Peter's Lodge, who invited him to a dinner consisting of the choicest viands and wines. He considered this compliment paid to him, as much on account of his being W.M. of No. 435 (and therefore of the Lodge) as from his being a townsman. They displayed their kindness to him in other ways, and he merely mentioned this to show that there was something more in Masonry than the name. He had a precedent for saying this in the R.W. Prov. G.M., who last year informed the Brethren of No. 435 (and Prov. Grand Lodge) of the noble reception he had met with from the Brethren of the Continent, and of Switzerland especially.

On the motion of Bro. Gwynne, P.M., seconded by Bro. J. Davies, S.D., it was unanimously agreed that a vote of thanks from the Brethren of Noah's Ark Lodge should be given to the Brethren of St. Peter's Lodge, Carmarthen, for the fraternal feelings shown to them in the person of their esteemed W.M.

Lodge was closed in due form, and the Brethren adjourned to banquet, at which they were also joined by the visitors to their "Lodge working"—the R.W. Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire, Col. Geo. Vernon; Bro. Dr. Benton, P.M., of No. 876, and P. Prov. G.S.W.; Bro. Thomas James, P.M., No. 876, and P. Prov. G.S.D.; Bro. W. Bristow, P.M., No. 313, and Prov. G.S.B. of Worcestershire; Bro. J. B. Robinson, W.M., No. 876; Bro. the Rev. T. W. Herbert, J.W., No. 313; Bro. Jackson, Sec., No. 960; and Bro. W. Wigginton, Sec., No. 313.

The usual loyal toasts having been given, the W.M. proposed that of "The Right W. Prov. G.M. Col. Vernon," who, in reply, stated his intentions, as a slight compliment to the Noah's Ark, to hold the Prov. Grand Lodge under their banner.

WEST BROMWICH.—*Dartmouth Lodge*, (No. 960).—The Prov. G.M. for Staffordshire (Col. Vernon) has appointed July the 21st, at twelve o'clock, noon, for the consecration of this new Lodge. We have no doubt but that a *very large* assembly will grace this most interesting ceremony—a report of which we intend giving.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE-MEETING FOR STAFFORDSHIRE will be held in September next, at Tipton, when a large number of the Brethren from the adjoining provinces are expected to fraternize with the Craft in Staffordshire. Due notice will be given in our September number.

SOUTH WALES.

ABERDARE.—*St. David's Lodge*.—A new Lodge was opened on June 18, at the Queen's Hotel, Aberdare—host, Mr. Edward Watkins. Brethren from Swansea, Cardiff, Merthyr, and other neighbouring towns, were present, and took

part in the ceremony of inauguration, which was performed with all the "pomp and circumstance" usual on such occasions. Upwards of thirty gentlemen sat down to dinner, and eighteen were initiated into the Order. Several other gentlemen will be initiated at the next meeting, and there is every prospect of this Lodge—the first formed in Aberdare—soon becoming a numerous and influential body.

BRECON.—*Brecknock Lodge* (No. 936).—The business of this Lodge is rather heavy; nevertheless its duties are well performed by the W.M. Bro. Ribbans and his Wardens, Colonel Watkins, M.P. and Lord Lieutenant for the county, as S.W., and Captain Parland as J.W. The Prov. Grand Lodge at present is without a head, Bro. Hutchings having resigned, and we cannot understand the why or the wherefore.

LLANELLY.—*Prince of Wales' Lodge* (No. 969).—This Lodge has commenced a brilliant career at Llanelly, under Bro. Ribbans and excellent officers. The port of Llanelly is one of those thriving places on the Welsh coast, and a great many foreign vessels trade here for coal. Copper ore, too, is smelted to a very great extent, and an extensive pottery is established; therefore there is a wide field for this novelty—a Lodge of Freemasons in the town of Llanelly.

CARMARTHEN.—*St. Peter's Lodge* (No. 699).—The work in this Lodge is extremely heavy; but Bro. Ribbans keeps it steady by dividing the usual periods of meeting so as to afford instruction to the newly accepted. At the last Lodge two initiations, two passings, and one raising were quite enough for one meeting, so as to get business over by ten o'clock, at which hour the by-laws demand the closing of the Lodge; and it is very seldom that any Brother remains after eleven. All goes on well in this province, but the Prov. Grand Lodge, which never meets.

SUSSEX.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal York Lodge* (No. 394).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Old Ship Hotel, on Tuesday, the 3rd of June, under the presidency of Bro. Wood, W.M. The Lodge having been opened according to ancient custom, five gentlemen were balloted for and elected. The W.M. then initiated Mr. Emery and Mr. Martin into the mysteries of the Craft. The Lodge was closed in due form.

CHICHESTER.—*Lodge of Union* (No. 45).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their last meeting prior to the summer recess at their Lodge-room in the Council-house of the ancient city, on Thursday evening, June 12th. The W.M. Bro. James Powell, jun., presided, and worked the Lodge with his accustomed ability. After raising two Brethren to the 3rd Degree, the Lodge resumed to the 1st Degree, and a gentleman was initiated by the W.M. in a most impressive manner. Immediate P.M. Bro. Kirkman delivered the charge to the N.E.A. At the closing of the Lodge, the Brethren present repaired, at the invitation of a worthy Brother, to refreshment, when ample justice was done to an elegant and sumptuous repast, provided by Bro. Purchase, of the Globe Inn. The W.M. presided, and gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts in a very agreeable manner. The conviviality of the evening was much enhanced by the vocal abilities of P.M. Bro. Cherriman (No. 878), who honoured the Lodge as a visitor. The Lodge of Union (No. 45) has, since its removal from a tavern, gradually progressed, and from the zeal and unanimity of its present Master and his officers, bids fair to restore the ancient Order of Freemasonry to its former high position in Chichester. Since his installation in December last, the W.M. has initiated ten Brethren; and the regular Lodges are well attended, as also the Lodges of Instruction.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.—*Harmonic Lodge* (No. 313).—The members of this Lodge assembled at their customary place of meeting (Freemasons' Tavern, Stone-street, Dudley), on Tuesday, the 3rd June, when the Lodge was opened in due form by Bro. T. R. Cooper, the W.M., assisted by Bro. Bristow, P.M., and other officers. Bro. Joseph Dimmins, who had been initiated and passed at the two previous meetings,

was brought forward and raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., the lecture being delivered by Bro. Bristow, the immediate P.M. Nothing further offering, the meeting adjourned till Tuesday, the 1st July, at six P.M. The supper was served up by Bro. Roberts, in his usual excellent manner, and the loyal, &c. toasts, including that of the visitor, Bro. J. Davies, No. 435, heartily given and cordially responded to.

Royal Standard Lodge (No. 730).—Eighteen Brethren honoured this Lodge with their presence on Tuesday, the 10th June (including Bro. T. R. Cooper, W.M. of No. 313, visitor), when important business was transacted. The Lodge was opened by the Rev. Bro. A. J. Davies, W.M. and P.G.C. The minutes of the previous Lodges having been confirmed, the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. Upon the nomination of Bro. Wainwright, P.M. and P.G.S.W., the esteemed Secretary of the Lodge, Bro. Manfield, P.M. and P.G.T., was unanimously elected W.M. Bro. Bateman was then likewise unanimously re-elected to the office of Treasurer, and Bro. Jeffs to that of Tyler. Bro. Pigott's resignation (owing to his removal to Walsall) was read and accepted with regret. Bro. Tricketts, having proved himself proficient in the former Degrees, was brought forward and raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., the historical lecture being delivered by the W.M. in a manner which must be heard and seen to be appreciated. Messrs. D. Johnson, surgeon, and William Finch, paper-manufacturer, were afterwards initiated to the First Degree, the lecture being admirably given by Bro. E. A. Gwynne, J.D. (W.M. of No. 435 and Prov. G. Chaplain of Staffordshire). Seldom has it been the lot of the members to witness more delightfully-performed ceremonies, and the subject-matter of regret, that this was the last full night of Bro. Davies, was only modified by the fact of so excellent a man and Mason as Bro. Manfield being selected to succeed him. Bro. Manfield has before filled the chair of the same Lodge, the number of Masons attending it testifying as to the suitableness of that Brother for that high and honourable office.

The New Lodge (No. 819).—A Lodge of Emergency under the "Clive" warrant is to be held at Bromsgrove on the 30th June, to arrange finally for the transfer of its warrant (with the sanction of the Prov. G.M.) to Dudley. In addition to this the W.M. and other officers have to be elected; a committee formed for the revision of the bye-laws; candidates for initiation proposed, &c. We hope in our August number to be able to record its first meeting in its new district under favourable auspices, and with considerable *éclat*. Its proposed list of officers is admirable, and nothing seems wanting to them in their entrance upon a long and prosperous career.

Perseverance Lodge (No. 838).—This Lodge met on the 24th May, at the Freemason's Tavern, Stone-street, Dudley, at six P.M. Lodge was opened by Bro. W. Harrison, jun., the W.M., in due form. Bro. E. Whitfield, spade-munufacturer, was examined as to his proficiency, and passed to the degree of Fellow-Craft. The ceremony was gone through in Bro. Harrison's well-known perfect style of working, and he likewise delivered the lecture of this degree. The other routine business having been disposed of, Lodge was closed, and the meeting adjourned. The Brethren, upwards of twenty in number, afterwards sat down to an excellent supper, where harmony reigned supreme.

YORKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.—By command of the W. Bro. Charles Lee, D. Prov. G.M., acting under the patent and authority of the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough, R.W. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, a Prov. Grand Lodge will be held in the new Lodge-room of the Lodge of Candour, at the Swan Hotel, Dobcross, Saddleworth, on Wednesday, the 2nd day of July next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

HULL.—*Humber Lodge* (No. 65).—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on the 17th of May last, to commemorate the laying of the foundation-stone of the present Lodge; after the business of the evening was concluded, the Lodge was adjourned to the 19th May, that being the day on

which the warrant of the Lodge completed one hundred years of its existence. The W.M. Bro. Croft was in the chair, and about sixty Brethren of the Lodge were present on the occasion. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given, the W.M. alluded to the occasion on which they had met that evening, and after congratulating the Brethren upon the present prosperity of the Lodge, and the bright prospects of the future which had opened before them, he proposed as a toast, "Continued Success and Prosperity to the Humber Lodge (No. 65);" and he called upon P.M. Bro. Smith to respond. In answer to the call made upon him, Bro. Smith proceeded to reply, and in doing so, said, that in taking a review of some part of the past history of the Lodge, there would naturally be brought back to the mind memories of friends departed, whose hands they had once pressed, but who were now lying crumbling in the dust. Fancy would repeople old scenes, now almost buried in oblivion; yet painful, perhaps, as some of these memories might be, it could not fail to be a source of gratification to those still amongst us, to find the Lodge in the prosperous state in which it at present stood. The history of the Lodge commenced with the issuing of the warrant in 1756, from which period, down to 1775, there were no known records in existence; therefore the first nineteen years was a perfect blank. From 1775 to 1809, a period of thirty-four years, but little of its history was known, save that a Lodge was held under the warrant at a house in Strand-street, Liverpool, known by the sign of the Duck and Dog, under the name of "Ancient Knight Templars Lodge," during which period the Lodge was respectably conducted, and many Masons, both Englishmen and foreigners, particularly Americans, were initiated under it. Owing to the Brethren of the Ancient Knight Templars Lodge having united themselves with other Lodges in Liverpool, the warrant became dormant until 1809, when it was obtained by some Brethren in Hull, and they, having first obtained the consent of the Grand Lodge, opened a Lodge at the Fleece Inn; here the name was changed to the "Humber Lodge." For ten years the Brethren met, and in the course of that period 208 Masons were made or joined the Lodge. Notwithstanding this accession of numbers, however, the Lodge fell into decay; and, after various disputes, the warrant got into the hands of a few old Masons, who held their meetings in a small room at the Turk's Head Inn. This continued for four years, when, owing to a sudden accession of members, it was resolved to establish a Masonic Hall, which was first opened in 1827, from which period down to the present time the Lodge has been most prosperously conducted, and there have been initiated, or admitted members of the Lodge, no less than 677 Masons. At the present time the Lodge has 200 subscribing members; and, independent of their Masonic Hall and paraphernalia, there had been accumulated a benevolent fund for the relief of poor and distressed Brethren amounting to £2,119. 10s. This Lodge had sometimes been accused of not doing sufficient with the funds at its disposal. He (Bro. Smith) had taken the trouble to go through the Treasurer's books, and found that during the last ten years there had been expended from the funds of the Lodge £221. 16s. for educational purposes; that in local charities within the last five years there had been given away £37. 16s.; that there had been given out of the benevolent fund £155. 2s. within the last ten years; and for casual and other relief there had been expended £518. 5s. 3d.; and, on a late occasion, when it was thought that the worthy Secretary ought to receive a substantial acknowledgment for his invaluable services, the Brethren of the Humber Lodge subscribed amongst themselves £225. He then congratulated the Brethren upon their future prospects, and trusted that the Master who one hundred years hence might fill the chair would be able to give a better account than he (Bro. Smith) had done on the present occasion. P.M. Bro. Seaton proposed the next toast, which was "The Founders of the Humber Lodge." P.M. Bro. Feetam, as the oldest member of the Lodge, returned thanks, and said it was extremely gratifying to him to find that the Lodge was in so prosperous a state as it was, and he trusted that those Brethren into whose hands in the natural course of events the management of the funds would fall, would exercise a watchful care that they were distributed judiciously, and not wasted by extravagance. The health of the W.M. and his officers was then proposed, and responded to, after which the Brethren separated.

ROYAL ARCH.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

CARMARTHEN.—*Merlin Chapter* (No. 699).—This Chapter progresses steadily under the M.E.P. Comp. Ribbans, who seems to take the whole charge upon himself. We were pleased at the working of this Chapter, and at the civility shown to all visitors.

CHELTENHAM.—*Foundation Chapter of Unanimity* (No. 97).—A meeting of this Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Cheltenham, on Wednesday, the 11th day of June, Comp. George Frederick Newmarch, M.E.Z., presiding, supported by Comps. Southwood, H., and Gibney, J., when the usual business of the Chapter was proceeded with, and the minutes of the last Chapter confirmed. A ballot took place for Bro. the Honourable James Dutton (who has been recently installed W.M. of the Cotteswold Lodge, No. 862), and who, having been unanimously elected, was duly exalted to the Sublime Degree of a Royal Arch Mason by the M.E.Z. Newmarch with his usual ability, and in his accustomed impressive manner. The Chapter was then closed in the usual form. The Companions subsequently adjourned to the banquet in the hall, where they enjoyed a cheerful and intellectual evening, the pleasures of which were greatly enhanced by the presence of Comp. Moss (M.E. Past Z. of the Chapter of Fidelity, No. 701, Birkenhead). We cannot omit this opportunity of congratulating our Brethren in the province of Gloucestershire on the possession of the Masonic Hall at Cheltenham, erected about thirty years ago, at an expense, we are informed, of about £4,000, and exclusively for Masonic purposes. We should doubt much whether in any part of the kingdom there is a building more admirably adapted for the purposes required, and it is especially notable now that there is a prospect of the establishment of a Prov. Grand Lodge, the want of which has been a source of great regret to the Brethren of the province for many years past.

DUDLEY.—*Royal Standard Chapter* (No. 730).—The quarterly convocation for this Chapter was held at the Dudley Arms Hotel, Dudley, on Tuesday, the 17th, presided over by Comp. W. Marefield, M.E.Z. The minutes of the last convocation having been confirmed, and the By-laws read, in accordance with Rule 25th, the election of Officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. Upon the motion of Comp. Davies, Comp. W. Barns, H., was balloted for, and unanimously elected Z. Comp. Renaud, J., was then elected to H., Comp. the Rev. A. G. Davies, S.E., being unanimously chosen to fill the Third Principal's chair. The following Companions were also unanimously elected to the other offices :—Comps. Bateman, Treas. ; Dennison, S.E. ; E. A. Gwynne, P.S. ; W. Howells, S.N. ; J. Geffs, J.

Comp. the Rev. E. A. Gwynne drew the attention of the Chapter to the resolution passed by the Supreme Grand Chapter in May last (and of which he had become cognizant through the pages of the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine*), whereby a serious alteration was proposed to be made in the regulations defining the probationary period required in every candidate for the R. A. Degree. He thought it was lowering greatly the dignity of the R. A. Degree, without effecting any tangible advantage, save in the *£. s. d.* acceptance of the term. He protested strongly against the step taken by the Supreme Chapter upon this important case, characterizing it as a dangerous innovation and inroad upon those acknowledged principles of justice and openness for which our Book of Constitutions is distinguished. Every Chapter, he thought, should have had notice of the motion, so that an expression of feeling might have been given by them before it was carried as a resolution by the supreme head. He suggested a protest at once from the Royal Standard Chapter. Comp. Barns, H., was likewise of

opinion that it was injudicious, but instanced the evasion of the previous laws, whereby a W.M. only could be exalted (by the formal installation of W.Ms. for that object solely), as the reason for the alteration from that regulation to the present one. He thought the Supreme Grand Chapter wished to annihilate the whole of the united Chapters of England, Scotland, and Ireland, the two latter of which admitted M.Ms. a month after their raising. Although he deprecated the resolutions, he thought a protest would do no good.

Comp. Wigginton moved (after some little conversation) that a memorial be drawn up and forwarded from the Royal Standard Chapter to the Supreme Grand Chapter, through the Grand Superintendent, expressing the strong feeling of this Chapter against the alteration intended, and praying that it be not confirmed without communication with the Provincial R. A. Chapters. He contended that the former laws relating to the admission of installed Masters only were the most desirable, and that they should be re-enacted, rather than a further departure from them made. If so flagrant a case as that of installing a Master simply to enable him to become a "R.A.M." occurred, he thought a representation to the Grand Lodge would be sufficient to correct the abuse.

Comp. Marefield, M.E.Z., corrected Comp. W. in stating that the W.M. under the old Constitutions could resign and appoint his successor, thus *effectually* and *legally* evading the well-intended R. A. regulations. But Comp. W. thought the old regulations still more desirable *now*, as the risk of their evasion was entirely obviated by the new Constitutions to which the M.E.Z. had referred.

The Rev. Comp. Gwynne seconded Bro. Wigginton's motion, and suggested that Bro. Savage should be communicated with respecting it. The motion was then carried unanimously, and Comps. Gwynne and Wigginton (on the motion of Comps. Davies and Barns) appointed to draw up the memorial. It was further resolved to forward it to the Editor of the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine*.

The other business of the Chapter having been transacted, and the candidates for installation not being forthcoming, the Chapter was closed, and the Companions adjourned to banquet.

We have appended the memorial agreed upon :—

MEMORIAL

To the M.E. the Earl of Zetland, Z., the Grand Principals, P.G. Principals, and Companions of the Supreme Grand Chapter of R.A. Masons of England, in convocation assembled :—

The petition of the undersigned Companions and members of the Royal Standard Chapter, No. 730, Dudley, respectfully sheweth—

That, whereas your petitioners are informed that at the last quarterly convocation of your Grand Chapter, on May 7th, 1856, a resolution to the following purport was moved and carried, viz.—

"That clause 20 of the Book of Regulations, which enacts, 'No Mason shall be exalted to this Sublime Degree unless he shall have been a M.M. for twelve calendar months at least, of which satisfactory proof shall be given,' be altered from twelve months to four weeks."

Your memorialists cannot but contemplate with surprise and alarm so sudden and sweeping an innovation upon an established regulation of the Order, conceived, as it appears to them, in a reckless and revolutionary spirit, and calculated—whatever its pecuniary advantages to the Grand Chapter—neither to promote its true dignity, nor to enhance the general welfare and stability of Royal Arch Masonry.

That, whatever may be sanctioned by the *letter*, they believe it to be utterly repugnant to the *spirit* of the Book of Regulations, as well as a direct violation of the *representative character* and constitution of the Masonic Order, that a resolution, affirming so important a change in the probationary course of candidates for the R.A. Degree, should be passed and imposed upon them, not only without that grave deliberation which the subject demands, but also without due notice and publicity having been previously given co-extensively with the interests directly involved in it.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray, that at the next convocation your

Supreme Grand Chapter do refuse to confirm the minutes of the previous one (May 7th, 1856) so far as the said resolution is concerned, and thereafter, until time and opportunity shall have been granted for the consideration of the subject, and the transmission to your Grand Chapter of their opinion upon it by the members of every Royal Arch Chapter hailing from or under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England throughout the world.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

Cross of Christ Encampment.—At the usual quarterly meeting of this Encampment, held at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, 25th June, 1856, Comp. Henry Murray, of the Celestial Chapter, No. 735, Canton, was installed a Knight Templar, in a most efficient manner, by Sir Knt. H. J. Hinxman, *M.D.*, E.C. of the Kemeys Tynte Encampment, Blackheath; and Prov. G. Commander for Kent, a visitor, who at a very short notice kindly undertook to perform this important ceremony for the E.C. The following distinguished Sir Knights also honoured the Encampment with a visit on this occasion:—Sir Knts. J. Masson, Grand Chancellor; Rev. J. G. Wood, G., 1st Aide-de-Camp; H. D. Sandeman, *M.D.*; Major E. D. Freeman (Cork), and Lieut. E. A. Porcher.

Kemeys Tynte Encampment.—The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Col. Charles Kemeys, Kemeys Tynte, having granted his warrant for the establishment of a new Encampment, bearing his name, and to be held at the Railway Tavern, Blackheath, in the county of Kent, several distinguished Grand Officers honoured the Companions with their presence on the 19th of May, including Sir Knt. John Masson, Grand Chancellor, assisted by Sir Knts. Dr. Hinxman, Prov. G.M. elect for Kent; Rev. Davies, Major A. Q. Hopper, and Shuttleworth, Past Grand Officers; and Capt. Ward, 2nd Capt. of the Observance Encampment, London, performed the ceremony of consecrating the Encampment with corn, wine, and oil. The Patent for a Prov. Grand Commander for the county of Kent was then read, when it was announced that Sir Knt. Dr. Hinxman was in attendance at the outposts; he was duly summoned, and inaugurated as Prov. Grand Commander for the county: he was then placed on the throne, and the very Eminent Prov. Grand Commander, assisted by Sir Knts. Major Hopper, as Past E. Com.; Rev. Davies, as Rev. Prelate; J. Masson, as 1st Capt.; Capt. Ward, as Expert, and Lewis Roughton, as 2nd Capt. Equery Smith, as Capt. of Line, installed five Royal Arch Companions, viz.—Jas. A. Moore, Capt.; H. Clerk, R.A.; Peter Laird, R.A.; James Wilde, R.A., and Richard Browne, R.A. The Encampment was closed about half-past six o'clock P.M., and the Sir Knights partook of a splendid banquet (supplied by the host, Mr. Moore), spent a very pleasant evening, and dispersed at about half-past ten o'clock.

BATH.—*Encampment of Bladud.*—An ordinary meeting was held on the 30th May,—present the V.E. Sir Kt. Randolph, P.G.C. for Somerset; the V.E. Sir Kt. Vigne, P.G.C. for Dorset; the V.E. Sir Kt. Falconer, *M.D.*, D.P.G.C. for Somerset; Sir Knights Bryant, Tunstall, Davis, J. W. Browne, A. P. Browne, and Robertson. After the proposition of the E.C. and officers for the next year was concluded, a resolution was unanimously passed to request the P.G.C. to direct the attention of the G.M. and Grand Conclave to the proceedings of certain persons calling themselves the Camp of Antiquity, in Bath. This the P.G.C. consented to do, and stated that he intended to hold his Provincial Grand Conclave in Bath, on Thursday, the 24th of July, at which, no doubt, the G.M. would be present, as the Provincial Grand Lodge would be held by him on the following day in that city, on which occasions he hoped to see a large muster of members.

SCOTLAND.

ROYAL ARCH.

EDINBURGH.—*Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter.*—A quarterly communication of the Supreme Grand Chapter was held at the Star Hotel, on the 18th of June, E. C. John Denchar, G.P.J., in the absence of the M.E.P.Z., occupying the chair; Comp. Arch. Douglas, P.Z., for Elijah Chapter, Forfar, Acting H., and Comp. Donald Campbell, P.Z., for Glasgow Chapter, Acting J. The minutes of the previous quarterly communication were read and approved.

It was agreed, in terms of a recent enactment, that the Chapters to be visited this year should be those situated in the north of Scotland, and the M.E.Z. Dr. Walker Arnott, along with Comp. William Gaylor, P.P.Z. for Dundee, No. 6; and Comp. Donald Campbell, P.Z. for Glasgow, No. 50, were appointed a committee for undertaking the duties.

A series of resolutions passed at a meeting of certain Royal Arch Chapters in Aberdeen, expressive of their disapproval of the measures lately taken in reference to the suspension of certain members of the Bon Accord Chapter, No. 70, were read to and considered by the meeting. As it did not appear that the parties reclaiming were in possession of the whole facts of the case, and were thus obtruding their views somewhat ignorantly, and also in menacing terms, upon the acts and determination of the Supreme Chapter, it was resolved that no sufficient reason existed for disturbing in any way the sentence of suspension referred to, and that therefore the same be declared to continue.

On applications numerously signed by Companions of several Royal Arch Chapters in Western India, holding under Scotch authority, the Supreme Chapter agreed to grant a commission in favour of Comp. Gustavus Septimus Judge, First Principal of the Perseverance Chapter, Bombay, No. 71, as Provincial Grand Superintendent for that district, and the Scribes were directed to have the same expedited.

In reference to the resolution lately passed, as to the granting of warrants for the Mark Master Degree in those countries where such Degree is not taken superintendence of by a Supreme Body, the Grand Committee brought up a code of rules for the government of Brethren desirous to avail themselves of the means now placed within their reach for exercising that Degree, and containing also the terms and conditions on which the warrants have been agreed to be granted—all of which were approved of. The fees of charter or warrant have been fixed at three guineas, and the registration dues, including diploma or certificate (to be issued by the Supreme Chapter alone), which it shall be imperative for each Lodge to obtain for its members, are stated at the small sum of 5s. 6d. The chief condition under which the warrants are to be granted refers to the powers given being revocable upon a Supreme Body of the country appearing to take cognizance of the Degree.

Thereafter a petition on behalf of three regular Mark Masters of the Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter, No. 50 (Comps. Henry George Warren, Cornelius Jabez Hughes, and Henry Riseborough Sharman), praying for a warrant constituting them a regular Lodge of Mark Masters, under the title of "The St. Mark's Lodge of Mark Masters," to be held in London, was read to the meeting, and being found regular in all respects, the same was unanimously entertained, and a warrant directed to be expedited in their favour accordingly, under the aforesaid name and title, and to rank No. 1 in the registry of Mark Master Lodges holding under Scotland.

Comp. Campbell gave notice of his intention to move at next quarterly communication that the Supreme Grand Chapter, following the practice of other Masonic bodies, proceed to the appointment of a representative from their own body to the Supreme Grand Chapter of England.

Some other matters of private interest to the Chapter having been disposed of, the Chapter was closed in due form.

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.—A Chapter of this Order was held on Thursday, the 5th June. Bros. Dr. Walker Arnott, W.D.M. ; Donald Campbell, S.T.N.T.H. ; J. Noble Sutherland, B.T.Y. ; and a large attendance of the members resident in Glasgow. After ballot, William Whyte, jun., Esq., merchant of Glasgow ; and Edward Druitt Thorpe, Esq., Board of Works, Dublin, were advanced to M.R.M., and afterwards promoted to the R.S.Y.C.S. The ceremony was gone through in the most able manner by Bro. Dr. Walker Arnott, assisted by Bros. Campbell and Sutherland ; after which the Knights adjourned to the refectory, where they spent a pleasant and harmonious evening.

IRELAND.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

From Carlow Sentinel of 31st May, 1856.

The following instructive note has appeared in *Saunders* :—

“ Sir,—Pray oblige by informing the people of Dublin that Masonry is prohibited by the Roman Catholic Archbishop. You are aware that brotherly love, relief of the destitute, and truth, are distinctive marks of the Craft ; and those who are admitted to the Order are expected to be just and upright, free men, of mature age, sound judgment, and strict morals. Although, no doubt, the Archbishop is also aware of this, and that the Craft is truly faithful to its profession, yet I have just received a little tract, published by Richardson and Son, Capel-street, signed thus : ‘ Imprimatur, Paulus Cullen, Archiepiscopus Dublinensis.’ This tract is set forth as ‘ What every Christian must know.’ In page 46 it is stated that ‘ Mortal sin makes us lose the grace and friendship of God, and burn for ever in the fire of hell.’ Again, in page 44, ‘ It is a mortal sin to be a member of a secret and forbidden society, such as societies of Freemasons.’ Here we are to receive, according to this divine, that Freemasons are to ‘ burn for ever in the fire of hell.’ I trust, sir, that no Mason is so weak as to give heed to his dogmatic presumption.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

“ 19th May, 1856.”

“ ONE OF THE CRAFT.”

It does not appear that any good “ Masons ” have taken fright at this conflagratory decree from “ Paulus Cullen, Archiepiscopus ” in *Nubibus*. And they show sense. They are not a perch nearer Pluto because Dr. Cullen has consigned them to that entertaining gentleman.

But we have to ask a question, and it is this,—Why does not Dr. Cullen condemn to flame and brimstone a certain society called The Ribbon ? It is, we suppose, quite an innocent affair, compared with the graceless compact of Freemasonry ! If Dr. Cullen is to be considered the patron of the evil he omits to censure, then Captain Rock and his merrie men are archiepiscopally booked for Elysium.—*Evening Packet*.

FREEMASONS FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL.

A general meeting of the Governors of this Institution was held on Wednesday at the Grand Lodge-room, Freemasons’ Hall, Dame-street, Dublin, for the purpose of distributing the prizes to the children of the school.

His Grace the Duke of Leinster, the M.W. the Grand Master of the Masonic Order in Ireland, was attended to the chair by the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. J. F. Townsend ; the Grand Treasurer, Bro. J. F. Quinton ; the Grand Secretary, Bro. J. E. Hyndman ; and the Grand Chaplains, Bros. the Rev. Dr. Wall and Rev. H. J. Westby.

The children entered the room under the care of Mrs. Noble, the matron ; and the proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Wall. The Hundredth

Psalm was then sung by the children, Bro. White, Grand Organist, presiding at the organ.

The Deputy Grand Master, Bro. J. F. Townsend, traced the progress of the school from its foundation in 1796 to the present day, when the school-house was built in Burlington-place, at a considerable expense, which had been in some degree replaced by the liberality of the Brethren.

The children were then presented to the Most Noble the Grand Master, and received the prizes.

His grace briefly addressed the meeting.

A hymn was then sung by the children, and his grace having left the chair, the Brethren and their visitors retired to another room, where refreshments were provided, after which the meeting separated.

I N D I A.

The following is from our Calcutta contemporary, the *Indian Freemasons' Friend* :—

RAWUL PINDEE AND MURREE.—A zealous Brother, who, we are sorry to learn, will soon be obliged to come to Calcutta for the purpose of proceeding to Europe on sick leave,* informs us that a new Lodge has been formed in the Punjab, to work at Rawul Pindée in the cold season, and at Murree in the hot season. It has been named the Ramsay Lodge, as a compliment to our Prov. G.M., in the same way as the Mussoorie Lodge was named the Dalhousie, after his illustrious kinsman. The Prov. G.M. has promised to pay for the warrant for his godchild, and present it with the volume of the Holy Law and a set of silver jewels. A meeting was held at Rawul Pindée on the 28th December, for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps for the establishment of the Lodge. The Brethren who were present were formerly members of Industry and Perseverance and St. John's Lodge of Calcutta, of the Albany Lodge of the Cape of Good Hope, of Lodge Charity of Umballa, of Lodge Harmony of Cawnpore, and of the Allahabad and Darjeeling Lodges. The first Master was elected, and the first Wardens nominated, and the petition was approved and signed by all the Brethren present.

The first meeting of the new Lodge took place on the 8th January, when our Prov. G.M., having reached the station, presided, and after installing the first Master, and delivering an address suited to the occasion, presented him to the Brethren, who greeted him with the customary honours. The Prov. G.M. then proclaimed the new Lodge, and "empowered the Brethren to work provisionally, and so discharge the duties of Masonry in a regular and constitutional manner, until the receipt of a formal dispensation from the R.W. the Dep. Prov. G.M. of the North-West Provinces."

PESHAWUR.—The Prov. G.M. was present at a meeting of the Khyber Lodge on the 22nd December, when there were four initiations, and applications for three joinings and one initiation. At the banquet, the Prov. G.M. congratulated the Brethren on the efficient state of their Lodge. He had visited almost every Lodge in the Bengal Presidency. Some of them were equal to the Khyber in certain respects, but on all points (that is, as a whole) the latter was unequalled in its discipline, mode of working, &c.

On the 26th December, the Prov. G.M. was present at a meeting of the Border Chapter. There were three exaltations. The Prov. G.M. informed the Companions that he was greatly pleased with their working and decorations, and begged their acceptance of a set of jewels and three gilt sceptres. Previous to

* We have heard that the Brother alluded to arrived in England last week.—
ED. F. M. M. & M. M.

the establishment of the Border, none of the Companions had even any working or Chapter-room decorations.

St. John's day was very pleasantly kept up. Among the speeches that were made was one by the Prov. G.M., proposing the W.M.'s health; and another by the venerable Past Master of the Lodge, who said that he met the Brethren as Brethren in Masonry, and as brethren in arms. He felt himself bound to them both by the ties of the Order, and by those of the profession which he had loved from his childhood.

THAYETMYO.—“On St. John's day, our new Chaplain, the Rev. H. W. Crofton, who is a Mason at heart, though not in name, preached a sermon on behalf of the Irish (Masonic) Female Orphan School, which is under the patronage of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and is supported by the Irish Masonic body. We collected upwards of Rs. 200, which will be remitted to Dublin. At seven P.M. the Lodge attached to H.M.'s 29th regiment, No. 322 of Ireland, was opened, and a vote of thanks passed to the rev. chaplain, who joined the Brethren at the banquet. Our commanding officer, who was also present, expressed his wish to join our body. We were delighted to receive as a member a Brother who has lately returned from Europe, and who formerly belonged to the Lodge at Dinapore, the son of the last W.M. of that Lodge before it became dormant. One of the toasts of the evening was ‘The Prov. Grand Lodge of Bengal,’ coupled with the names of R.W. Bros. Ramsay, Prov. G.M., and J. J. L. Hoff, Past J.G.W. and P.G. Sec. Since our opening night we have steadily increased, and now number thirty members.”

LODGE ST. DAVID'S IN THE EAST (No. 371).—This Lodge invited the Masters and Wardens of all the English Lodges in Calcutta to a banquet on St. John's day, which fell on the 10th of January, according to the old style. With one exception, the Officers of the several Lodges were present on the occasion, and were individually presented to and welcomed by the W.M. of St. David's, Bro. John Cameron, and afterwards conducted to the places appointed for them at the banquet. At about eight o'clock the supper was served. W. Bro. Cameron presided, with R.W. Bro. LeGeyt, Past P.G.M. of Western India, on his right, and R.W. Bro. Hoff, D.P.G.M. of the North-West Provinces, on his left. The guests were placed at the upper end of the table, and the members of the Lodge (among whom were many English Masons affiliated into it) at the lower.

The room was tastefully decorated with the British and French flags at the back of the E. Chair, the banner of St. David's in the East at the opposite end of the room, and the banners of the Calcutta English Lodges on the sides.

AMERICA.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the State of New York, held their forty-second annual conclave at the city of Albany, on Friday, the 8th of February, Anno Ordinis 738: the representatives of fifteen encampments being present. The report of the M.E.G.M. was an elaborate document, well arranged, and entitles him to great credit. The Committee on foreign correspondence, through their Chairman, Sir Robert Tompkins, presented an interesting and well-digested summary of the condition of Templarism in Indiana, Vermont, Kentucky, Maine, Connecticut, Texas, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, from which it appears that the Knightly Orders are flourishing in those states like a green bay-tree. They pay a very high and well-merited compliment to our Illustrious Bro. Sir Knight Gourdin, of Charleston, South Carolina, for his excellent “Historical Sketch of the Order of Knights Templar,” delivered before South Carolina Encampment, in Charleston, on the 23rd of March, Anno Ordinis 737 (1855). Sir Knight Edwards, of Elmira, offered a resolution to the effect that the New York

representatives at the next triennial session of the G.G.E. be instructed to use their influence in that body to procure such an amendment to the constitution of that body as to make it necessary that all candidates for Knighthood should be required to be possessed of the Degrees of Royal and Select Master. Sir Knight Edwards must have investigated the subject more thoroughly than we have, if he has discovered any connection between those two Orders, or anything in the Degrees of Royal and Select Master that tends to the enlightenment of the newly-created Sir Knight, or that should make it indispensable in him to be possessed of them. For our own part we think the machinery already too complicated, in fact, so much so as to make American Templarism *sui generis*, and we should be sorry to see any additional clogs added to its wheels. Sir Knight Edward's motion did not prevail, or to use the words of the report, "it was laid on the table."—*New York Masonic News*.

HOLLAND.

A recent letter from the Hague, says:—"The Freemasons of Holland have just celebrated their one hundredth anniversary at this place, under the presidency of their G.M., his Royal Highness Prince Frederic of the Netherlands. Four hundred Brothers sat down to a magnificent repast in the great hall of the Lodge, a building erected in 1816 by Prince Frederic, at an expense of £10,000, and rented by the Brethren. Delegates attended on the part of the Freemasons of England, France, and Russia, and several other states. On the health of the Prince President being proposed, a silver crown of exquisite workmanship was presented to his Royal Highness, who, in responding to the toast, pulled from his pocket the title-deeds of the Freemasons' Hall above alluded to, and, handing them to the Treasurer, begged the associated Brethren to accept at his hands that magnificent building as a centenary gift. Not an individual in the hall had been apprised of his Royal Highness's intention, so that this munificent act excited as much surprise as enthusiasm. It may be observed that Prince Frederick of the Netherlands is the second son of the late King William of Holland, and is one of the wealthiest men, if not the wealthiest man, in the Netherlands. He never interferes in political matters, having been slighted by certain diplomatists in 1815, when he at once and for ever withdrew from state business. He is a man of simple but refined tastes, affable and courteous in demeanour, and respected by all."

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR JUNE.

The various drawing-room parties, reviews, levees, &c., which have taken place during the past month, remind us that the London season is rapidly drawing to a close, and that her Majesty, members of Parliament, and others, are beginning to think of autumn delights away from the noise and hubbub of town. Yet even during these, anticipations of trouble will intrude themselves, and the unceremonious dismissal of the British minister by the United States' Government, although accompanied by such protestations of friendly feelings that her Majesty's ministers have not thought it necessary to require Mr. Dallas to return home, has occasioned some alarm with regard to the prospects of peace—an alarm which has been ridiculously increased by the circumstance of Mr. Dallas having retired from her Majesty's levee, because an *attaché* of the legation was refused admission in a dress which no English gentleman would think of wearing, even to dine with a friend, and which of course could not be admitted into the presence of royalty.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, on the 2nd, the Fire Insurance Duty Bill was read a third time, and other Bills advanced a stage. On the 3rd, the Appellate Jurisdiction (House of Lords) providing for the creation of Life Peerages for Law Lords passed through committee, and the Oxford University Bill was read a third time. On the 5th, the royal assent was given to the Fire Insurance and other Bills; and on the 6th, the Appellate Jurisdiction Bill was read a third time. In reply to a question, Earl Granville said there was no intention to do away with the punishment of death as regards women. On the 9th, the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Bill was, with others, advanced a stage; and, on the 10th, the proceedings were equally uninteresting. On the 12th, the Drafts on Bankers and other Bills were read a third time. On the 13th, after some conversation relative to the relations of this country with America, the Boroughs and Counties Police Bill was read a second time, and other Bills advanced a stage. On the 16th, the Joint Stock Companies Bill was read a second time, by a majority of 18 to 5. On the 19th, the Factories Bill was read a second time. On the 23rd, the Oath of Abjuration Bill, by which Jews would have been admitted to seats in Parliament, was rejected by 110 to 78, notwithstanding the second reading was moved by Lord Lyndhurst. On the 24th, several minor Bills were advanced a stage, and a new Oaths of Abjuration Bill introduced by the Earl of Derby, and so framed as to exclude the Jews from Parliament, was read a second time. On the 27th, the Divorces and Matrimonial Causes Bill passed through committee, and the Grand Juries Bill was read a second time.

In the House of Commons on the 2nd, after various votes had been agreed to in Committee of Supply, the Parochial Schools (Scotland) Bill was read a second time. On the 3rd hon. members failed to make a house. On the 4th the Tenant Right (Ireland) Bill was read a second time, on a division of 88 against 59; and the Excise Bill passed through committee. On the 5th the House was principally engaged in voting the Civil Estimates; but a conversation having arisen relative to military education, Lord Palmerston remarked that he entirely concurred in everything which had been said during the discussion as to the high importance of officers receiving the best possible professional education. All the suggestions which had been made on that occasion would meet with due attention. On the 6th the noble lord, in reply to a question, stated that there was little doubt that the United States government had dismissed Mr. Crampton, and a committee was appointed to inquire into the operation of the Sound Dues. On the 8th the Oath of Abjuration Bill was read a third time, and the Cambridge University Bill passed through committee. On the 10th Mr. Ewart moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the law imposing the punishment of death, which was lost by a majority of 158 to 64. A motion for a select committee, to inquire what measures could be adopted to advance science and improve the position of its cultivators, was after some discussion withdrawn. Sir Erskine Perry's resolutions relative to the rights in property of married women was also withdrawn. On the 11th the Aldershot Camp Bill and the Oxford University Bill passed through committee; and Mr. Horsman brought in a bill for the better regulation of the Dublin Hospitals, supported wholly or in part by Parliament grants. The principal business of the 12th was the voting an additional grant for education, making £415,213 in the whole, or £54,000 more than last year. In Committee of Supply on the 13th, Lord Palmerston moved two especial votes, namely, £4,500 for making a road from the iron gates, near the German Chapel, to the Mall, in St. James's Park; and £3,500 for the erection of a suspension-bridge for foot passengers over the water in the enclosure of St. James's Park. The votes were agreed to by a majority of 182 to 95. The Oxford University Bill was read a third time. On the 14th it was agreed to advance an additional £1,000,000 to Sardinia. Lord Palmerston explained that notwithstanding the dismissal of Mr. Crampton from the United States, it was not considered desirable under the circumstances to suspend diplomatic relations with that country. On the 17th, after some trivial Bills had been advanced a stage, Mr. Walpole managed to carry a resolution against the present system of National Education, which would

exclude the Roman Catholics from its advantages, by a majority of 113 to 103. The decision of the previous evening, when a large portion of the members were at the Queen's ball, was brought under consideration on the 18th, and Lord Palmerston expressed his determination of giving the House an opportunity of reconsidering the question. On the 19th, after the House had been in Committee of Supply, on the motion for the second reading of the Coalwhippers Bill, Mr. Lowe stated to the House that the coalowners had proposed such conditions to the Government with respect to the employment and payment of their labourers, that there could be no objection to discharging the order for its second reading. On the 20th the Cambridge University Bill as amended passed through committee, and other Bills having been advanced a stage, the Joint-Stock Companies Winding-up Bill was read a second time by a majority of 112 to 77. On the 23rd Mr. Walpole's motion relative to National Education in Ireland was reversed, the majority in favour of the Government being as five to one. On the 24th the Nawab of Surat Bill was read a third time by a majority of 213 to 28, as was also the Sardinian Loan Bill. On the 25th Mr. Spooner moved the second reading of the Maynooth College Bill, but it being a morning sitting, the hon. member was talked out, and the House adjourned without arriving at any decision. On the 27th the Corporation of London Reform Bill was withdrawn for the session, as was also the Maynooth College Bill. The Wills and Administrations Bill was read a second time, and the Cambridge University Bill a third time.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 1st, Corporal Nevin, of the 56th Foot, shot Sergt.-Major Robinson, on board the *Runnymede*, in Plymouth Sound. He has been committed for trial for wilful murder.

On the 9th, the boiler at the colliery of Messrs. Wharton and Sons, Whittington, near Chesterfield, exploded with a terrific report, causing much destruction of property, and killing one man on the spot, and fearfully injuring another. The colliery has been at work about two years.

According to the Madrid papers, it appears that considerable sensation has been caused by the discovery of a conspiracy to assassinate the queen.

Wm. Palmer, convicted of the murder of his friend Cooke, expiated his offence on the scaffold, in front of Stafford Castle, on the 13th. As Masons, we trust that the G.A.O.T.U. will forgive his offences against man.

On the 19th, a man was committed at the Thorpe tollgate, situate on the Grantham road, about one mile from Melton Mowbray. The gate was kept by a man named Edward Woodcock, aged 70 years, who resided at it with his grandson, a lad aged 10 years. About four o'clock in the morning the poor old gatekeeper was found, partly dressed, lying in a pool of blood on the house floor, with his face and throat fearfully cut and gashed, and a large pistol-wound through his breast, whilst on a bed in the parlour lay the poor little grandson, with his head half severed from his body, and with several frightful gashes. The murderer is supposed to be a returned convict, named Brown.

On the morning of the 22nd, a fire broke out on the premises of Mrs. Rebecca Solomons, a clothier and general dealer, 2, Leman-street, Whitechapel. The fire, besides destroying a considerable amount of property, was the cause of the loss of three lives, and considerable injury to one or two others.

The Princess Royal met with rather a serious accident on the 24th, by setting the gauze sleeve of her dress on fire; but, fortunately, she was enabled to extinguish it without further injury than that of severely burning her arm.

COMMERCIAL.

The annual meeting of the Bank of Australia was held on the 9th, and a dividend, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, declared.

The Ionian Bank held its annual meeting on the 13th, when the usual dividend of 5 per cent. was declared, notwithstanding the depression consequent on the destruction for four successive years of a large proportion of the fruits of the soil, on which its prosperity mainly exists.

The annual meeting of the South Australian Banking Company was held on the

24th, and a dividend, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum clear of income-tax, declared. It is in contemplation to raise the capital from £300,000 to £500,000.

On the following day the South Australian Land Company declared a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

BENEVOLENT.

The foundation-stone was laid by Prince Albert, on the 31st of May, of an institution, the want of which has long been very generally felt in this country, viz. an establishment similar in its objects to that of the Sailors' Home, in Wellclose-square, and other parts, but available for sailors visiting the port of London, who are Asiatics or Africans, and whose ignorance of the language, manners, and customs of our people render them an easy prey to those unprincipled persons who abound in the east end of London. The estimated cost is about £9,000.

The ceremony of laying the first stone of the Wellington College, near Sandhurst—an institution for the education of orphan sons of military men—took place on 2nd May, with all that distinguished *éclat* which the presence of the sovereign and the royal family of England could not fail to impart. The total estimated cost of the college is £55,000; and when completed it will afford accommodation for 250 boys.

The anniversary festival of the institution established to afford permanent incomes of £30 a year to the widows and unmarried orphan daughters of officers in the army and navy, clergymen, and members of the learned professions, merchants, bankers, and others, who have moved in a superior station in society, was celebrated by a very elegant dinner at the London Tavern on the 3rd June. The subscriptions amounted to about £400.

The friends of the Marine Society, established for the equipment, maintenance, and instruction of poor and destitute boys for the royal navy, Indian navy, merchant service, and the fisheries, celebrated its centenary by dining together, when about £700 were added to the funds.

The inauguration festival of the Printers' Alms House, Wood-green, Tottenham, took place on the 11th, when the Earl Stanhope presided at a grand public breakfast, which was very numerously attended. The subscriptions of the day amounted to about £400.

The annual assembly of the boys educated in the Royal Asylum of St. Ann's Society School, to receive those rewards which are accorded them for good conduct in those situations in which they may be placed after leaving the establishment, took place in the School-house, Brixton, on the 12th. The Bishop of Winchester presided, and presented the various gifts, in sums ranging from 2s. 6d. for the first year after leaving the school, to £1—and, in addition, for the last or seventh year of apprenticeship, a handsomely-bound quarto Bible—it being one of the distinguishing characteristics of this institution that a child once taken under its roof is never lost sight of until fairly launched in the world upon coming to man's estate. The total money distributed upon this occasion was over £20.

PROVIDENT.

The Times Life Assurance and Guarantee Association held its annual meeting on the 7th, when Mr. Sheridan, the manager, read a report, which said that during the last year 1,570 policies had been completed (none of them being what are termed industrial policies), producing an annual income of £7,574. 3s. 3d.; and that the directors had declined business to the amount of £109,140; which would have given, in annual premiums, upwards of £3,000. The losses during the year had been:—Life, £6,410. 6s. 10d.; guarantee, £4,768. 6s. 2d. In seven years the company had issued 8,483 policies, yielding an annual income of £37,672. 14s. 1d., but from which must be deducted the ascertained lapsed policies, amounting to £10,614. 9s. 10d., which would give the present annual income at £27,058. 4s. 3d. The report was adopted, and interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum ordered to be paid.

A special meeting of the National Provincial Life Assurance Company was held in the offices, Cheapside, on the 19th, when an agreement was approved for

entering into an amalgamation with a new company, provisionally registered, under the title of "The Bank of London and National Provincial Life and Fire Insurance Association," by directors of the Bank of London and of this company, the present shareholders receiving two shares of £1 paid for every single share held in the company. A similar meeting was also held of the Fire Company, in which the shareholders are to receive five shares of £1 paid for every four such shares now held.

The quarterly meeting of the Conservative Land Society was held on the 26th, when a report was presented, which said :—The following are the highly gratifying returns of the business for the quarter ending June 24th, 1856: cash received from Lady-day 1856 to Midsummer 1856, inclusive, £17,156. 6s. 9d. Total cash received to June 24, 1856, £241,162. 14s. 10d. Total withdrawals from September 1852 to Midsummer 1856 £32,273. 7s. 3d. The total number of shares in progress or uncompleted, taken up to June 24th, 1856, were £10,188. The completed shares to ditto, were 2,040. Total shares issued to Midsummer 1856, 12,228. The returns of the Register of Order of Rights are as follow :—Completed, 2,040; drawn, 2,348; seniority, 1,204; total, 5,592: deduct Rights exercised on Estates, &c., 3,159: unexercised Rights, 2,433. The last number to be placed on the Order of Rights by seniority or date of Membership, after the 35th public drawing of the 26th of June (this day), will be about share No. 3,713. The Executive Committee have the pleasure to state that the sale of land, in detached plots, during the past quarter has amounted to £8,958. 5s. The total amount of land sold from the formation of the Society up to June 24th, 1856, is £178,060. 9s. 2d. The above returns show an increase in the receipts over the corresponding quarter last year of £4,778. 14s. 5d. Increase as compared with the last quarter of £4,410. 1s. 3d. Increase in the sale of land over the previous quarter of £6,636. 14s. 6d. The report was adopted, and the drawings proceeded with.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Sunday Band question has been settled by bands provided by subscription being allowed to play in the Regent's and Victoria Parks.

The Paris Agricultural Exhibition, which was opened on the 2nd, proved most successful. Many fine specimens of English cattle were sold at remarkably high prices.

The Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park, formerly occupied by George IV., has just been put in a fitting state for the reception of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, now in his twelfth year, in order that the young prince may uninterruptedly pursue his studies, more particularly that portion comprising engineering, under his tutor, Lieut. Cowell, of the Royal Engineers.

The baptism of the Imperial Prince of France took place on the 15th. There were great rejoicings, and gratuitous performances at the theatres.

Capt. Henry L. Thompson, one of the heroes of Kars, died in Gloucester-street, Belgrave-road, on the 13th, almost immediately on his arrival in England. He was only twenty-seven years of age.

General Sir Wm. Fenwick Williams, of Kars, arrived in Dover on the 16th, and was most warmly received—a congratulatory address being presented to him by the corporation.

The *Times* states that her Majesty will be advised by Lord Palmerston to raise Sir Edmund Lyons to the peerage, in consideration of his services while in the command of the fleet in the Black Sea.

The bishopric of Gloucester and Bristol, vacated by the death of Dr. Monk, has been offered by Lord Palmerston to the Rev. Richard Chenevix Trench, M.A., Professor of Theology in King's College, London, rector of Ithin Stoke, near Alresford, Hants, and chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford.

Mr. Mechi, the governor of the Unity Bank, and Mr. Keats, of the well-known firm of Fortnum and Mason, were elected Sheriffs of London on the 24th.

Obituary.

SIR HENRY WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, K.C.B. G.C.H.

This worthy Brother was born 16th March, 1783, and died 28th March, 1856, at Llanford in North Wales. The late Sir Henry was uncle and father-in-law to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart. of Wynnstay, the present Prov. Gr. Master of North Wales and Shropshire. He was the British Minister (or Ambassador) at Copenhagen for many years.

Sir Henry's opinion of Freemasonry may be understood from the following extract of a speech delivered at Chester on St. John's day, 1853:—He said, although in every respect an old Mason, he feared the task of returning thanks must be considered as having fallen into the hands of an apprentice. He came from a country where the Craft was far from being considered as worthy only of a dungeon or the Inquisition. He had the honour of being initiated into Masonry by the King of Denmark himself, and whilst sitting at the same board, with both the king and his son, he had heard him express the opinion "that in the hour of danger he should look to Freemasons as his best defenders." That hour of danger had come, and he was happy to say our Craft redeemed the confidence reposed in them.

BRO. JAMES ROLFE.

On the 29th of May, at Bocking, Essex, in his 27th year, Bro. James Rolfe, youngest son of the late Robert Rolfe, Esq. of Bocking. Bro. Rolfe was initiated in the North Essex Lodge, No. 817, and went through the various Offices, being W.M. for the last year. He was exalted into the Chapter attached to the same Lodge, and at the time of his decease held the Office of third Principal. The lineage of Bro. Rolfe is of long standing in the province, as we have record of his ancestors being in possession of Gosfield Hall in the early part of the 15th century. In the village church of Gosfield is a small chapel or chantry, erected by Thomas Rolfe, which was repaired in 1560 by Sir John Wentworth, who was then in possession of the estate.

BRO. SIR F. G. FOWKE.

We have already briefly recorded the decease of Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke, Bart., of Lowesby Hall, Leicestershire. We cannot, however, allow one who was so truly amiable and respected in all the relations of life, and who for so long a period occupied a prominent place amongst us, to pass away without something more than a mere record of his death. The deceased gentleman, who was the son of Sir Thomas Fowke, Knt., by the second daughter and co-heir of Sir Isaac Woolaston, Bart., was born at Lowesby Hall, in 1782. His grandfather, Brigadier-General Fowke, had distinguished himself in the army, held a command under Sir John Cope in the campaign against the rebels in 1745, and a few years subsequently was made governor of Gibraltar; also in 1784 his father was appointed Groom of the Bedchamber to his Royal Highness Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, the brother of George III. The subject of this sketch was created a baronet of the United Kingdom in 1814, and in the same year married the only daughter of the late Anthony Henderson, Esq., M.P. for Brackley, who survives him, and by whom he leaves issue four sons and two daughters—the eldest son being Frederick Thomas, who succeeds him in the baronetcy. Another son held a commission in the Austrian army, and died some years since in Italy. Sir Frederick was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, a deputy-lieutenant for Leicestershire, and for many years a most active, upright, and respected county magistrate.

Sir Frederick was delighted to recal the recollection how, having accidentally met with his father's patent of appointment as Prov. G.M. of Freemasons for Leices-

tershire, together with a silver square and a Royal Arch jewel, his curiosity became excited to ascertain the meaning attached to these emblems, and having formed a pre-conceived opinion of the usefulness of the Order, he requested a relation to propose him as a candidate for initiation in the Prince of Wales's Lodge, in London, and over which his Royal Highness presided. In that Lodge he was initiated in the year 1813 by Waller Rodwell Wright, a barrister, a poet of some celebrity in his day, and one of the brightest ornaments of Masonry. As a means of extending his Masonic knowledge, and the sphere of his usefulness, he afterwards joined other Lodges in the metropolis, and during his career had worked his way up from the lowest to the highest offices in the Craft. He was successively Junior and Senior Warden of the celebrated Lodge of Antiquity, which was then presided over by his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, M.W. Grand Master of the Order, who twice offered him the Mastership, but which he was compelled to decline in consequence of his absence abroad. His Royal Highness, as a mark of his appreciation of Sir Frederick's valuable services, appointed him S.G. Deacon, and in 1821 S.G. Warden of England. He was for some time acting Master of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, and was D.M. of the Lodge at the installation of his Royal Highness the Duke of York in 1823 as W.M., when the Lodge presented to him a splendid Masonic jewel in commemoration of his services. After the departure of Bro. R. W. Wright, who had accepted a government appointment as Assessor of a Code of Laws at Malta, the Lodge had declined in numbers, but on the chair becoming vacant by the accession to the throne of the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV., Sir Frederick was the means of inducing the Duke of York to accept the Mastership, and the Lodge subsequently became one of the most flourishing Lodges in London. He subsequently served the office of Steward of the Boys and Girls' Masonic Schools, and was a life governor of these admirable charities. In 1817 he joined St. John's Lodge, Leicester, of which, for two successive years, he was W.M.; and at the time of his decease he was the Father of the Lodge. He subsequently served the office of M.E.Z. of the Royal Arch Chapter attached to this Lodge, and also the Chapter of St. Augustine attached to the John of Gaunt Lodge. In the earlier part of his connection with St. John's Lodge, the Brethren presented him, by the hands of Lord Howe, with a handsome cup, as a testimonial of their regard and of their appreciation of his valuable services; and more recently, they requested him to sit for his portrait as Prov. G.M., which was admirably executed by Scott, and now graces the lodge-room. An excellent copy—indeed, it may be termed an exact counterpart of the original—has been since painted from this picture by a lady (an amateur), the wife of one of the Brethren, and by her most kindly presented to the John of Gaunt Lodge, of which Sir Frederick was also an honoured member. We have already observed that Sir Thomas Fowke was Prov. G.M. for Leicestershire. The late Lord Raneliffe was subsequently appointed to that distinguished office, and in 1833 appointed Sir F. Fowke his D. Prov. G.M.; which rank he continued to hold, and performed all the active duties of his own and his chief's offices, until the decease of his lordship in 1851, when the M.W.G.M. spontaneously conferred this important appointment upon Sir Frederick. The acquaintance of the two late Prov. G.Ms. commenced at a very early period of their lives. Sir Frederick's first public official act as Prov. G.M. was the Masonic inauguration of the statue of his Grace the Duke of Rutland, in Leicester market-place, on the 28th April, 1852; and which he had been requested to perform by the subscribers. This event will long be remembered by the inhabitants of Leicester and the neighbourhood, the day having been observed as a general holiday, and it was estimated that upwards of 70,000 persons were present on the occasion. In addition to that of Prov. G.M., Sir Frederick held the appointments of Prov. Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry, and Prov. Grand Commander of Masonic Knights Templar for Leicestershire. He continued to discharge most efficiently the duties of his important offices until prevented by his declining health; and even when unable to take an active part in person in the proceedings of the Craft, he still took the strongest interest in the prosperity of Masonry in the Province.

NOTICE.

THE EDITOR requests that ALL COMMUNICATIONS may be sent to him, at 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, by the 20th of each month AT LATEST, to insure their insertion.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"W.M.," Lodge of Harmony.—The portrait of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., will be delivered to subscribers in the course of this month, *vide* Advertisement.

"P. M."—The new edition, long promised, of Dr. Oliver's "Theocratic Philosophy of Freemasonry," in twelve lectures, considerably enlarged, is now ready, and may be had of the publisher, Bro. R. Spencer.

"T. JENKINS."—"The case" has been received, and shall be noticed fully next number.

"THE CANADA QUESTION."—We have reason to know that had the discussion been permitted by the G.M., it was the intention of Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon to address Grand Lodge on the occasion.

"S. A.," Hampstead, and "W. P."—The lines on "Sympathy" shall be inserted as soon as we can make room for them, as also those for a "Masonic Song." Thanks for both.

"C. L.," Leeds.—The Essay on National Greatness is unavoidably postponed for a short time.

"MADELINE" is informed that though there are no lodges of female Masons in England, there is a large secret association extant in England and America consisting of women who have signs and tokens of mutual recognition, and which signs also attract to them the aid of Master Masons. They are called Daughters of Jericho, and were publicly alluded to by the Prov. Grand Chaplain for Surrey, in his speech at Dartford on Monday last. The rev. gentleman expressed his approbation of the society, and his willingness to initiate any Master Mason, who might initiate his female relatives.

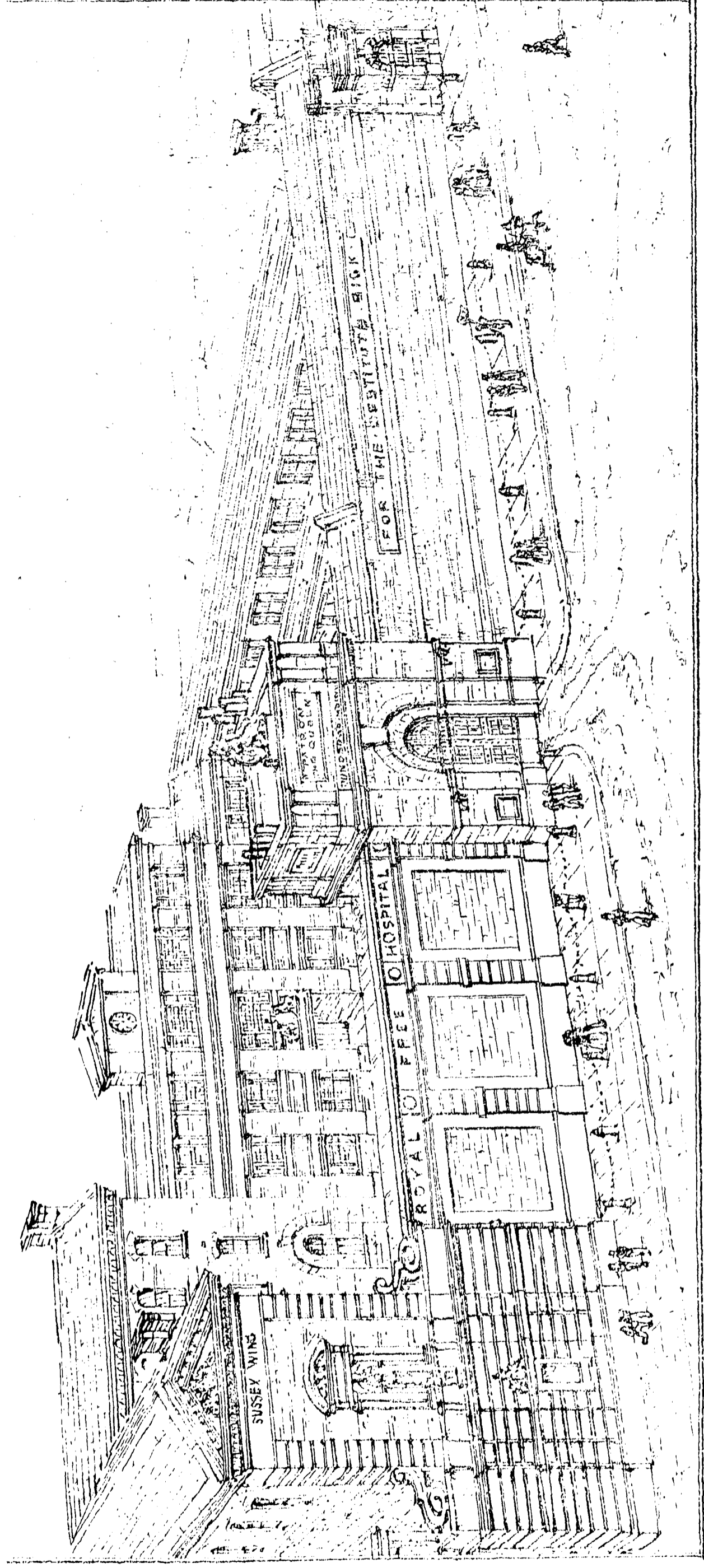
"B * * *"—The Lodge having been opened in the three degrees, it is customary to resume them in the various degrees as circumstances may require, without going through the ceremony each time. Two candidates may be passed at the same time, but it would be better to take them separately until after the obligation.

"ESSEX."—The Prov. Grand Lodge was held on the 26th, but press of matter necessitates the postponement of our report until next month. The whole of the proceedings were of the most satisfactory description.

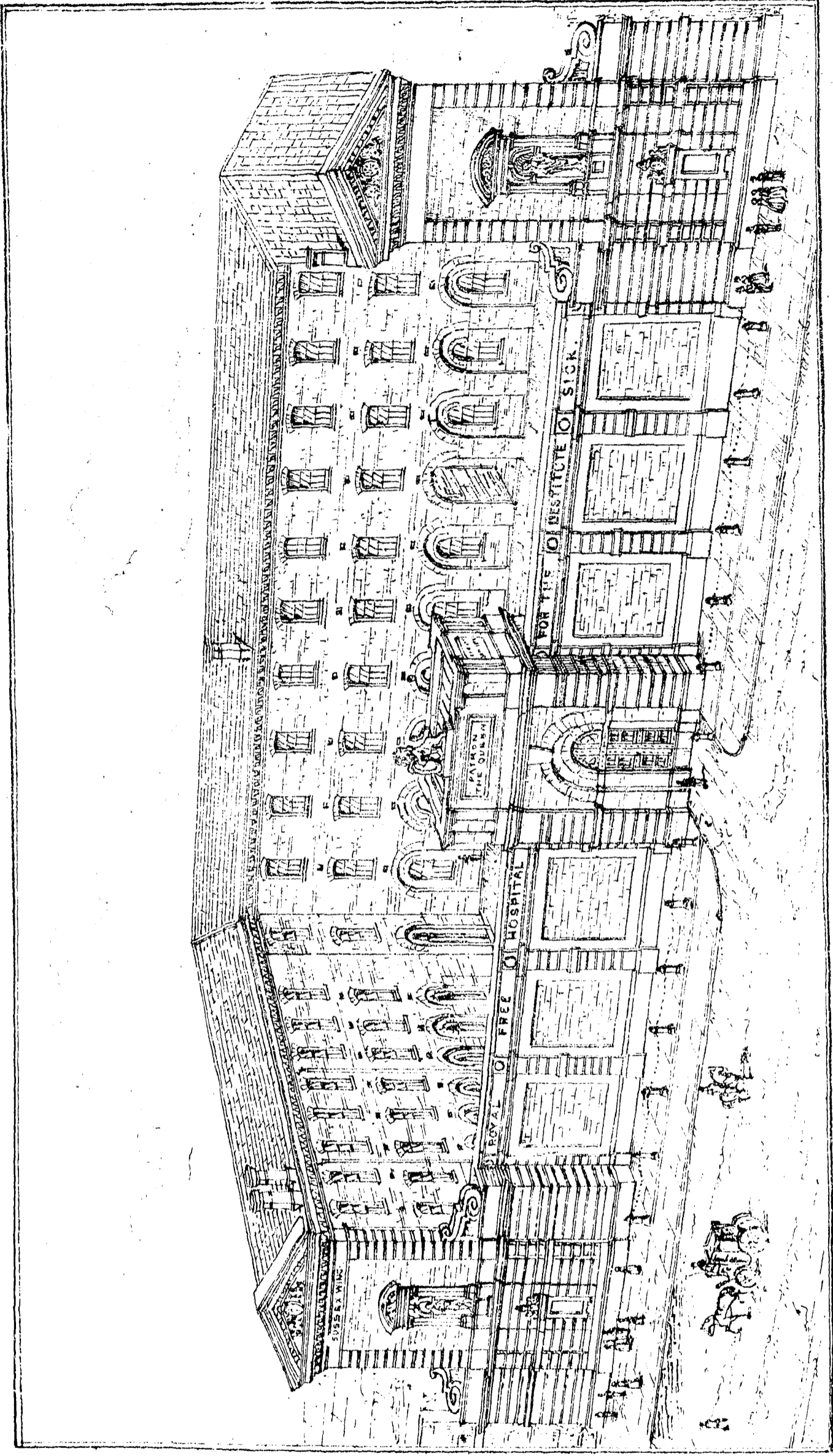
"AN OLD FRIEND."—Bro. Coggin, late of the Freemason's Tavern, has taken the Eagle Tavern, Battersea Park, where he will be glad to see the Brethren when opportunity offers.

"P. M."—We see no objection, under the Book of Constitutions, to a Brother only recently joining the Order and holding no rank in the Craft, being made Prov. G.S.B. or Prov. G. Steward; all that is laid down being that a Prov. G.W. must be the Master or Past Master of a Lodge, and the Prov. G.D. a Warden or Past Warden. The prerogative of appointing vested in the Prov. G.M., ought not to be interfered with by the Lodges. If a G.M. or his deputy performs his duty, he can always ascertain what Brethren are best qualified for the different offices.

"A LOVER OF FAIR-PLAY."—We exercise our best judgment in the selection of the information for publication; and it would be impossible, in anything like a reasonable or even a readable space, to publish every local communication at full length—though we do our utmost to give satisfaction to all our correspondents and the Craft at large.



The Royal Free Hospital - in its present state - A.D. 1856.



The Royal Free Hospital - as proposed to be completed
when funds can be procured.