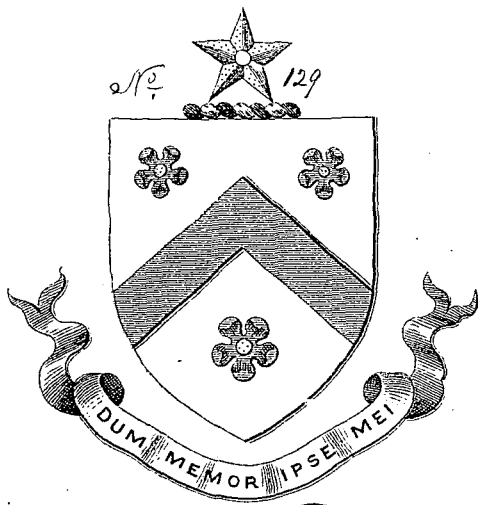


SHELF
no

2510.



J. G. Irwin.



IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF

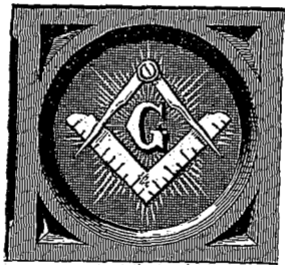
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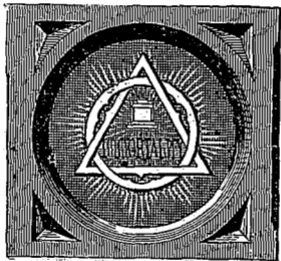
WHO PASSED TO THE HIGHER LIFE JANUARY 8TH, 1879.



United Grand Lodge
of
A.F. & A.M. Masons
of
England.

2510.







THE
FREEMASONS'
QUARTERLY REVIEW,

SECOND SERIES,

AND

GENERAL ASSURANCE ADVOCATE.



“LIGHT.”

1849.

LONDON:

W. AND T. PIPER, (LATE SHERWOOD, GILBERT, AND PIPER,)
PATERNOSTER-ROW;

MADDEN AND CO., 8, LEADENHALL-STREET.

SUTHERLAND, CALTON-STREET, EDINBURGH; J PORTER, GRAFTON-ST.,
AND FANNIN AND CO., GRAFTON-STREET, DUBLIN; SPIERS, OXFORD;
STEVENSON, CAMBRIDGE; HALL, BIRMINGHAM. R. & C. CHALMERS
MONTREAL. LATTEY, BROTHERS, AND CO., AND THACKER AND CO.,
CALCUTTA.

T O F O U R

OF THE

MOST DISTINGUISHED FREEMASONS OF THE PRESENT DAY,

WHOSE PRIVATE CHARACTERS SHINE EVEN THE MORE RESPLENDENT BY
THEIR MASONIC VIRTUES;

WHOSE APPRECIATION OF THE DIGNITY AND PURE MORALITY OF THE ORDER IS
SO COMPREHENSIVELY SUSTAINED, AS TO HAVE INDOCTRINATED A
LARGE CIRCLE OF ZEALOUS FRIENDS, AND TO HAVE

ENKINDLED A LIKE SPIRIT OF EMULATION AND INDEPENDENCE; BUT, ABOVE ALL,
WHOSE INDOMITABLE COURAGE UNDER PRESSING DIFFICULTIES,
JUSTLY ENTITLE THEM TO THE

PUBLIC ESTIMATION AND REGARD

IN WHICH THEY ARE DESERVEDLY HELD:

TO THESE FOUR HONOURABLE AND WORTHY BRETHREN,

VIZ:

STEPHEN BARTON WILSON,

JOHN HODGKINSON,

HENRY FAUDEL,

AND

THOMAS PRYER,

WE GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATE

THE PRESENT VOLUME

OF

The Freemasons' Quarterly Review.

1849.

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OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.—The case of General Cooke having absorbed the time of no less than three Grand Lodges, we have scarcely time to allude to this new department. We, however, draw the attention of our readers to the studio of "Ithuriel," who has given a very powerful and graphic sketch. If the portraits that are under orders be as faithfully true to circumstance (and there are many of them in hand), we anticipate that the gallery will interest, amuse, and instruct.

THE MASONIC SCHISM IN BENGAL, *March 26.*—We have this day received the "finish" of this most inauspicious affair. Freemasonry bleeds! who shall staunch her wounds? Little did we think that when we last commented on the position of Bro. John Grant, and those brethren whose zeal he has punished with an unbecoming severity, we might have said "thus bad begins, but worse remains behind." Yet so it is. The Grand Secretary of England has, contrary to his "usual custom of an afternoon," lost no time in announcing to the parties concerned, that the Earl of Zetland, M. W. G. M., approves of the conduct of the P. G. M. for Bengal. It may be yet not too late for the Lord Patron of Masonry in Bengal to become a successful arbitrator, and restore peace. The Grand Chapter of Scotland may possibly extend its mantle, and gently assuage the wrath of Bro. Grant. Even had we time and space, we should hardly add more at present, inasmuch as the matter has not yet come under the consideration of the Grand Lodge of England; where, if "fair-play" be permitted, some reparation may be made to wounded feelings, caused by excessive, if not unmerited, punishment. Alas for Freemasonry! Bro. Grant, we fear you have applied the axe too keenly—take care, lest in the fall of the tree, thyself be not endangered!

March 28.—We have to regret the arrival of many reports altogether too late, especially some important documents relating to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, which, at this moment, are of interest. Also some pamphlets, particularly that by Erasmus Wilson, on "Healthy Skin," which should have reached us earlier.

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SADDLEWORTH.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF CHRIST CHURCH, FRIEZLAND.

Within a recent period, a district or parish has been carved out of the parish of Saddleworth, in Yorkshire, and of Mottam, in Cheshire, to be called the district or parish of Friezland; and for this parish a new church, dedicated to the Redeemer of Mankind, and to bear his name, is now in course of construction, the laying of the foundation stone of which, on Monday, the 4th inst., by the Lord Bishop of Manchester, was an event of no common interest, and from an early hour the inhabitants of the romantic and picturesque parish of Saddleworth were preparing to be present at the ceremony. The Prov. Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire was specially summoned to assist at the ceremonial, under the presidency of Bro Charles Lee, D. P. G. M. They assembled with hearty good will, and in goodly numbers, to do honour and respect to the virtue and masonic zeal of their beloved brother, J. H. Whitehead, Esq., one of the founders of the church. Immediately following the Freemasons, were the Oddfellows, Foresters, and Druids, all gathering in large numbers, and by their order, regularity, and respectable appearance, contributing much to the gaiety and splendour of the scene. At eleven o'clock, the procession was marshalled in a circle on the grounds at Southsides. The procession numbered 820 persons, exclusive of four bands of music, and the line extended to nearly a mile in length. Three times three hearty cheers were given, the bands struck up the masonic anthem, "When order in this land commenced," and the procession moved onward. On arriving at the site of the church, the procession opened out at the porch, to allow the bishop, archbishop, clergy, and the rest of the party to walk to their position at the foundation stone. The Freemasons filed off to the north door, and opening right and left, formed an avenue, and inverting the order of procession, entered upon the church ground. A prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. Green, who has been lately presented to the incumbency of the living. After this, the Bishop of Manchester laid the foundation stone in the usual form, using for the purpose a silver trowel presented to him by the founders, and bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to James Prince, first Bishop of Manchester, on occasion of his laying the foundation stone of Christ Church, Friezland, June 4, 1849." His lordship delivered a most solemn and impressive address to the people assembled, after which a hymn was sung.

According to ancient custom, the Freemasons then stood forth to perform their part of the ceremony. The second stone being properly prepared, the Rev. Dr. Senior, P. G. C., offered up an appropriate prayer. After the invocation of the divine blessing, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master directed the Prov. Junior and Senior Grand Wardens respectively to test the stone with the plumb and level, and the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, having tried it by the square, turned to the Lord Bishop of Manchester, and said—My Lord and Right Reverend Sir, I pronounce this stone to be properly laid, according to the rules of architecture, and although we may not be skilled in the masonic art like unto our brethren the operative masons, who were employed, and were, perhaps, first incorporated into a society, at the building of the temple at Jerusalem, by our Grand Master Solomon; yet, let it not be deemed a vain and idle ceremony that we have applied the plumb, the level, and the square to this stone, for every one of these implements conveys to the Mason's mind a moral lesson, and is a symbol which reminds him of his duties. The plumb teaches us to walk uprightly with one another, to deal justly and fairly with our neighbour, and to do unto all men as we would that they should do unto us. The level furnishes us with a lesson of humility, and teaches us not to think too highly of ourselves, but to bear ourselves with meekness and modesty, well knowing, that however high the dignity of our rank, or however superior may be our intellectual attainments, in the grave, whither we are all hastening, there we shall all be found on a level. The square is an emblem which bids us square our life, walk, and conversation by the unerring laws of God, and thus fit ourselves for that mansion in the heavens where the Great Architect of the Universe presides, whose all-seeing eye can behold no iniquity with approbation. Behold this stone, it was taken from the quarry in a rough and unshewn state; now mark its form and fair proportions, adjusted by the chisel of the skilful operative; here, then, also we draw a comparison. The stone from the quarry represents unto us man in his natural state, uncouth, uncultivated; but when the chisel of education is applied, the rough part becomes smooth, and man, by instruction, becomes fitted to take his place in society as a useful and honourable member. There (pointing towards them) are the schools, erected by these benevolent gentlemen, for the instruction of the children in the district; but, something else is needed—something else required. Religious instruction is wanted; and here—the stone is laid—here—the temple shall be raised to the glory of God—here shall man be prepared to fit him for a place in the temple, not built with hands, but eternal in the heavens; and here shall prayer, praise, and thanksgiving be offered up to Almighty God, and may He of his infinite mercy grant his blessing upon the founders, upon the people, and upon the undertaking." Then descending from the stone, and the mall being handed to him, he struck the stone three times, saying—"Thus—thus—thus, in the name of the Most High, I lay this stone of Christ's Church. O prosper thou our work; prosper this our handy work."

The Rev. Dr. Senior, P. G. C., then advanced with the cornucopia, and said—"This corn, the natural emblem of plenty, the masonic symbol of the Living Bread that came down from heaven, and of the body that was given for man to feed upon in his heart with thankfulness, I scatter in the humble hope that the Most High will bless the inhabitants of this district with abundance of corn, of oil, and wine—with all the necessaries, the conveniences, and comforts of life; and that the heavenly seed hereafter to be sown in Christ's Church, may spring up and bear fruit to the glory of God and the salvation of man." The Rev. R. Doughty, P. G. C., then poured the wine and oil, accompanying the same with beautifully apposite and masonic remarks. "Praise God from whom" was sung by the assembled multitude, and afterwards the bishop pronounced the blessing.

The different Orders repaired to their respective lodges to dine, and the bishops, donors, clergy, gentry, and the Freemasons, to partake of a superb luncheon that was provided in the schools erected by Messrs. Whitehead. The room was beautifully decorated for the occasion with flags, banners, the royal standard, and festoons of evergreens. The viands provided were of the choicest kind. Mr. R. H. Whitehead occupied the chair, and was supported on the right by the Bishop of Manchester, and on the left by the Rev. Dr. Rushton, Archdeacon of Manchester. The vice-chair was occupied by J. H. Whitehead, Esq., supported on the right by C. Lee, Esq., D. P. G. M., Rev. Dr. Senior, P. G. C., J. Peace, Esq., P. J. G. W., W. Dixon, Esq., P. G. R., &c. After the repast was concluded, the chairman gave "The Queen," and other loyal toasts, also the health of the Bishop of Manchester, welcoming his appearance among them. His lordship returned thanks in a speech of some length, and proposed the health of the founders of the church and schools, to which the chairman responded.

The Rev. J. Maxfield proposed "The Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough, P. G. M., Charles Lee, Esq., D. P. G. M., the Grand Officers and Brethren of the ancient and loyal Order of Freemasons of West Yorkshire," adding, amid the loud applause of the meeting, that he felt peculiar pleasure in proposing "the Freemasons," as he was so nearly allied to them, being an Odd Fellow, or rather *Hoß Fellow*, as the name ought to be—a fellow-labourer in the good work of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Bro. C. Lee, D. P. G. M., responded to this toast in a most able address, and concluded by saying—"Before I sit down, I have a pleasing duty to perform, and glad I am to observe that our assembly is graced and honoured by the presence of the ladies. For, ladies, what could we do without you? Poor and desolate indeed would be our condition without you; but your presence animates us anew, your smiles give fresh vigour to our hearts, and your encouraging countenance cheers us onward in our course through life. From whom do all our choicest pleasures flow?

Who binds us all to one another,
In silken bonds of sister, brother,
Of husband, children, father, mother,
But woman?

Then, gentlemen and brethren, with heart and soul, I propose 'The Ladies, God bless them.'

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TO OUR READERS.

Post tot naufragia portum.

Our next number will conclude a volume, and also the second series of the "Freemasons' Quarterly Review." Each of the previous series has been epochal in construction, and important in results.

We felt conscious that at the commencement of our undertaking we were too obviously in advance to secure the patronage of the many; not that we desire to arrogate in this expression any self-opinionated reliance on our own merits or acquirements, but that the great mass of Masons then required to become acquainted with the principles of truth: they had surrendered rights, and become too apathetic to recover them, unless some independent organ arose to act firmly and unceasingly in the cause. Some of these rights have been recovered, and a salient cohort of brethren, with pure honesty of purpose, have effected great improvement; it will be the duty of the future journalist to aid them, and deserve the approbation of the fraternity.

We have, it is true, drawn down upon ourselves the envy and malignant power of those whose actions "shun the light;" but we are abundantly recompensed by the good opinion of those who have minds that think and hearts that feel.

Arrangements are in progress, not merely for a third series, but inasmuch as we may refer to the *spolia opima* gained from intolerance and misgovernment in the glorious settlement of annuities for widows, mean as is the amount,—and the new system of reporting by the Grand Master, drivelling as it is,—it is hoped that the third series may send the plough still farther into the luxuriant soil, and raise up stores therefrom that will delight if not surprise the future age of Masonry. Among other great improvements, we shall endeavour to enlighten our readers by some of the grandest conceptions, which promise to give to much traditionary lore the undoubted evidence of incontestible proof.

The Earl of Durham attained his majority on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 1849; may he follow in the steps of his lamented sire!

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TO THE READERS
OF THE
FREEMASONS' QUARTERLY REVIEW.

WITH this number is concluded the present series of the FREEMASONS' QUARTERLY REVIEW. The next will commence a new era in masonic literature—is is very earnestly believed, one of improvement in every respect. Younger, and no doubt abler hands, will now essay to carry out the honest intentions of their predecessors. Both they who resign, and those who assume the editorial management of this indispensable organ of the Craft, do so in the most hopeful spirit of extending its utility and perpetuating its success. And have only, in this brief announcement, to add the expression of their desire, that the zealous and unswerving supporters of the FREEMASONS' QUARTERLY REVIEW will continue their confidence and increase their exertions in its behalf; and that if it has had any irreconcilable enemies, they will at least “let by-gones be by-gones.”

THE
FREEMASONS'
QUARTERLY REVIEW,
AND
GENERAL ASSURANCE ADVOCATE.

SECOND SERIES—MARCH 31, 1849.

“ I have ever felt it my duty to support and encourage its principles and practice, because it powerfully develops all social and benevolent affections; because it mitigates without, and annihilates within, the virulence of political and theological controversy—because it affords the only neutral ground on which all ranks and classes can meet in perfect equality, and associate without degradation or mortification, whether for purposes of moral instruction or social intercourse.”—*The EARL OF DURHAM on Freemasonry, 21st Jan. 1834.*

“ This obedience, which must be vigorously observed, does not prevent us, however, from investigating the inconvenience of laws, which at the time they were framed may have been political, prudent—nay, even necessary; but now, from a total change of circumstances and events, may have become unjust, oppressive, and equally useless. * * *

“ Justinian declares that he acts contrary to the law who, confining himself to the letter, acts contrary to the spirit and intent of it.”—*H. R. H. the DUKE OF SUSSEX, April 21, 1812, House of Lords.*

THE Earl of Zetland, on the 7th instant, was elected Grand Master for the ensuing year, *nem. con.*

The following announcement will no doubt be read with some interest, as heralding the too probable retirement of a brother, who for upwards of twenty years has held a prominent station in the masonic world. We do not venture to offer any comment.

“ *To the Masonic Craft.*

“ A most consistent Mason, who many years since was summoned from this earthly scene to the land of spirits, was wont to observe, that he never knew an instance of a man entering the Craft at forty who proved to be of any use to the Order. This opinion struck me as strange, having myself passed that very rubicon; perhaps that circumstance and Bro. Gilkes' experience tended not a little to interest me more anxiously than otherwise might have been the case. Certain, however, it is, that from the moment I offered my fealty on the altar of my mother lodge (the Burlington, then 152, now 113), I devoted myself first to the

endeavour to comprehend the art, science and mystery of Freemasonry, and next to promulgate, to the best of my power, what I considered ought to be made known, withholding nothing of importance that could tend to elevate my fellow-man in the scale of creation. Yet with the proud consciousness that there was much, very much, connected with the Order, that ought to be made known to the popular world—selfishness and Freemasonry are not synonymous.

“The late Rev. Sydney Smith has well observed (I do not remember his exact words) that he felt it to be doubtful whether he would advise his younger friends to follow the course he himself had taken; it might interfere with their private interest—their moral courage might fail before they had accomplished objects it had been his good fortune to effect. Yet for himself, were his time to come over again, he could not question but that he should precisely act again as he had done. How truthfully sincere was this kind-hearted man! I am very much of his opinion. In Freemasonry—my creed, not adopted, but examined, for its principles are far, very far, beyond all comprehension, magnificent, pure, and holy—have I found more peace and happiness than could have been hoped for; not but that in my course of attaining this partial knowledge, I have had to encounter much labour, prejudice and anxiety, but the toil has been abundantly rewarded, by the confidence and kindness of fellow-labourers in the vineyard, many of whom have been withdrawn from the busy haunts of men, and, it is hoped, now partake the glorious and happy secrets of eternity. Other labourers there are who have exceeded the climacteric, and probably contemplate the necessity of the course I am about to take—*retirement from public duty in Masonry.*

“The well-informed histrionic actor, if he has by industry earned a competence, is desirous to withdraw from the stage before he shall present to his admiring audience the mere wreck of his physical power, he would rather live in their memory as one who had contributed to their pleasure, than that he should remind them of the effect of nature over mind. Having been in his public zenith, he would respect his nadir in privacy. The actor is not wrong; there is both feeling and propriety in the lesson. I am desirous to retire as much as possible from public observation—leaving, as well I hope to do, the more lasting impression on the recollection of the masonic world, for whose interests I have laboured with zeal and industry during the best years of the life accorded to me by the great All-wise; and the simple epitaph I could wish to be inscribed on me, would be the undeniable fact, that for twenty years I have been a true, a faithful brother—never flinching from my duty—never exceeding the powers invested in me; and that my labour has not been in vain. Herein I betray no unmanly weakness. Thanks to

heaven! my head is not giddy, my hand is unpalsied, my foot is firm, and my heart yet steadily pulsates.

“Then why retire?—First, because I desire to prepare my papers, in hopes of bequeathing my legacy to the Craft; next, because there is a secret monitor that wills it—that monitor which no man ought to disregard. Yet, although I retire from public duty, I shall pray for the continuance of health while life is granted, that I may be at hand when needed, to offer that experience which younger brethren may seek.

“This is my preliminary adieu; my next may possibly touch gently on current subjects, and by the end of the year I shall hope to offer my valedictory thanks.

“ROBERT THOMAS CRUCEFIX.”

Grove, Gravesend, 29th March, 1849.

GRAND LODGE.

The last Quarterly Communication was characterised by three curious circumstances,—First came the admission that the Grand Secretary was to a certain extent answerable for the contents, or rather the omissions of the Grand Lodge official report, for when attention was called to the non-insertion of the library particulars, the Grand Master pointedly transferred the matter to the shoulders of the Grand Secretary. This is as it should be: of course the Grand Master cannot be accountable for the getting up of the Grand Lodge report, nor can he know the correctness of the report for which he alone is responsible, if he is not present at the debate which it pretends to report. The second was pointing out that at a previous meeting, a question of adjournment of the debate had been entertained. The *adjournment of the debate* involves a particularly dangerous precedent, the result of which can scarcely be foreseen. The third matter was the debate on “Major-general Cooke,” and on this we intend to offer a few remarks, because the subject has now been decided by the votes of the majority of those present, and is no longer either private or secret. The commencement of the Major-general’s masonic career here is, that he introduced himself to the St. Paul’s Lodge, which holds its meeting at the hotel where the Major-general was staying while visiting London, two years since. His rank and great liberality to the masonic charities, together with his courtesy and bearing, attracted the notice of visitors to the Lodge, and he was introduced to the Grand Master and his Lodge; his continued donations to charities, and position, obtained for him the friendship of several influential Masons, and on his own solicitation he was appointed Representative of the Grand Master at the Grand Lodge of New York, with the rank of Past Grand Warden, obtained for him, or given to him by the Grand Master; but it being reported

Grand Lodge.

that he had no right to the title of Major-general, he was deprived of the honour of being a representative, and the Grand Lodge was asked to deprive him of his rank in Freemasonry, to which it was replied, if he be not fit to hold the rank he has, he is not fit to associate with the members of the Craft, and should be expelled, which motion has been carried. We have thus stated the whole case without favour or affection, without comment or disguise. Here stands the argument, that he falsely stated he belonged to the United States' army, instead of which he is a low doctor, and not a Major-general, and that he gave money, which we will return to him.

That Bro. Cooke was a Major-general HE HAS PROVED ; that U.S.A. had not the signification it has been attempted, and which has been put to it, namely, United States Army, but means *United States of America*, is well known ; in what then consists his crime, that the extreme punishment of masonic law, or any other, namely, expulsion from a society to which he has been a liberal benefactor, should be passed upon him ; his crime it is insisted, is misrepresenting himself. We deny this ; he denies it, a very large number of Masons deny it, and it should if true, be placed beyond doubt ; but supposing it were true for the sake of argument, who has been imposed upon unjustly through his misrepresentation ? what brother has been ruined by it ? who has been cheated by it ? who has been defrauded by it ? what widow's mite or orphan's all, has he made himself master of ? what man has he paid less than twenty shillings in the pound by it ? what profit or advantage has it been to him ? what loss or injury has any one sustained by it ? Dr. Johnson writes thus to Dr. Dodd the day before Dodd's execution for forgery, " Be comforted, your crime, morally or religiously considered, has no very deep dye of turpitude, it corrupted no man's principles, it attacked no man's life, it involved only a temporary and repairable injury." Such we say of Bro. Cooke, had he been guilty ; but what would have been his punishment if it had been of the darkest colour ? are there no degrees of punishment to meet degrees of crime ? but then comes the query, if he is not fit for one grade of Masons, he is not fit for any ; this however, involves a question, " if he is not," but who has proved he is not ? could we not perhaps, if it were not invidious, point out purple-coloured aprons whose wearers may have been guilty of some misrepresentation in their days, but would any one wish to see them expelled ? would it be particularly fraternal or masonic to investigate their private affairs, their business or professional pursuits, in order to make a charge ? we think not : and we say decidedly that the Grand Lodge has shewn neither dignity, justice, nor brotherly love in the vote it has come to. Differing as we frequently have done, and as we very probably may do again, from our Grand Registrar, we are pleased to record our entire agreement with him, that

the punishment is disproportionately beyond the offence, if that of which Bro. Cooke has been accused had been proved; but we are bound to state that no prejudging was displayed when the Grand Registrar moved the first resolution six months since, nor has he given any influence to the ultimate decision. We do not by inference wish to blame our very talented Bro. R. G. Alston, but we cannot see that Major-general Cooke has added to his crime by sending his explanation; one thing we blame all our brethren for, that the subject was fully gone into in September, 1848; that again Major-general Cooke's case was discussed in December, 1848, but notice for him to appear and show cause, was only served upon him in January, 1849; this is manifestly unjust, to try a case twice without giving the accused a chance of attending or sending is, to say the least of it, not masonic.

Major General Cooke's letter will be found at page 45.

On the day of the Grand Lodge, but too late for taking advantage of the circumstance, letters were received from General Cooke, dated 18th February, 1849, wherein he expresses a desire that an error should be corrected relating to the University of Ripley, and observes as follows:—
 "It is stated that the University does not exist, whereas I hold the manifesto and all public documents belonging to the College, and certainly I ought to know somewhat about its destinies. As regards titles, fees of honour, &c., I never accepted of a nominal election or appointment of any character, unless satisfied the same was legal and duly conferred. My appointment as Chancellor, with college honours, was conferred by ballot, and issued from the several departments with the signatures of the President, Trustees, and other officers, and I regret that I cannot at the present crisis personally attest written proof of what I affirm; there is much cruelty in the Grand Lodge, more than oppression." Having inadvertently misapprehended the General's connection with the Chancellorship, we feel in honour bound to give insertion to this quotation from his correspondence.

We conclude for the present, with a most apposite quotation from the "Times" of 30th December, 1841.

"The recent trial has certainly exhibited, in the strongest light, the absence of all these scruples of human justice, and those precautions of the law destined to act as checks to its own severity, which experience and a happier state of society have taught our judges, and infused into our legislation."

THE PORTRAIT GALLERY.—No. 1.

THE EARL OF ZETLAND, M. W. GRAND MASTER.

“ ——— Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.”

OF man it has been truly said that he is the creature of circumstances. In most cases, genius and merit do not shape our destiny, for if they did, assuredly the Earl of Zetland would not now be seated on the masonic throne: his elevation must be ascribed to accident.

Comparisons are always invidious, often odious; but in giving a graphic sketch of the present Grand Master, it—to a certain extent—necessarily involves a comparison with the past.

When the mantle of Elijah was cast on our Elisha, the masonic world felt a lively solicitude to learn how the loss of the late Grand Master was to be repaired. Charity—the distinguishing virtue of the Order—was invoked on behalf of his successor: the invocation was not made in vain; but of that successor truth compels us to say—“he has been weighed in the balance, and found wanting.”

The Earl of Zetland, as a Mason, can prefer no claim to originality of idea, profundity of thought, or depth of mystical knowledge. With a mind of limited grasp, he is in no respect qualified to explore the hidden mysteries of nature and of science. The privilege of power cannot mask the infirmity of mind, nor compound for the absence of elevated sentiment. To rescue weakness from contempt were often an useless task, but more difficult is it to invalidate the egotism of conceit and the obliquity of self-esteem.

To the Duke of Sussex the Craft generally, yielded a cheerful obedience and a full confidence; not so much from the prestige of his position and exalted rank, as from his known deep devotion to the objects of Masonry, and his intimate acquaintance with the merits of brethren distinguished by zeal and talent. Although it may not be denied that the Duke was altogether exempt from the infirmities which beset all men in power, yet he so qualified their blighting influence as in a great

measure to judge for himself—to form his own opinions—to weigh the policy of arguments, and then to decide.

Not so with Lord Zetland. He avows his inability to devote his time to a constant supervision of the affairs of Masonry: he delegates much of his power to a clique, and is therefore necessarily unacquainted with the personal merits of many active, intelligent, and able members of the Craft. His mental vision—at no time the brightest,—is mystified by seeing men and things through the optics of others—of those minions who are constantly occupied in pouring the “leprous distilment” into the credulous ears of their noble victim,—thus the mind’s distinguishing perfection merely reflects the jaundiced views and prejudices of the power behind the throne,—made greater than the throne itself. To the Craft at large this is exceedingly revolting: it is the irresponsible tyranny of the few, outraging the feelings of the many.

When Dr. Watson, the late Bishop of Llandaff, was suspected of republican tendencies, George the Third—with a *brusquerie* of manner and petulance of diction so usual with him—rebuked the prelate for his want of political orthodoxy. “No Sire,” replied the Bishop with trenchant irony,—“believe me, I would rather live under the oppression of one man, than the tyranny of a hundred.” So it may be said of the present masonic dispensation,—we would rather endure the domination of one known to us, than the irresponsible tyranny of the mysterious Trinity,—the “*holy Vehm*,” who meet us at all points of our progress.

The Earl of Zetland is of the middle stature, about fifty-five years of age, and possesses a prepossessing and benevolent countenance. His manner on the masonic throne is unimpressive and undignified, and if betrayed into a fitful display of feeling, his attitude is neither marked by graceful action, nor his expressions by any loftiness of sentiment. His speeches (if truth dare dignify them with that epithet) are illogical and common-place: there is a meanness of verbiage and an emasculated phraseology, utterly inconsistent with the station occupied by the Grand Master. The painful prolixity of his “speeches”—embodying a mass of nothingness spun out by iterations and reiterations—may fairly earn for them the criticism of,—*Nullâ virtute redemptum a vitiiis*.

The merit of a portrait consists in the exactness of its likeness—its fidelity to the original. Painful as it may be to the artist to “hold the mirror up to nature” with its inherent defects, yet it is more painful to delineate objects by a false colouring: a homage to truth admits of no compromise,—a subserviency to interest may invest deformity with beauty.

The qualities essential to an effective display of the office of Grand

Master are comprehended in dignity and suavity of manner, firmness of principle, a lofty patience, and strict impartiality of judgment. The manner of the Grand Master should be such as to encourage the zealous and deserving, to patronize merit, and to hear and judge for himself. We have expressed our opinion that Lord Zetland possesses few if any of these qualities as Grand Master: it is for the unbiassed and disinterested members of the fraternity (who have had opportunities of judging) to pronounce whether this be a truthful picture or otherwise.

Although our sketch is essentially masonic, we will not preclude ourselves from a glance at the Earl of Zetland in his general character. As a Peer of the Realm, we believe him to be imbued with those opinions and sentiments best calculated to promote public liberty and advance the happiness of the human race. We also believe that in all the relations of domestic life, his lordship is no less distinguished for his practical benevolence than by his exalted virtues. It may be asked,—Can a nobleman so gifted be a *bad* Mason? We answer No. There is however, a marked distinction between weakness and vice, credulity and audacity, prejudice and persecution. But those who aspire to greatness, must pay the penalty of greatness. Amongst free institutions it is a debt none can hope to avoid: public acts become public property, and no one should assume a responsibility unless he be entitled to maintain it.

We now give the finishing touch to our portrait, by shadowing in the perspective, *Hope* waiting on *Expectation* for the accomplishment of much that is desirably wanting in the masonic picture of the Most Worshipful Grand Master—the Earl of Zetland.

ITHURIEL.

The Proof-corrector on reading this Sketch.

Too true this sketch—to what a pass
 Is Masonry I fear a-running;
 Ours was a “Craft,” but now alas!
 For “Craft” you must read *cunning*.

E. R. M.

No. 1. G. M. L.

THE BOOK OF THE LODGE.*

In this age of hand-books, where every tyro is furnished with an opportunity of storing his mind with the elements of wisdom in any art or science to which his taste may aspire, we have often wondered that Freemasonry, rife as it is in ceremonial observances, should not have its *Book of Reference*, as a guide to the fraternity in the performance of those public rites and ordinances which so frequently occur in the course of every brother's masonic life.

These kind of publications, on account of their extreme utility and extensive application, have become so common in our days, that every school-boy can tell us of the essential service he has derived from a perusal of their diversified contents; not merely because he has thus easily acquired a smattering of science, but because he has been inspired with a desire to improve the studies which these elementary books have implanted in his mind; and has increased his stock of general knowledge by pursuing the course which they have been the means of pointing out.

The first hand-book, or guide to the knowledge of an individual science that we have met with, is political and democratic, and strange to say, was written by a Jesuit. It is entitled *De Institutione Regis*; describes the inalienable rights of a people, and asserts that kings are nothing more than presidents of the National Assembly, and ought to be directed in everything by the popular voice. Whether we agree with these doctrines or not, has nothing to do with our present purpose; but we know that it is easier to invent systems of government than to carry them into execution; as witness the efforts of our volatile neighbours to establish a republic, where every man's theory differs as to the best mode of framing it on such principles as to promote the permanent happiness of the people. Every one of the Grecian states differed in its opinions on legislation; but the speculations of Aristotle, to which the protuberance of his nose—*immodicum surgit pro cuspidate rostrum*—gives the weight of authority, are so well known that we shall not add another word on a subject which will be of little interest to our readers.

Hand-books of science came into vogue about the beginning of the present century; although the idea was by no means a novel one, for the catechisms of the Church of England and the assembly, are to all intents and purposes, hand-books of religion. At first they were received with caution; but they soon succeeded in occupying their merited place in the elementary literature of the day. Indeed, their pretensions are so modest, and their real usefulness so evident, that their claims to public attention are now candidly admitted and universally allowed. And like the history of Don Quixote at its original appearance, "Children thumb them, boys read them, men understand them, and old folks commend them. They are tossed about; conned, and thoroughly known by all sorts of people. When one lays down a hand-book, another takes it up; one asks for it, another snatches it." A slight spark is sufficient to fire the train; and we are never better pleased than when we hear our young friends maintaining a continuous argument in any of the sciences, although we have a shrewd suspicion that their knowledge extends no farther than what has been gathered from a hand-book.

* "The Book of the Lodge, or Officers' Manual," by the Rev. G. Oliver, D. D. London, R. Spencer, Uppingham, C.; W. Oliver.

And it is amazing what brilliant scintillations of genius have been frequently derived from one of these unpretending miscellanies.

We will not presume to affirm that the BOOK OF THE LODGE contains the whole essence of Freemasonry; but we may safely say that it embraces every rite and ceremony of ordinary occurrence, and adduces a series of orthodox rules which are applicable to them all. The author says, in his Introductory Address, that "it is not to be doubted but a manual, embracing legitimate information on all cases which can possibly arise, will be peculiarly acceptable to the W. Masters and Officers of a lodge in particular, and to every brother who is desirous of becoming well versed in the usages and customs of Masonry in primitive times. On this plan the present little volume has been constructed. The information which it contains has been carefully arranged by a comparison of the rites practised by our ancient brethren, with those which are enjoined by the United Grand Lodge of England; and it appears extremely probable that the fraternity would gladly adopt an uniformity of practice on points where they have hitherto been at a loss to determine whether ceremonies of constant recurrence are, or are not, in accordance with ancient usage. In this enquiry the customs of foreign lodges have not been overlooked; and it is hoped that this little volume will constitute an unerring book of reference which cannot fail to be of incalculable service to the fraternity."

We perfectly coincide with the Rev. Doctor, that his book is likely to become a text-book to the fraternity; for its practical utility cannot be denied. The "Craftsman," and "Trestle Board," which are the hand-books of the United States, do not compete with it; for they are principally applied to the working of Masonry in the lodge, and very little is said about ceremonies. There is not a single class of brethren, amongst those who are ever so slightly disposed to consider the science worth cultivating, who will not find a fund of entertainment and instruction in one or other of its divisions. The subjects have been judiciously chosen and scientifically discussed; and the directions are so clearly given, that any brother of ordinary intelligence, will find no difficulty in understanding them.

The profane world entertain a variety of conflicting opinions on the pursuits of Freemasonry. We recollect, in the palmy days of Jack Bannister, a popular comic song, entitled "What's an old bachelor like?" And the reply was—

"Like a knife without a fork;
Like a bottle without a cork;
Like a pump without a handle;
Like a stick without a candle;"
 &c. &c. &c.

With fifty other *outré* comparisons. Equally various are the conjectures the question, "What is Freemasonry?" Some, who are willing to think kindly of us, suppose it to be a society whose chief design is the practice of benevolence, as manifested in our numerous charitable institutions. But if this were all, a common sick-club, or friendly society, would answer the same purpose, without any affectation of secrecy. Others, who are not quite so favourably disposed, would limit our intentions to the periodical enjoyment of conviviality and social intercourse. While those who are avowedly hostile to our proceedings, accuse us of a fondness for show and decoration; of frivolity and childish amusements; of gormandizing and drunkenness; and of occult practices

which are unbecoming of our profession as christians ; giving us credit for being as perfect in our nomenclature as the squire of Hudibras, who

—————"Anthroposophus and Floud,
And Jacob Behmen understood;
Knew many an amulet and charm,
That would do neither good nor harm;
In Rosicrucian lore as learned,
As he that *vere adeptus* earned."

Heaven help the impenetrable blockheads ! they would have us to be what they *wish*, rather than what we *are*. Even some of our own brethren, who have not entered deeply into the intricacies of masonic lore, but rest satisfied with a knowledge of the external trappings of the Order,—like a boon companion in an ancient corporation that we wot of, before the municipal reform came into operation, on being elected a common-councilman, declared that he had attained the height of his ambition in the privilege of enjoying the civic dinners scot-free—these, we repeat, entertain unworthy ideas of an institution which they are either too proud or too ignorant to comprehend ; thinking, bless their simple souls ! that *opera pretium non est*. It will be unnecessary to consult the oracle, as Panurge (the Bishop of Valence,) is represented to have done at the recommendation of Friar John of the Funnels, who was the Rabelaic personation of the Cardinal Castillon, to be assured that the result will be a helpless and deplorable ignorance of the very first principles of the Order. As witness, *the purple brother*, who seriously enquired of a friend what was meant by a landmark ; a piece of information which he thought peradventure he might, at some time or other, be called on officially to explain. These wavering brothers resemble the recreant Pliable, described by honest John Bunyan, who says, "Now I saw in my dream, that by this time Pliable was got home to his house. So his neighbours came to visit him ; and some of them called him wise man for coming back, and some of them called him fool for hazarding himself with Christian ; others again did mock at his cowardliness, saying, surely since you began to venture, I would not have been so base to have given out for a few difficulties. So Pliable sat sneaking among them."

The "Book of the Lodge" sets all this right, and neither the fraternity nor the uninitiated need be at any further loss on the subject of Freemasonry. If its design be not entirely incomprehensible, the author's ten definitions, which have been selected with great care from authentic sources in different eras of the art, will explain it to the satisfaction of the most obdurate cowan ; and after this revelation, if any one should be so obtuse in intellect, or vicious in intention, as to assign improper motives to the fraternity, he must, like Sir Mungo Malagrowth, be afflicted with a convenient insensibility to the truth.

Having disposed satisfactorily of the question, "What is Masonry ?" our author proceeds to a description of the Lodge ; its situation, ground, ornaments, furniture, jewels, fixed lights, &c. &c., which some of our brethren, even if they have attained official eminence, might study with profit and pleasure. The fraternity will readily understand the reasoning and descriptions in this chapter, while to the cowan, it will appear like an unknown tongue ; although when he reads it, he may plume himself upon his knowledge, and exclaim with the tinker in the play—

—————"Am I a lord?
Or do I dream? or have I dream'd till now?
I do not sleep; I see, I hear, I speak,
I smell sweet savours, and I feel soft things.
Upon my life, I am a lord indeed,
And not a tinker, nor Christopher's Sty."

But alas, after all his boasting, what can *he* know about the application of the sacred numbers to the perfection of a lodge? Or about the regularity of its proceedings? Or the microcosm? Or its adaptation to the cardinal points of the compass? Or of the three great pillars by which it is supported? What can he know about the Mosaic pavement, or the tessellated border, or the blazing star in the centre—the crown, the altar, or the fixed lights? All these things are beyond his comprehension; and therefore he considers Freemasonry as a peg to hang his spleen upon, when he possesses no means of discharging it, as the prudent stoker lets off the superfluous steam from the bowels of his locomotive. Father Prout once said, “The precincts of Parnassus,” which we will convert into a Masons’ lodge for the nonce, “form a city of refuge, where political and religious differences can have no access, where the angry passions subside, and the wicked cease from troubling. Wherefore, to the devil, its inventor, I bequeath the Gunpowder Plot; and I shall not attempt to rake up the bones of Guy Faux, or disturb the ashes of Doctor Titus;—not that Titus, the delight of the human race, who considered a day as lost when not signalized by some benefaction;—but Titus Oates, who could not sleep quiet on his pillow at night unless he had hanged a Jesuit in the morning.”

A Mason’s lodge is a place of intellectual enjoyment. When we assemble there, all worldly thoughts and cares are banished—we feel ourselves in the presence of so many attached friends, who will speak as well of us in our absence as in our presence; will defend us in all hostile attacks; will aid us with their disinterested advice; and if more substantial assistance be needed, it is seldom withheld. It is a glimpse of the *rest* which is promised in a better world, uninterrupted by the selfish feelings or discordant tastes and propensities which constitute a source of such pain and disquietude in this.

To promote this genial design, however, something more is necessary than the mere assembling together of a select party of friends in a room bounded by four brick walls. In fact, it is not absolutely indispensable that a lodge should be held in a room at all. The expedient has been adopted in Europe it is true, but it was only on account of the superior degree of comfort and convenience which is thereby secured in such an uncongenial climate as prevails in these northern latitudes. Within the tropics, a lodge may legitimately meet and transact its business in the open air, on the highest of hills or in the lowest of valleys, provided the requisite ceremonies be strictly observed. A Christian church cannot legally be devoted to the purposes of divine worship till it has been ritually dedicated and consecrated—so neither can the floor of a lodge be used for masonic purposes but by similar observances; which are accordingly described in the Book of Constitutions as of indispensable obligation.

We make use of ceremonies for the inculcation of moral truths—the cowan regards them as frivolous amusements. We esteem them as the depositories of all that is noble and good in the communication between the Architect of the Universe and his creatures. The creation of the world was accomplished amidst a profusion of significant ceremonies. And in what manner was the universal deluge produced? By what means were the Israelites delivered from their Egyptian bondage? How were the moral and ceremonial law delivered? How were the numerous communications between God and his favoured people effected in the wilderness; and by what means were they ultimately introduced into the promised land? Why, by the use of a series of rites and ceremonies

which were intended to produce a marked effect on all succeeding generations. The offerings under the Jewish law were regulated by the same means; and a thousand instances of their use might be brought to bear on the question, for the purpose of showing that they are in strict accordance with the divine institutions.

This principle being therefore established, Dr. Oliver goes much into detail on the subjects of building, dedication, and consecration of masonic lodges, and gives particular directions for the performance of all these ceremonies. He appears to be favourable to masonic processions, and enlarges on the observances which are appropriate to the deposition of the footstone of a lodge; adducing, in proof of his propositions, many curious ceremonies which are used in the different countries of Europe to give effect to these public proceedings. The symbolical decorations of a lodge appear to be of greater importance than is usually considered by the fraternity. "Great discrimination is required to accomplish this point correctly and with proper effect; and very frequently the imposing appearance which a lodge ought to present to the eye, is lost for want of due attention to these preliminary arrangements. The expert Mason will be convinced that the walls of a lodge room ought neither to be absolutely naked nor too much decorated. A chaste disposal of symbolical ornaments in the right places, and according to propriety, relieves the dulness and vacuity of a blank space; and, though but sparingly used, will produce a striking impression, and contribute to the general beauty and solemnity of the scene. The embellishment of the interior of a lodge room is indeed of vast importance; although I am afraid very little attention is usually paid to it; and nothing but a fine and discriminating taste can do it ample justice. Nor is it necessary to incur heavy expenses in the details; for it is the design, and not the value of the materials, that produces the effect." (Page 71).

What will the cowan say to this? He who would discard everything but dry matter of fact from all earthly proceedings;—he who considers symbolism to be supremely ridiculous, and perhaps illustrates his argument by a quotation from the "*Sartor Resartus*," (book iii. c. 9,) where a great master tailor (Moses or Doudney for instance) thus harangues one of his customers, while taking his measure for a suit of clothes. "Art thou not aware that all symbols are properly clothes; that all forms whereby spirit manifests itself to sense, whether outwardly or in the imagination, are clothes? And thus, not only the parchment of *Magna Charta*, which a tailor was nigh cutting into measures, but the pomp and authority of law, the sacredness of majesty, and all inferior worships, are properly a vesture and raiment; and the thirty-nine Articles themselves are articles of wearing apparel (for the religious idea.) In which case must it not also be admitted that this science of clothes is a high one, and may with infinitely deeper study, yield richer fruit; for it takes scientific rank beside codification, and political economy, and the theory of the British constitution?"

Is not this a fine-drawn argument to turn symbolism into contempt? We rather prefer the judicious observations of our Reverend Author, who describes the symbolical articles which are necessary to the perfection of a lodge room; and which we think if disposed according to his directions would contribute to the brilliancy of its appearance. The ceremonies of consecration and dedication are minutely detailed, but we have not space to do them justice, and must therefore refer the curious brother to the work itself; assuring him that he will not find his labour

lost in its perusal. The remainder of the book is devoted to labour and refreshment, and the duties of the three chief officers of the lodge, which are no every day performances. Talk of water gruel, or the teetotaller's pure element! These will never stimulate the officers of a lodge to the due performance of their arduous undertaking! Stamina, both moral and physical, must be called into requisition. O Jupiter! It would be worth a Jew's eye to see a Master of a lodge drivelling away upon such thin potations, and boasting at the end of his official year—

“Jamque opus exegi, quod nec Jovis ira, nec ignis,
Nec poterit ferrum, nec edax abolere vestustas.”

As the vision of Sir Walter Scott said to Dr. Dryasdust, “I want no scandal broth, no undeae'd woman's chatter. Fill the frothed tankard—slice the fatted rump—I desire no society but yours, and no refreshment but what the cask and the gridiron can supply. I must eat and drink as an Englishman, to qualify myself for taking my place at one of the most select companies of right English spirits, which ever gurgled in, and hewed asunder, a mountainous sirloin and a generous plum pudding.” And yet a female *Master* would be more vigorous, and suit our fancy better than a squeamish milksoy! Give us rather the Jolly Nose who

“—— all down his surplice gown,
When he was an Oxford scholar!”

Things look better at Radley's! There we have energy, fire, genius! The officers are up to the mark, and the brethren a pattern to the fraternity.

The actual duties of the Wardens are not much less onerous than those of the Master, though not perhaps burdened with an equal responsibility. But *juncta juvant*, if they act together, and afford every necessary assistance to the W. M. in the due execution of his office, the lodge will prosper; if not, “confusion worse confounded” will be the certain result. They are bound to keep the secrets of the W. M. as strictly as the fairies, who—

“A tell tale in their company
They never could endure;
And whoso kept not secretly
Their mirth, was punished sure;
It was a just and Christian deed
To pinch such black and blue;
O how the common weath doth need
Such justices as you.”

The lectures on the Tracing Boards are usually popular amongst the brethren, if delivered by the W. M. in a pleasing and graceful manner. And when Bro. Harris published his new arrangement of these necessary appendages to a lodge, which is a decided improvement on all former compositions of the same nature, several Masters objected to their introduction, because they destroyed the uniformity of the customary lecture. If there be any soundness in this reason, which we always doubted, it is fully obviated in the “Book of the Lodge.” Chapters 10 and 11 are devoted to a consideration of these new Tracing Boards; and they contain not merely a few hints on this comprehensive and most useful subject, but a series of continuous observations which would form of themselves an excellent lecture on the floor cloth of each degree.

When Doctors in Divinity sit quietly down to write Hand Books, it is perfectly clear that their object is utility and not fame. In fact a literary reputation would rather be lowered than advanced by such a course; *currente rota, cur urceus exit*. The author of the "Book of the Lodge" has therefore a double claim on the gratitude of the fraternity for devoting his time to a subject of such extensive usefulness, in which their benefit has alone been consulted. The author has not touched on the ordinary lodge lectures, for obvious reasons; and although some will perhaps feel disappointed at what they may conceive to be an omission, the judicious brother will see that it was utterly impossible for the historian of Masonry to sacrifice his well-earned reputation, by treading in the footsteps of Finch, Carlile, and other empirics, who have foisted on the public, fictitious rituals, and unauthorised ceremonies, as the genuine lectures of Masonry. The memory of these men is unhonoured, and their very names stink in the nostrils of the fraternity. If our venerable author had copied their example, it would have been a woful falling off, and grievous to all his friends and admirers. He would have placed himself in a worse situation than "the dog which returns to his vomit again, or the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." As Aristotle told Alexander the Great, that there is no royal road to the sciences—which can only be attained by close study and sedulous application;—so we tell every anxious brother that there is no short cut to the lectures of Masonry, and he who would acquire them must attend his lodge regularly, and learn them from oral communication.

The "Book of the Lodge" is exceedingly well executed, and the explanations go quite as far as are consistent with the author's solemn obligations. It behoves every Master and Warden of a lodge, at the least, who wishes to attain a perfect acquaintance with the ordinary ceremonies of the Order, to avail himself of the assistance of this little manual; and we predict that there are few brethren of the craft whose previous knowledge will not be augmented by its perusal.

There is throughout the "Book of the Lodge" the freshness that pervades all Dr. Oliver's works; with him the experience of age fastens or cements itself with the past as if it were the present, and, but that time will reckon with memory, the masonic tyro would scarcely know that our historian had reached the full tide—so vigorous, so powerful, and so ardent are his writings. What a blessing for himself and for his readers! How he must rejoice in the conviction that he has created, embellished, and sustained our Order, and that, in the womb of time, there will be nascent intelligences owing their developement to his wondrous conception of thoughtful enquiry into the pure system of Freemasonry.

We learn that a crowning labour has been commenced by the masonic historian, "the Symbol of Glory," a prospectus of which is in type. The work is intended to form the cape stone of Dr. Oliver's inestimable publications.

FREEMASONRY IN TURKEY, PERSIA, AND JAPAN.*

From the date that our ancient and honourable society was instituted until its present arranged form in 1717, and from thence to the time we are writing, brotherly love has been the foundation upon which the superstructure has been erected, although a portion of the lodges in our Fatherland, and in Sweden, have sought to establish the correctness of the sentence—"that Freemasonry is a Christian society"—"a Christian Order."

That indefatigable and fundamental investigator, Brother G. Kloss, in his recently published work "*Freemasonry in its true meaning,*" &c., from authentic and indisputable records, has proved beyond all contradiction, that such assertions are errors; and we recal that subject only inasmuch as the intelligence that has reached us from non-Christian countries shews that Freemasonry has been implanted, grown, and flourished there; affording additional proofs, if such were desired, that it is not necessary that the members of our fraternity must be of a particular faith, which would have the effect of limiting the great and important character of our first laws, and prevent the spread of universal charity over the inhabited globe. We condense our preliminary observations to these few words as we do not intend to enter into a controversy upon the subject, and will give the fragment of Freemasonry in Turkey, &c., as it has reached us.

Shortly after the battle of Schumla, in the year 1829, when the Russians crossed the Balkan, under Diebitsch Sabalkansky, a paragraph appeared in a German newspaper stating that the Russian officers had discovered some appearances of Freemasonry among the Moslems in Adrianople; nothing more was said, and few believed the extraordinary intelligence. A few years since one of our college friends, after leaving the university, settled as a medical practitioner at Jassy, having become a Freemason previously to his departure. He informed us that Masonry certainly existed in Turkey, in proof of which he related as follows:—During the first year of his residence at Jassy, in 1827, he frequently saw a dirty Dervish begging at the corner of a street, who was very liberally relieved; the alms he received were deposited in a bag carried for the purpose, and, as our friend learnt, were distributed fairly and conscientiously by this Turkish monk among the poor of the town, without reserving any portion for himself, although his dress and appearance betokened the greatest poverty, misery, and distress. Our friend being one day summoned to attend the highest Turkish official in the city, for a disease of the eyes, was not a little astonished to find in the apartment of this dignitary, and distant from him only a few paces, the begging Dervish. The Regent of Moldavia, and the loathsome Dervish were sitting on the same ottoman, a very few feet apart, separated only by a small table, evidently confidentially known to each other. On our friend entering, the Dervish at once saluted him as a Mason; the correctness and distinctness of the signs were so apparent that he acknowledged and replied to them. When the professional part of the visit had ended, the questions and replies of which had been conducted through an interpreter, the begging Dervish joined in the conversation, and requested the interpreter to say that he was acquainted with our friend, and if he

* Translated from *Latonia*, No. 20, expressly for the *F. Q. R.*

ever visited Constantinople he should call at the Turkish monastery near the Sophia Mosque, where he would find several other acquaintances.

As our friend at that time did not speak the Turkish language, and the other persons present were not Masons, the conversation was obliged to be discontinued; our friend, thanking his informant, determined in his own mind to follow up the enquiry, but was not successful in finding a Freemason to act as interpreter. He ascertained that the Dervish shortly afterwards left Jassy, and our friend had no opportunity of gaining any information, although he subsequently visited Constantinople and the greater part of the Turkish dominions, in the suit of a countess whose physician he became. The altered position of Moldavia compelled the governor to leave, and we have forgotten his title. The annexation of the province to Russia has, no doubt, put an end to all display of Freemasonry, its lodges being strictly prohibited from meeting by the emperor. The accounts of the monastery before mentioned, shew that it is one of the most celebrated, and situated as described; the monks belong to the order called *Maulwis* (Tournours), a portion of their religious ceremony being rapid turning of the whole body in one spot, sometimes for a very long period, at others, only several minutes, to the sound of a pipe. The name by which the monastery is known is *Sirkedschi-Teckar* (the Vinegar Merchants').

The foregoing would scarcely have been worth remembering, and certainly not worth making public, although our informant is an authority of undoubted veracity, if the masonic public were not interested in a letter received by us from a Hungarian brother, dated the 6th of August this year, confirming the information of Freemasonry existing in Turkey, and that a lodge is actually at work in Belgrade; the details of this are so peculiar and authenticated, that we give the extract in full.

"A few days since, Bro. Schultze, a member of the Lodge Baldwin, at Leipsic, paid me a visit, passing through here on his return from Belgrade, where a brother of his resides, and who introduced him into a Turkish Freemason's lodge, in which he is the *only Christian* member. The Master of the lodge, which consists of fifty members, has also the honour to be 'Grand Master for European Turkey.' The ceremonies, signs, tokens, words, &c., are the same as our own; and the Turkish Masons seem far advanced in what we should term civilisation.

"Their religious ideas seem to be considerably extended; they do not practise polygamy, each of the members has but one wife, and at the banquet of which Bro. Schultze partook, the ladies appeared unveiled; wine was served during the repast—they have carpets to walk upon, and use the steps like ourselves. These Masons are in direct communication with those of Persia, the number of whom exceeds fifty thousand. Brother Schultze was made an honorary member of the Belgrade Lodge, and was requested to present to the Master of the lodge of which he is a subscribing member, W. Bro. Gretschele, a certificate of honorary membership, and a communication in the Arabic language from the Grand Master, Bro. Ismael, which no doubt Bro. Gretschele will make public.* I intend writing this day to the corresponding secretary of the lodge at Belgrade, to solicit information respecting a few of the particulars of their fraternity and organisation, which when received shall be forwarded to you. In this way it appears possible to obtain a knowledge

* In our next number.

of our brethren, not only in Turkey but in Persia, as we can put ourselves in correspondence direct with the Grand Master of the craft in Turkey."

In another part of the letter it is stated that G. M. Ismael is much pleased at the thought of shortly seeing the consecration of one of our lodges, to which he expects to be invited, and which invitation he will accept, although several days' journey distant, he being very desirous to become better and nearer acquainted with Christian Freemasons, and wishes to have personal intercourse with them.

About twenty years since we remember a distinguished Mahomedan brother visiting the Lodge Einigkeit, in Frankfort on the Maine, although it happened that he was not present at any work; he was introduced to several of the brethren, attended the masonic club, and the ceremonies were explained to him. Many of the senior members of the lodges at Frankfort will recollect him; his name, if we remember correctly, was Ismael Gibraltar; he was conspicuously engaged at the time of Napoleon's invasion, and was, at the period to which we have alluded, employed by the Viceroy of Egypt to purchase metal in Sweden for casting cannon.

The present professor at Leyden, Bro. F. Von Sybold, who had made a long stay at Japan, whither he had gone as medical attendant to the Dutch embassy, but remained several years after its return, for the purpose of measuring the country and investigation, addressed the Lodge Socrates in Frankfort upon the subject of lodges in Japan, and among other matters mentioned, that at initiations the candidate's eyes were released from a bandage in front of a looking glass, amid the cry of "know yourself."

When we compare these different reports we must come to the conclusion that Freemasonry not only exists in the East, but is spread over a large portion of Persia, Japan, Egypt, and European Turkey, and that a very considerable number of our brethren have seen the light who are not professing Christians.

* * * * *

[The translator hastens over the writer's arguments, as not being immediately connected with the subject of enquiry, but admits the correctness of his doctrines, and soundness of the position he takes to prove Freemasonry universal, not confined to any religious sect or particular purpose. Any one wishing to read the article will find it at pages 258-9, in the tenth volume of the *Latomia*. The writer then proceeds]—

A question forces itself upon our attention—how did Freemasonry come to the East? Did it commence, and was it cultivated there, as are shewn in the words, "where the sun rises," or was it transplanted from Europe, or still more, was it sought and found in the East but nourished in the West, and returned to them enriched and honoured by European experience? A slight clue may be found in the masonic histories of France and England; the latter allowed lodges to be established, and granted warrants for the purpose, in various eastern cities, during the former century; while in the early part of this we have the publication of, "Verbal de la Reception dans l'Ordre du Fr. Askery Khan, oncle de l'Empereur regent en Perse, son Ambassadeur près de la cour de France; Paris 1809," a notification that his Excellency the Persian Ambassador at the court of Napoleon, became a Freemason on the 24th of September, 1808, in "la Loge du Contrat Social et de St.

Alexandre," in Paris. He likewise undertook to forward the interest of Freemasonry in Persia, and to found as many lodges therein as possible; he received powers for the purpose of doing so, after repeated applications, and in the following year he requested to have sent to him masonic emblems, and books, which request was complied with; among other works sent to him was a new one by the late Bro. Desetury, which requires especial notice; its title was "*le Veritable Lieu de Peuples, ou la Franc Maçonnerie rendue à ses Vrais Principes,*" and the motto—"build temples, and spread the knowledge of Freemasonry," with you will effect more real good than all the makers of laws and legislatures, put together.

We fear we have already tired the patience of our readers enough, and shall postpone to some future opportunity the more important continuation of this subject, and perhaps may give the instructions forwarded to Bro. Askery Khan, in the above work, for founding lodges in Persia, and on initiations, and shew that it is one of the roads Freemasonry has taken to assimilate all men in the understanding of our Order, and that it is based on knowledge and brotherly love, to endure for all time. But to give an idea of the spirit in which the above instructions were issued, we make a short extract of a calculation and result, which are given in the shape of questions and answers in the original.

"How many inhabitants has the earth? About a milliard, and may be apportioned for Europe 170,000,000; Asia and New Holland, 550,000,000; Africa, 130,000,000; America, 150,000,000; total 1,000,000,000. What are these milliard of people doing? What do they think of? What is their destiny? What is the state of their enlightenment or ignorance? What of their fortunes or misfortunes?—One portion are Jews, and number about 9,000,000; another Christians, and number 170,000,000; another again is Mahomedan, 155,000,000; a fourth division is neither Mahomedan, Christian, nor Jew, but consists of Chinese, Indians, New Hollanders, and others, 666,000,000; total 1,000,000,000.

"We find here 845,000,000 men* who are not Mahomedans, yet they are men*—830,000,000 are not Christians but not the less men*—991,000,000 are not Jews but they are men*—666,000,000 are found to be neither Mahomedans, Christians, nor Jews, but men nevertheless. Thus 1,000,000,000 of people are divided by their different beliefs; the Christians, Jews, and Mahomedans despise, hate, and fight each other, and have done so as long as their faiths have existed; each strives to exterminate the other, and says that he does it in the name of heaven. The 666,000,000 agree better among themselves, but in a religious view are despised by the other three sorts, whom they despise in return.

"The inhabitants of the earth continue to live thus in a state of doubt and misunderstandings, which is opposed to common sense, to the best wishes of the heart, to nature, and to the design of the Almighty Ruler and Disposer of all.

"The Great Architect of the Universe has not created man from dust to calumniate and murder his fellow.

"He has given man understanding to enlighten his fellow man; a heart to love him; else would be a contradiction, a folly, and a misfortune.

* Men means here human beings, or mankind; the German word *menschen*, the French *genre humain*.

“But who has misled these milliard men? Who gave them different and opposing creeds? different worship? and different gods? Who has made them villains? Who has driven them to such madness, to such wicked and malicious acts? to become revengeful and unhappy beings?”

“This is a secret, which the history of every people explains to him who knows how to read and understand it.

“But who can reconcile and appease them; bring them back to tolerate and love, to support and maintain each other, to form a column of mutual defence?”

“That is the direct (precisement), *the great secret of Freemasonry*,—that is the OBLIGATION, the DUTY, the SECRET, the INSTRUCTION of every properly initiated brother.”

(*To be continued.*)

THE LADIES.*

From an Address before Solomon's Lodge, Lafayette, Alabama.

BY BRO. L. LA TASTE.

“ALTHOUGH I am admonished to hasten to a close, my task would be incomplete did I omit addressing a few words to that sex ‘whose good opinion we are ever desirous to cultivate—whose favour we cordially desire to conciliate.’ There are so many good reasons why the ladies should not be admitted into our ranks, that I ask them to give me a patient hearing, and then a fair and impartial judgment.

“Their exclusion is an ancient landmark of our Order, which we are not permitted to remove. When Masonry was operative in its character, no one will contend that they ought to have been found wielding the trowel, the gavel, the square and the level. No one will place them so low in the scale of creation as to say they ought to have assisted in removing the stone from the quarry, preparing its surface for its place in the building, tempering the mortar, felling and squaring the timber, and performing other duties required of operative Masons. Their physical strength disqualified them for the task, and nature had intended them for another and different sphere. It has been said, too, that their exclusion was owing to the fact, that the Craft was, at times, exposed to the severest persecutions, and to the greatest peril, and out of kindness to the sex, and with a desire, which we still possess, to enable them to perform their social relations, for which they are so admirably fitted, they were not admitted to membership.

“There is another reason why they are not admitted. ‘Masonry was intended to check vice, to restrain evil passions, to cultivate morality and love;’ and will you, ladies, admit that you need such aid to restrain *your* vices, to curb *your* evil passions, to elevate *your* morality, and to encourage *your* love? Are not charity and love essential ingredients in female character—inwrought in their very constitution?”

“This objection is so beautifully and triumphantly removed in the words of another, that I cannot refrain from quoting them. Bro. J. H.

* From the Freemasons' Monthly Magazine, U. S.

Wheeler, late Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, says: 'As in operative Masonry, their fair hands are not made to wield the trowel, or heavy gavel, so in speculative Masonry, they need no gavel to divest their hearts of the common vices of life, and no pass-word is necessary to call forth the charities of their benevolent natures. The famous traveller, Ledyard, leaves this memorable testimony in favour of women;—that he has passed through every quarter of the globe—through frozen Russia, inhospitable Norway, and savage Finland, and in all his travels, he never met a *woman* and addressed her in language of respect, from whom he did not receive a respectful answer;—if he was hungry, she gave him meat; if thirsty, she gave him drink. With man, it was often otherwise.'

"It seems to me, that, after so lofty and truthful a panegyric, the response should be, from every female heart present, Let the landmark stand for ever and be respected. But I proceed with my quotation: 'If the exclusion of women were a just ground for complaint, why do we not admit them into our congress or state legislature, why not allow them to command our navies, or lead our armies? It is not her element. To her, 'the pomp and circumstance of glorious war,' have no charms; and she desires not 'the applause of listening senates to command.' She has no delight

———"On the tented field,
Where column after column wheel,
Where cannons roar, and chargers reel,
Amid destruction's revelry."

"No! the element of woman is at home, by the domestic fireside, heightening every joy, soothing every care, administering every comfort. Truly does Lord Bacon tell us, that in childhood, you are our nurses; in youth, our mistresses; in middle age, our companions; in all ages, our friends.

"To the female sex, Freemasonry is a constant friend. When expiring humanity is about to bid adieu to the scenes of earthly trial, when the silver cord of life is to be loosed, and the wheel is broken at the cistern, to the departing spirit of our nature what consolation can be more solid than that his disconsolate widow will be cheered by the kindness of fraternal affection? Have there been no cases of this kind in the recollection of many here? Will not a thousand arms be raised and ready to avenge the least insult to a Mason's wife or a Mason's daughter? Then if this objection exists with any, dismiss it, as unworthy of a name. It is unjust. Masonry is woman's best friend—her constant benefactor, and her abiding protector.

"If Masonry possessed no other excellent feature, this one alone is sufficient to commend it to the favourable consideration of the ladies—that it is every Mason's duty to respect them in prosperity, and to protect and defend them in adversity. Should affliction in its most blighting form assail you, in the true and honest Mason, you will find the good Samaritan, who will pour the oil of consolation into your wounded heart, and shield you from your dependence upon the mock charities of a friendless world."

MASONIC COLLOQUISMS (*Query QUIZZINGS?*)

AGAINST US.

A friend of mine, who was made in Scotland, and was passed and raised all on the *same evening*, says—"Pish! I never knew any thing derived from Masonry, but frequent meetings to drink whisky toddy!"
O tempora! O mores!

Another, a veteran in the British army, who was many years in India with his regiment, and in which was a lodge, says, he never thought much of the craft, and, though frequently solicited, he never would be made a Mason, because it appeared always to end in *hard drinking*, whenever the lodge met. Alas! my brethren!

Two allegations in the above may serve as a caution *not* to confer the degrees in a hasty and slovenly manner,—and not to infringe those rules of moderation and temperance, *which are fundamental articles of the masonic symbolism.*

Our *good deeds* oft lie buried in oblivion: the *ill we do* lives in the memory, losing nought of the odium of a *first offence!*

FOR US.

A celebrated architect residing in a fashionable city in the West of England had given rise to the idea that he wished to join the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and being asked why he did not gratify the wishes of his friends by putting his idea into execution, replied that he had been making *every enquiry into the subject* previous to taking a decided step, but did not find that *he was less a Mason from being simply a Christian*, without risking the *trials* of initiation.

A chaplain of a lodge in the same city—a man deeply imbued with the holy principles of the Christian faith—assured me, that he has frequently met numbers of his masonic brethren of *every grade and occupation in life, at various festivities, and never had the smallest occasion to regret his presence among them.*

It was related to me by a very intelligent and well-informed young officer in the Hon. East India Company's maritime service, that it was always a matter of vexation and regret to him on his voyages that he was not a Mason, he being the *only individual* who was so circumstanced of *all the officers of his ship.*

A laughable incident happened once at a dinner party given by a reverend brother of the craft. With two exceptions all the men were Free and Accepted. One of the exceptions went away early. After chatting awhile the conversation turned upon the *peculiar pleasures and privileges* of the society, and the host, a most worthy fellow, said enquiringly to one of the company, "R—, what say you, would you desire to be *unmade?*" "I should think *not,*" replied R—. Then turning to the *non-initiated* with whom we had previously been talking about the *advantages of Masonry* to men who *frequent foreign parts*—our friend being a military man—and asking how it was he had not followed his excellent father's example, and his uncle's, our host, *both of whom were Royal Arch Masons*, our reverend brother instantly proposes a *Lodge of Emergency*, and, *as there was a good roaring Christmas fire before us*, without further delay, *make Cousin F— a Free and Accepted Mason!* The vehement earnestness with which the surprised neophyte seized the poker to defend himself against our supposed intentions produced a hearty laugh!

From the Album of ANTIPOSTERIOREM.

ISRAEL, GREECE, AND ROME.

A PARALLEL SKETCH.*

We resume this sketch, by placing the origin of these nations in juxtaposition. We are all aware what decisive influence that period has in the history of nations. Israel's origin was the peculiarity of his family. We know the patriarch with whom this great chain began. The chiefs, the tribes, the tie of social and fraternal connexion, were, and always remained, the essential element of Israel's external existence. Greece, on the other hand, originated from a collection of colonies of Egyptian, Phœnician, Thracian, and Minor Asiatic extraction, if not from more races. True, a later invented genealogy pretends to trace an universal origin, but that trace is very vague and obscure. The various characteristics of these tribes *never* formed a whole. Rome is indebted for her origin to a collected horde who purposed nothing else than to obtain a common asylum, and to display unremitting and indefatigable strength. Do we not even behold in this the delineation of the entire career of these nations? But let us also examine the localities wherein they respectively appear.

Israel occupied a certain district whose boundaries were limited by nature, being encompassed by considerable mountains, and by sea-coasts, which are so rocky that they hardly admit of a single port to connect them with the world. The country is half mountains, half valleys; the whole length of the latter is intersected by streams which emanate and disembogue in them, with an annual inundation. The soil is partly adapted to agriculture and partly to pasture; the country, yielding every necessary for maintenance, is sufficient in itself, with an unchangeable climate, a constant temperature, and a steady atmosphere.

Greece, on the other hand, was partly situated on a peninsula, partly in islands, and partly along the coasts. These districts are everywhere provided with creeks and tracts of land, accessible to the whole world, being in the centre of Asia, Europe, and Africa, the main point of the transition of civilization from the East to the West. They are fertile, though more stirring and stimulating than satisfying, and are everywhere provided with streams and rivulets, hills and plains, the serenest sky, and a temperature cooled by gentle sea-breezes.

Rome, the hilly city, was surrounded by the *Campagna*, which, as it were, appeared to invite one to descend therein, to take possession thereof, and to proceed further on, without losing sight of the focus of her powers, the all-comprising and the all-sustaining centre—the heart with its pulse—ROME herself. The whole world appeared as a plain; the seven hills as the only prominence therein. Rome acquired nothing unless she was compelled by want. On her arrival at the sea she obtained vessels; but not till she found them indispensably necessary. Rome could neither be maintained by herself nor by her provinces. Rome could not exist without Sicily and Egypt; to obtain them she required to possess several other countries; and the more she had the more she wanted, even everything. Rome's position was, either to gain all or nothing!

The origin and the locality of these three respective nations are in harmony with their character. Israel's peculiar characteristic was fervent affection and cordial attachment—the felicity of internal life. That of

* From the Jewish Chronicle.

Rome, everything which physical life embraces and produces. Everything of the human heart, and every *subjective* relation in the circumstances of man, are brought to light in the life of Israel, and are the staple of his unbounded literature. In Israel the inward man stands pre-eminent to the outward, and is placed in a separate and predominant position; indeed, the loftiest aspirations, the sublimest ideal of man, are there exhibited in their purest spirituality. Different, however, is it in Greece. There man is represented as he outwardly appears, as a whole, whose individual parts stand to each other in harmonious connection, and require cultivation. To comprehend these characteristics, we must first examine his visible features, from which we may form the ideal of his physical perfection. In Rome every energy was directed to the attainment of political power; national and political interests threw everything else in the back-ground. There the scope for mental activity could only be found in the national games; and it may be considered significant of the Roman character, when we read that a most distinguished Roman orator and an eminent man of letters was deprived of his arm and tongue by a political opponent. We are, therefore, enabled to describe the principles of these three ancient nations in three distinct terms. In Israel, "*understanding*;" in Greece, "*beauty*;" in Rome, "*honour*." As a demonstrative proof we may mention, that the Romans rewarded their most praiseworthy men with *honour*. The Greeks said "*καλλον αγαθια*" (beauty combined with kindness, viz. the harmonious connexion of the internal with the external); whilst the Hebrews say, *תמים* (perfect; Gen. vi. 1., and xvii. 1.), and especially *תמים עם אל* (perfect with God; Deut. xviii. 13; Psal. xviii. 24).

Let us now cast a glance on the peculiar worlds which these nations have respectively founded for themselves. Israel first of all constructed for himself a terrestrial world, subordinate to the celestial. Looking upon God as providence, as judge, as incorporeal, the unlimited holiness; and upon man as sinful, yet striving after purity, and struggling for salvation; the former, conscious of our guilt, yet forgiving; the latter, penitent for his iniquity, and anxious to be relieved therefrom;—the Hebrews look upon this terrestrial world as transient, as vain in itself, yet acknowledging it to be a means, or a kind of transition to the higher world; hence it is that all human works have merely their value according to their intrinsic moral worth, being otherwise considered contemptible and vain, as the offspring of the moment. (see Ecclesiastes).

How different appears the structure of Greece! As the Divine elements were seen by them in the ideas of the human mind, partaking both of human passions and of human enjoyments, so they appreciated only the visible and sensual world, which exhibited man in the most perfect harmony, and in a manner greatly pleasing to the senses. It cannot be said that amongst the Greeks Man was idolised, nor that God was corporealised; but all and every thing to them was Man. Whilst the Israelites looked upon the body as the mantle of the soul, and upon the bosom as the shelter of the heart, to the Greeks the soul appeared as surrounding and entwining the body, and as existing only for the purpose of refining and spiritualising physical life. Thus was the world of the Greeks purely human, finished and completed by man; their idea of a life hereafter was confined to a subterranean region in the dark dominions of Pluto.

The Roman world, on the contrary, was a physical state and government. Whether we contemplate matters within—the contest of parties

which not seldom degenerated into intrigue, and the development of rights and laws; or whether we consider matters without—war and aggrandisement; we perceive the activity and efforts of the Romans, whilst every thing else is subordinate and inferior. With them, even mythology assumed a political aspect; so that we have almost a code of the deities, and in the famous *quos ego* of Neplum (Virgil) are contained all the contentions of the consuls and tribunes. It was the Roman who first set a value upon the images of his ancestors, who sat upon the *sella curulis*, and by them distinguished the *vir nobilis* from *novus*.

As we may enter into further details of these characteristics we will here only point out the principles which these three nations respectively founded on the idea of revelation; *i. e.* on the immediate communication of God with man. The Greeks, indeed, more abominably prostitute the sacred idea; for their oracles, which were audible till within three centuries of the Christian era, are a puerile plaything, which must be despised and laughed at by every rational man, as hardly to be distinguished from modern jugglery. The intercourse of the gods with man, as represented in poesy, needs only to be named to show, that moral worth and intelligence always appear on the part of man.

With the Romans it assumed a grave aspect. King Numa received from the nymph Egeria the laws of the constitution; the fortunes of the state were indicated in the Sibylline books; the interpretations of the predictions, gathered from the ancient sacrifices, and from the flight of birds, etc. etc., were entrusted to venerable* priests, and became objects of great consideration to the masses.

But what a true heaven opens itself, what a true divinity meets us, on the contemplation of the revelation of the Hebrews! Like the nation, it only exists for the sake of revelation; it comprises all present and future hopes; it is the setting sun of human existence, and the aurora of a divine life.

THE DEGREE OF HEROINE OF JERICHO.†

New Orleans, Jan. 1st, 1847.

COMP. CHAS. W. MOORE :—Often indeed have I been benefited by your answers to questions propounded by companions and brothers from all parts of the United States, touching the laws, usages, regulations, and ancient landmarks of our time-honoured and venerable Institution. Now, suffer me to propound one more, in addition to the many questions submitted to you, and on which your opinions are solicited:

1st. Have R. A. Masons the right to take cognizance of any unmasonic conduct of a Heroine of Jericho?

2d. If not, can unmasonic conduct in a H. of J., be punished by suspension or expulsion?

You will confer a favour by answering the above at the earliest day convenient.

I remain fraternally, yours,

A J. W.

The Heroine of Jericho is an androgyne degree, containing within itself the laws for its own government,—except in cases where a regular

* At least venerable in appearance; though, according to the well-known saying, they could never meet without laughing.

† From the Freemasons' Monthly Magazine, U. S.

council has been formed. It is then made subject to local regulations. We will illustrate. It is a degree which any R. A. Mason, who has come rightfully in possession of it, may personally confer on any other companion, or the wife or widow of such, without restriction; save where a council exists. In such case, it might not be deemed regular for any companion to confer it, except in council. This, however, is a privilege which the council exercises by courtesy, rather than by virtue of any established regulation. The degree has no connection whatever with Freemasonry, except that, by its own limitations, it can be conferred only on Freemasons, their wives and widows. It is not subject to masonic regulations, discipline, or laws, more than any other society unknown to Masonry. It follows, therefore, that R. A. Masons, as such, have no more power "to take cognizance" of the misconduct of a Heroine of Jericho, than any other persons.

To the second inquiry of our correspondent, we answer, that a Heroine of Jericho cannot be suspended or expelled, or otherwise dealt with, by any masonic authority. If a member of a council be guilty of misconduct, he or she, as the case may be, may be dealt with according to the by-laws of that council. We know of no other tribunal before which an offending member can be arraigned. We suppose it to be competent for a council to suspend or expel a member, for sufficient cause.

Our correspondent uses an erroneous phrase when he speaks of the "unmasonic conduct" of a Heroine of Jericho. The conduct may be unmasonic, because immoral; but not necessarily so, because of any relation which the delinquent may sustain to Freemasonry.

We refer our correspondent to page 323, vol. ii. of this Magazine, for a short article on the subject of this degree.

ARE NOT AUTHORS GENERALLY FREEMASONS?

IN our intercourse with literary friends, we have not been surprised to find that the great majority are acquainted with the mysteries of the gentle craft; and that, in the course of their labours, they have not merely alluded directly to the craft itself, but they show that its moral power has imparted to their writings much of that peculiar organic influence which tends to consociate mankind. Our hours of literary recreation have also evidence that many deceased as well as living authors of celebrity have been linked together by the mystic tie of our fraternity, and also that many women of high literary attainments have caught the "spirit" of Masonry, however debarred from a knowledge of the "letter." That glorious profession of an universal brotherhood cannot be otherwise than good, when the better sex is thus pleased to place it in prominent view.

Mrs. Trollope observes "there is a sort of Freemasonry among young people, which is never brought into action till the elder are out of the way."*

Mrs. Gore.—In the "Dowager," we can perceive that if not herself the wife, mother, or daughter of a Freemason, this lady has evidently imbibed the truthfulness of masonic tenets. There are many passages of thrilling interest, and the term "Brother Freemason" is happily alluded to at page 88.

* *Widow Barnaby*, 1839, vol. i. p. 82.

Captain Chaumier, R. N., in his nautical novel "The Spitfire," does not acknowledge himself to be a Freemason, but yet he so draws the attention of his readers to the subject as would lead one to consider that he may have been initiated. The ladies are told that "*there's a freemasonry in love,*" which doubtless will dispose those who are not yet allured by the sly god to indulge their curiosity by examining the quiver from whence the shaft will issue that shall give them so much painful pleasure. *Certes*, our author gives a most interesting description of the handsome Spaniard and a beautiful young girl; the former, a Mason, turns out a villain, the latter his victim. There are good and bad in all sections of the world: the bad passions may be subdued by masonic principle, but often they are too deeply rooted to yield to the highest moral admonition.

Again, this said Spaniard, when in disguise, attracts the attention of the liveried lacquey, and his companions in the kitchen. Our author becomes jocular on Freemasonry, by making the footman give certain "masonic signs," such as poking his finger in his mouth, and tapping his paunch with his hand—a jocular satire. In due time, however, the Spaniard, who is a pirate, and who as such has taken a most revolting oath to maintain secrecy and faith with his fellow pirates, becomes attainted of murder; his signs as a Mason are recognized by the jailor; who, however, only renders him some service in matters of comfort, and consents to introduce a priest, who turns out to be his captain, a man of high honour, and who, true to his oath, tries every expedient to release him, even at the hazard of his own safety. The scheme fails, and the Spaniard, forgetting the safety of the crew in his own selfishness, offers to denounce them on condition that his own vile life may be spared. Fortune favours the brave captain and crew, who escape by a miracle, and the wretch is led out to execution—he stands forth on the scaffold—there is none near him but the man in the mask, the executioner, when a friar ascends the platform, waves the masked man aside, approaches the criminal, and tells him that he deserves his fate, as much for breaking his oath to his fellow pirates, as for his lawless acts, and beckoning to the executioner, the culprit is no more. There is a moral in the scene: the priest is the captain—circumstances have compelled him to join the crew—the culprit was a libertine and a murderer, and his death-gurgle was made more dreadful by the presence and security of his intended victim. The moral does not tell against Freemasonry, but simply proves that virtue can reprove vice, whatever garb it may assume.

Inadvertently many Masons, who do not trouble themselves with the *practise* of Masonry, the tenets of which they *profess* to observe, often use certain terms, when, as public writers, they are at a loss to express themselves with adequate force. Theodore Hook, in particular, may be quoted. We have forgotten some allusions in "*Jack Bragg,*" and other of his works, but are reminded in the article "*Fathers and Sons,*" of his propensity to be "*Snug and tiled, as we Masons say.*" We do not quarrel with one of the most talented, if not one of the wittiest, men of the day, for his peeping out from under the cowl; but we regret that, with such advantages, we are only reminded of his having neglected the cultivation of masonic literature.

Portugal and Gallicia in 1836.—A Migualite mob at Setuval: "Many fierce inquiring glances were bent upon me; many persons seemed inclined to stop me, and were only prevented by the hurried

movements of the multitude, which pressed on, rank after rank, like the waves of the sea. Once, indeed, a savage-looking fellow, rendered still more fierce by intoxication, seized me by the coat, and, declaring that I was a Freemason, desired me to shout for the absolute king. My actual position was not agreeable; for my host had warned me, that although I might pass through the crowd unmolested, still, if a mere urchin raised the cry of Freemason against me, the people, in their irritated state, might fall upon me as a pack obeys a single hound."

A Year in Spain, by a Young American.—After some interesting details of a robbery by Spanish banditti, under the command of the notorious Felipe Cano, in which the author was a personal sufferer, he concludes with the following biography of his hero:—"We learned that Felipe Cano had commenced his career of honour as a guerilla soldier, in the war of independence. By his superior courage and conduct, he rose to command among these wild warriors, and when Ferdinand came back from his French visit, he made him a captain. When the constitution was restored in 1820, Cano entered into it with ardour, and of course became a Freemason. It occurred to me that had I been a brother, I should have saved my effects, and secretly determined to avail myself of the first occasion to get the brand of the hot iron."

Again, after explaining the power of the church, arising from the union of its members, he says, "The church, indeed, from a species of Freemasonry, acting in secret, and effecting the most important results by that perfect unity of will and sentiment which springs from a community of interests, and from spiritual subjection."

The Parson's Daughter.—"These women have a sort of Freemasonry of their own, and the only difference between their craft and ours is, that they see no use in a secret if they may not tell it."

"It has long been a question, and by many very zealous persons a question of vast importance, whether the Eleusian and Dionysian mysteries, the fraternity of Ionian architects, and the Essenian and Pythagorean associations, were the same as those of Freemasonry at the present moment, varied only as the religious opinions themselves differ. Huge volumes have been written, and great names made use of, in the discussions of these topics, which, to the 'prophane' and uninitiated, may not appear of such transcendent consequence."—It is not unfair from the above, and other references in the "*Parson's Daughter*," to consider that the talented author has betrayed the secret of his being a Freemason—only however by the tributes paid to the system.

Tobin, the dramatist, was probably a Freemason, see "*Honey Moon*," Act iv., scene 2.

Rolando. Would I were in a Freemason's lodge!

Volante. Why there?

Rolando. They never admit women.

Volante. It must be a dull place.

Rolando. Exceedingly quiet.

Skipp's Military Bijou.—In this work the following incident is related: "Captain Greville, in one of the conflicts with the enemy, was severely wounded; his sword had been shot away; when a Spanish officer was in the act of cutting him to pieces, Captain Greville, who was a Mason, made the masonic sign, and fortunately for him his opponent was also a Mason—his uplifted hand was stayed, and Greville was

carried to a small hut. Putting a tin box into the captain's hand, the officer said, "Receive this, it may save your life, although it cost my brother his; he was executed for desertion, and on the day of his execution he gave me the contents of that box. Good-bye, brother, heaven protect you."—It may be observed that the box, although it contained no masonic secrets, proved of the highest interest to the captain.

FIDUS.

GENEROUS LIBERALITY

On the part of Bro. Hobbs towards a Brother Mason in distressed circumstances.

In our volume for the year 1844, pp. 347, 348, we were requested to solicit the contributions of the benevolent and humane in augmentation of a collection then being made to alleviate the distress of Bro. James Gardner and his family, formerly of the Greyhound Hotel, at Croydon; and we are now enabled, through the kindness of Bro. John Chrees, P. M. 200, P. P. G. D. Surrey, the acting trustee of the fund collected, to state that the total amount of the sums received is as follows, viz.—Concert, 88*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; Grand Lodge, 10*l.*; Surrey Lodges, 23*l.*; other donations, inclusive, amounting altogether to 444*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; from which sum a small annuity has been purchased for Mrs. Gardner, at the cost of 195*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* The remainder of the noble contribution has been advanced to aid Mrs. Gardner in her exertions to maintain the family.

The concert, conducted by Bro. Hobbs, Grand Organist, realized, as it will be seen above, the sum of 88*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, exclusive of the value given by John Blake, Esq., Bro. H. Gray, Edward Westall, Esq., Bro. H. Overton, and Messrs. Collard and Co., in fitting and improvements in the arrangements, &c., of the concert room.

This musical entertainment was liberally and generally patronized by the nobility, gentry, and principal traders of the neighbourhood, and also by the resident members of the Craft, including those of the Frederick Lodge of Unity, No. 661, and the East Surrey Lodge of Concord, No. 680, to both of which lodges Bro. Gardner had been a subscribing member. Amongst the distinguished patrons of the concert, may be mentioned, Bro. the Earl of Caledon, and the officers on duty at Croydon Barracks, the Countess of Eldon, Captain the Honourable Plantagenet Carey, the Honourable Mrs. Plantagenet Carey, Sir Edmund and Lady Antrobus, and family, Sir Henry and Lady Bridges, Henry Kemble, Esq., M. P., Edmund Antrobus, Esq., M. P., Mr. and Mrs. Manbert, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Reid, Bro. J. W. Sutherland, and family, Bro. Newman Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Keen, &c.

Bro. Gardner's case was one of peculiar difficulty as regards his claim to admission either into the Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons, or on the books of the Annuity Fund, inasmuch as he had not been a sufficiently long time a Mason to qualify him for participation in the advantages of either of these institutions. His youngest child was also too old for admission into the Girls' School. We are glad, however, to announce that Bro. Gardner, through the persevering exertions of his friends and neighbours at Croydon, has been appointed by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, in whom the patronage is vested, to one

of the vacant rooms in the Hospital of the Holy Trinity at Croydon, of the foundation of John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury; the emoluments of which appointment are, a room to live in, nearly twenty shillings per week in money, with an ample supply of fire-wood. We sincerely wish our brother health and happiness, and long life (although he has already seen his sixty-fourth summer) for many years to enjoy himself in his new abode.

In conclusion, we would repeat what we urged in our former notice—for thy poorer brethren, “Go thou and do likewise.”

THE MASONIC CHARITY JEWEL.

We have great pleasure in being able to congratulate the Stewards and Past Stewards of the Masonic Charities on the reduction in the price of the Charity Medal, which Bro. Evans (who has succeeded the late Bro. Burckhardt as manufacturer) has, with his usual liberality, reduced from 3*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* to 3*l.* 3*s.* It has always been a subject of complaint that the charge was excessive, and credit is accordingly due to Bro. Evans for having reduced the charge. We cordially wish him success.

TO THE EDITOR.

—Lodge, Jan 22, 1849.

SIR AND BROTHER,—At our initiation into Freemasonry we are all of us “exhorted to devote a portion of our leisure hours to the study of such of the liberal arts as may lay within the compass of our attainment.”—(See Preston’s Charge, 1st degree.) It is on this account that I have devoted a few of my leisure hours to the following subject:—Can the pound sterling be decimally divided by our present coins?

If it can, how may it be done?

What will it cost, and what use will it be?

I must first acknowledge that the more I have read upon the currency question the less I know about it, and for my present enquiry it is sufficient to take the money of Great Britain as I find it; it is then, one gold sovereign, or pound sterling, 4 crowns, 8 half-crowns, 20 shillings, 240 pence, 960 farthings. By the present division of the pound there are 960 farthings, 1920 half-farthings. Now let us divide the pound into 1000 parts and 2000 half parts, the coins will represent the parts of the pound as under—

Gold coin . .	one sovereign . .	one pound sterling . .	1000 parts
. . . .	half sovereign . .	half pound sterling . .	500
Silver	crown pieces	five shillings	250
. . . .	half crown	two shillings & sixpence	125
. . . .	shilling	one shilling	50
. . . .	sixpence	sixpence	25
. . . .	three pence	three pence	12 5
Copper	penny piece	penny piece	5
. . . .	halfpenny	halfpenny	2 5
. . . .	farthing	farthing	1
. . . .	half farthing	half farthing	5

It is evident, on looking over the above, that the pound sterling may be divided decimally by our present coins, and that the gold and silver coins will be of the same value as compared with a sovereign as now. The copper coin will be increased in value—one penny will be the two hundredth part of a pound, instead of being, as it now is, the two hundred and fortieth part, so that there will be a loss to some one upon the copper coin. The silver will not alter in value; for three pence, the lowest silver coin, if it contain twelve and a half thousand parts of a pound, is still the eightieth part of a pound, the sixpence, shilling, &c. are also the same; the only loss then will be upon the copper. Now if it was all called in by the inspectors of weights and measures, and the penny pieces were stamped by them with a five, and then put into circulation again, the two pence in the shilling gained by government would pay the inspectors' wages, for they would of course take them in at twelve for a shilling, and pay them out again at ten; the halfpence and farthings would be at the same rate of profit to the government; and the only silver coin which would have to go out of circulation entirely would be the four penny piece. I dare not trespass too long upon your space, but will just try one question by both methods.

Multiply	£ 29	19	9	by 344	
Common method	£ 29	19	9	+	4
			10	+	10
			10	+	3
			=		4
		299	17	6	10
			10	+	4
					= 40
		2998	15	0	344
			3		
		8996	5	0	
		1199	10	0	
		119	19	0	
	£ 10315	14	0		

10	=	500	£	29	987	5
5	=	250			344	
2	6	=		119	950	0
2		=		1199	500	
3	=	12		8996	25	
		987		10315	700	0
					5000	= 10
					2000	= 4
					7000	= 14
			£ 10315	14	0	

Any other question in arithmetic would be just as much simplified as the above, and in a week every merchant or merchant's clerk would be able to tell without any (even to himself) perceptible attempt at calculation, how many thousandth parts would be equal to any sum under one pound sterling.

I am, respected Sir and Brother, yours faithfully,

FORWARDS.

TO THE EDITOR.

London, Feb. 2, 1849.

SIR AND BROTHER,—Would you be so good as to inform me, if it is in accordance with the rules of masonic heraldry, for a lodge to assume supporters to the coat of arms the members thereof may be pleased to adopt for a seal? Are there any particular regulations bearing on this subject, and if so, where are they to be met with?

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

R. H. W.

[The Book of Constitution recognizes a *lodge seal*, which of course the members as such may fairly avail themselves of.—Ed.]

TO THE EDITOR.

11, Weston Place, King's Cross, Feb. 16, 1849.

SIR.—I beg to say that you have given a very accurate account of my visit to Birmingham, and its results, at the end of which you have appended the following:—

“It is due to Bro. S. B. Wilson, now the only surviving pupil of the late Bro. Peter Gilkes, to acknowledge that it is by his continuous exertions, and great practical masonic knowledge, that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, that bulwark of English Freemasonry, has been sustained and protected: and that among his numerous pupils Bro. Honey has proved himself true and trusty.”—Ed.

Bro. S. B. Wilson cannot be the only surviving pupil of the late Bro. Peter Gilkes, as I had the honour of being a pupil of his twenty-two years ago, and continued so up to his death; there are many other surviving pupils of that giant in Masonry. I never had the honour of being a pupil of Bro. Wilson's; I had the pleasure of making, passing, and raising him. By correcting this little error in your next, you will much oblige your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM HONEY.

TO THE EDITOR.

9, Tap Street, Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green,
March 4, 1849.

SIR AND BROTHER,—From circumstances connected with the emancipation of slavery, also the East India charter being repealed, myself and other branches of my family, who were possessed of extensive property on the island of St. Helena, are reduced from affluence and high respectability, unavoidably to comparative indigence, and in addition to pecuniary losses suffered much domestic affliction and decline of many children, whom, after considerable cost and anxiety in educating them to move in that sphere of life, which I had good reasons to believe was in perspective; under such severe trials, and for some years being dependent upon the bounty of relations, which is opposite to my principles, I am desirous to obtain some description of employment, with that view I respectfully solicit the favour of your kindness to insert this my letter in

your valuable journal, in the hope it may meet the eye of a brother who may be in want of a trustworthy servant, and one who has some little experience in business. My family being small, a wife and one son, of but delicate health, all that is left out of eight children, my expectations are moderate, as our wants are but few. I resided some years on the Continent for the benefit of educating my children, and during my stay in Brussels, I had the honour of being initiated into Freemasonry, in the Lodge of St. John of Jerusalem, in the year 1835. I am prepared with references and testimonials as to character of great respectability.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours humbly and fraternally,
RICHARD O'D. CUMMINGS.

TO THE EDITOR.

FREEMASONRY IN SURREY.

SIR,—Being aware that a deceased brother Mason, who “has been advanced to the degree of a Master Mason,” may, under certain circumstances, and at “his own special request, be interred with the formalities of the Order,” under dispensation of the P. G. M., I shall be glad to be informed, if in the Book of Constitutions of the ancient fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, any authority is given, or allowed to be given, for members of the Craft to appear at what is called a masonic ball decorated in “full” masonic costume, including “badge.”

Yours fraternally,
A PAST MASTER.

[At the Asylum balls badges are not worn, and this may be taken as very good authority.—ED.]

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Although the case of Bro. Cooke may be considered finally settled by the decision of Grand Lodge, yet will the affair continue to occupy the minds, and be the cause of much discussion in the several lodges, as well as among the Craft in general; it will then not be unprofitable to take a retrospective view of the decision of the Grand Lodge, which inflicted upon that brother the extreme punishment any body of men can possibly pass upon one of its members, that of expelling him with ignominy from their society, thereby branding him as an individual unworthy to be in association with men of probity and honour.

The brethren of the Saint Paul's Lodge admit Bro. Cooke (of course after due trials and strict examination) to their assembly, and to their banquet. The visitor is exceedingly generous, making large donations to the various charities, as well as after-dinner speeches, talking great things, and, believing himself to be in the presence of great people, is very anxious to make them believe that he is himself a very great man—nothing more than an every-day specimen of frail humanity. Be this, however, as it may, a rapid succession of events bring him to an introduction to the Grand Master. The most singular part of the whole transaction is, that the Grand Master should have received him as a

general in the American army, without consulting the authority of an American army list. If a gentleman presents himself as an officer in her majesty's service, a reference is at once made to the list of that particular service to ascertain the fact, and it would be a matter for judicial enquiry, were an individual to personate another; I therefore cannot help expressing my surprise, that a perfect stranger from the opposite shores of the broad Atlantic, possessing no letters of introduction to enable him to gain admission to the private circles of English society, should, by the medium of a party meeting at the tavern at which he was sojourning, gain introduction to some of the most distinguished members of our aristocracy, and so completely fascinate the grand officers, as to receive from them the highest honours, without demanding from him that which is required on all occasions, when a brother is about to join a lodge, viz., a certificate from his present or previous lodge, stating his rank, and that his conduct is commendatory. It will be perfectly futile to say such information was difficult to attain; if a tithe part of the trouble had been taken to ascertain the true position of the stranger before he was invested with the high honours, as has since been put in requisition to collect a mass of evidence of Bro. Cooke's vocation, a very great deal of mischief might have been prevented; but the conduct of the grand officers is altogether incomprehensible. An individual states himself to be a member of a lodge in some part of the United States, and gives liberal donations to the English masonic charities, he is forthwith invested with the highest dignities the Grand Lodge can bestow upon him; this of itself is premature, and the grand officers are not exceeding their powers, but exercising their prerogative in a somewhat slovenly manner. Yet they are not content with this, but install him as representative from or to the Grand Lodge of New York, thereby making him a grand officer of the Grand Lodge of New York, without ascertaining the feelings of the Grand Lodge of New York, or knowing if he be a member of any lodge in connection with them. To throw the whole blame of this transaction upon Bro. Cooke is monstrous; for, so far as I can glean from the confusion in which the question is involved, the Grand Lodge at New York took no objection to the public or private character of Bro. Cooke, but declined to receive him solely on the ground that the appointment was irregular, irrespective of the virtues or blemishes of Bro. Cooke, he not being a member of their body. And I can conceive the state of astonishment which the Grand Lodge of New York must have been thrown into upon reading Bro. Cooke's credentials. If an officer to represent the Grand Lodges in London and New York (the one to each other) had been required, courtesy and common sense suggest the propriety of consulting both parties as to eligibility and talent, for the appointment gives peculiar rank in each Grand Lodge; but the grand officers of the English Masons have acted in an inexcusable manner, and have very properly met with a rebuff from their New York brethren, and to vent their spleen, and cover their disgrace, they have persuaded the Grand Lodge to commit an act of injustice, and for that purpose have collected a mass of obscenity quite foreign to the question; for the scraps of newspaper advertisements, affidavits before the mayor of New York, certificate of the British consul, are not so much evidence of the unfitness of Bro. Cooke for the honours, than of the recklessness of those who bestowed them.

Of Bro. Cooke, he is more an object of pity than of anger. The native of another though a kindred soil—of a profession which oft-times

is most needed by those who most revile and affect to despise it, and who labour to bring its practitioners into contempt—he finds himself in a strange country, and perhaps in tolerably affluent circumstances, his inclinations tending to mix in that sphere of society which his profession might close against him, it was necessary he should give some account of himself. To have styled himself Dr., and put M. D. after his name, might have been dangerous; for, although very useful in the peculiar walk of his profession, had his acquaintance with eminent surgeons and physicians been as easily obtained as with grand officers, he might have required a greater knowledge of the *materia medica* to escape detection; and possibly believing that the nearest profession to a doctor is a soldier, he determined to enlist as a general at once—captains and majors being uncommonly common. This is the worst construction that can be put upon it, for if he be an officer in some village militia, he has as much right to the title of that office as any of the gallant be-whiskered colonels have in England, “who ne’er set squadron in the field, nor the division of a battle know more than a spinster.” I am not attempting to justify deceit, but I think the case of Bro. Cooke will admit of much palliation, and does not merit the treatment which he has received of the Grand Lodge. It speaks well for the heart of Bro. Cooke, that the deceptions he made (if he did make any) were not more to gratify his own vanity, than to render himself benevolent towards that portion of his fellow-mortals whom Providence has placed under our protection. I am even willing to admit that he did impose upon the Craft, more especially upon the grand officers, and is therefore justly liable to reprehension and blame; but his conduct and bearing, his generosity and kind feelings, were so conspicuous as to draw from the grand officers their warmest approbation, expressed by the bestowing of honours with that unaccountable haste, that the only justification the grand officers have to plead, is their being struck with Bro. Cooke’s demeanour and virtues. Is it the peculiar province of Masons to visit with undue severity the failings which human flesh is heir to? Do Masons boast of charity only as clap trap to attract the notice of the passer by, and when called upon to exercise it as the spirit of true brotherly love should be exemplified, by casting its veil over the delinquencies of an erring brother, do they then act as a procacious prude, who censures and punishes offences, of which if she be not guilty herself, it is only because the coldness of her disposition has prevented her from falling into, or her want of attraction has failed to ensnare? The generosity of Bro. Cooke has no doubt elicited warm expressions from the lips of many, and flattery possibly bewildered him, and caused him to commit an act of weakness and vanity, which reflection will teach him was paltry and unbecoming. “Let him that thinks he standeth take heed lest he fall.” To meet the derisions of those he has imposed upon must surely be punishment sufficient.

Bro. Cooke is an alien to his country, and the conduct of the Grand Lodge in expelling him from English Masonry, is undignified and unworthy themselves. The want of care and forethought on the part of the grand officers, caused them to be led astray by an individual acting under strong feelings of vanity and indiscretion. It was a duty they owed to the Craft to have been more watchful, and if they have succeeded in branding the name of Bro. Cooke with hypocrisy and deceit, they have obtained for themselves an unenviable fame which will shine out in proportion as Bro. Cooke’s delinquencies are brought to light.

Yours, &c. W. B.

COLLECTANEA.

ILLUSTRIOUS MECHANICS AND SELF-MADE MEN.

“ADAM, the father of the human race, was a gardener. He had, however, a strange propensity for tasting unwholesome fruit, which produced very injurious effects, both upon himself and his offspring.

NOAH was a shipwright and a husbandman, he navigated the whole earth in his ark, and got ‘seas over’ in his vineyard.

SOLOMON was an architect, a poet, and a philosopher; his conduct, however, was not always by line and rule; he trod the circle of dissipation, was erratic in his imaginations, and violated his own maxims. His conscience and strength of mind, however, reclaimed him, and his repentance is the most beautiful of the works which he has left for the contemplation of his species.

The Apostle PAUL was a tent maker, and laboured with his hands at his vocation, while he endeavoured to infuse into the minds of his fellow-men the important truths of revelation. While he screened them with earthly tabernacles from the weather, he held above their souls the ægis of divine protection.

MATTHEW was a poor fisherman; he relinquished his humble calling for that of a missionary, and toiled assiduously to draw men from the fiery billows of perdition.

QUINTUS CINCINNATUS was a ploughman, and was invoked to the government and dictatorship of Rome. His labours in the political field were as successful as those upon the soil.

ARSACES was a private mechanic, and was called to found the Parthian Empire. He built up a powerful nation, and erected for himself a mausoleum of fame, which is indestructible.

TAMERJANE, the conqueror of Asia, was also a mechanic; he *rough hewed* Bajazet, and carved his way to fortune and glory.

MASSANIELLO, a Neapolitan fisherman, was raised to the command of fifty thousand men, and gave up fish lines for lines of bayonets, and river Seines for scenes of carnage.

JOHN OF LEYDEN, in Germany, was a tailor, and rose to the dignity of king. He cut out for himself a bad piece of work, however, and afterwards came to a miserable end. His goose did not fly well.

ZENO, the famous Bishop of Constantia, who had the largest diocese in that country, was a weaver. He directed his attention to the *habits* of both soul and body.

STEPHEN TUDINER, a hatter in Upper Austria, was made general, and commanded an army of sixty thousand. He made hats for others, but preferred for himself a chapeau.

WALMER, a shoemaker, succeeded him in command, but was slain by Count Papenheim. He converted his awl into a sword: ‘his last state was worse than the first.’

MR. EDMUND, of Stirling, in Scotland, showed such unparalleled bravery in the Swedish wars, under that thunderbolt of war, Gustavus Adolphus, that he was made general. A maker of bread might be supposed to know how to rise.

PETER THE GREAT, Emperor of Russia, worked at ship-building. He taught the Russian Bear how to manage a boat.”

AN ungrateful man is detested by all; every one feels hurt by his conduct, because it operates to throw a damp upon generosity, and he is regarded as the common injurer of all those who stand in need of assistance.—*Cicero*.

“IF we must lash one another, let it be with the manly strokes of a goose’s quill; for I am of the old philosopher’s opinion, that if I must suffer from one or the other, I would rather it should be from the paw of a lion than from the hoof of an ass.”

THOSE boast of abstinence who have lost their digestive power; those boast of chastity whose blood is cold and stagnant; those boast of knowing how to be silent who have nothing to say. In short mankind make vices of the pleasures which they cannot enjoy, and virtues of the infirmities to which they are subject.—*Zhenay*.

TRUTH.—“The study of truth is perpetually joined with the love of virtue; for there is no virtue which derives not its original from truth; as, on the contrary, there is no vice which has not its beginning from a lie. Truth is the foundation of all knowledge, and the cement of all societies.”

REVERENCE THE CHILD.—A young child is a newly created spirit, introduced into this amazing world, for the purpose of obtaining a knowledge of material things, and of sentient beings, by contact and sympathy. It is utterly ignorant; but unless the brain and senses be defective, it possesses, and by degrees can exercise, all the mental qualities of a philosopher, gradually becoming acquainted with the properties of objects, both of thought and sense, by observation and experiment. All the faculties of childhood are busily at work as fast as they are developed, and every propensity is ardently seeking for indulgence. Propensity, in short, is a bodily provocation to action; and the soul must yield to it if it knows no better means of pleasure; for the soul always does, and always must, aim at enjoyment. But that is properly found only in a suitable use of the body—a use for spiritual ends. Almighty benevolence has formed the body for happiness when rightly enjoyed; and the means of that enjoyment must be provided, or activity becomes a constant perversion of power, and, therefore, a constant source of uneasiness. But as human individualism is a type of Deity, its perfection, its full capacity for happiness, is only found in goodness and love; therefore, it never can rest satisfied with its knowledge till all creation is completely harmonious and happy.—*Dr. Moore*.

THE MORAL CAUSES OF BAD REASONINGS AND BAD JUDGMENTS.—Pupils should be taught, that to avoid bad reasonings and bad judgments, the first requisite is to have a *predominant* love of truth. The want of this is the parent-cause of errors and mistakes. Some persons seem to be endued by God with a strong natural love of truth as to matters in which their personal interests and passions are not involved. These men, if they have adequate abilities, make excellent natural philosophers. But a love of truth so pure and vigorous as to transcend the sphere of personal interests and feelings, can only be imparted by the grace of God, and then requires, under the same grace, constant cultivation. How is this cultivation to be carried on? In various directions; or, in respect to various particulars. 1. We should reflect upon our own dispositions. We are always apt, according to our dispositions, to have

our views coloured, and, it may be, quite distorted. *Helteria* is a most humane person; yet, from the excess of her sensibility, she was a vehement advocate for slavery. And why? Because an excellent friend of hers had, as she thought, unjustly suffered in her property, through the exertions of the abolitionists. *Præfervidus* is evermore going wrong, and not only so, but maintaining opinions inconsistent with each other. And how so? He is acted on rather by a love of men than of truth, and sometimes the weathercock of his mind yields to an influence from the west, and sometimes to one from the east. To avoid the course of *Helteria* and *Præfervidus*, we should calmly, not morbidly, consider what is the prevailing bent of our disposition. 2. The cultivation of a love of truth should be carried on by a daily discipline. Without, running into formality and stiffness in conversation, without restraining the play of imagination, and checking the flashes of joy and love, we should conscientiously aim at *correctness* in all we affirm! Many excellent creatures are fearfully careless as to this. We should also eschew mere *gossip*, either in ourselves or others. And we should in matters of difference (especially when of importance) seriously strive fully to apprehend the arguments that are used against our own notions. A daily discipline of this nature, united with prayer and study, renders the mind strong in resisting fallacious or doubtful suggestions, and prompt and open in receiving solid truths.—“*On the Culture of the Powers of Reasoning and Judging*,” in the *Quarterly Educational Magazine*, 1848.

JEALOUSY violates contracts—dissolves society—breaks wedlock—betrays friends and neighbours—nobody is good—and every one is either doing or designing them a mischief—its rise is either guilt or ill-nature, and by reflection it thinks its own faults to be other men’s; as he that is overrun with the jaundice takes others to be yellow.—*Stray Thoughts*.

TRAVEL ON FOOT.—“A man should always travel as a pedestrian, if possible. There is no telling how much more perfectly he thus communes with Nature, how much more deeply and without effort he drinks in the spirit of the meadows, the woods, the running streams and the mountains, going by them and among them, as a friend with a friend. He seems to hear the very breath of Nature in her stillness, and sometimes, when the whole world is hushed, there are murmurs come to him on the air, almost like the evening songs of angels. Indeed the world of Nature is filled with quiet soul-like sounds, which, when one’s attention is gained to them, make a man feel as if he must take his shoes from his feet and walk barefooted, in order not to disturb them. The music of the brooks and waterfalls, and of the wind among the leaves, and of the birds in the air, and of the children at play, and of the distant villages, and of the tinkling pleasant bells of flocks upon the mountain sides, is all lost to the traveller in a carriage, or rumbling vehicle of any kind.”

“KNOWLEDGE indeed is as necessary as light; but it has been wisely ordained that light should have no colour, water no taste, and air no odour, so knowledge also should be equally pure, and without admixture.”

“Too much leisure leads to expense; because when a man is in want of objects, it occurs to him that they are to be had for money, and he invents expenditure in order to pass the time.”

“FRIENDSHIP is a silent gentleman that makes no parade: the true heart dances no hornpipes on the tongue.”

TEN RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN PRACTICAL LIFE.—1. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day. 2. Never trouble others for what you can do yourself. This will promote your independence. 3. Never spend your money before you have it. This will save you many difficulties and some temptations. 4. Never buy what you do not want, because it is cheap. Many have been ruined by this. 5. Pride costs no more than hunger, thirst, or cold. Banish it your heart. 6. Never have to repent of having eaten too little. Temperance is health. 7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly. If you would lighten labour, love it. 8. How much pain have those evils cost us which never happened! Wait, then, till trials come. 9. Take things always by their smooth handle. Make the most of mercies, and do not exaggerate trials. 10. When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred. He that does this will save himself much sin and many sorrows.

VIRTUE AND HAPPINESS.—Happiness is the use or exercise of virtue in good fortune. The good man, therefore, is not of necessity happy, but the happy man is of necessity good. The bad man must needs be at all times unhappy, whether he have or whether he want the materials of external fortune; for if he have them he will employ them ill.—*Archytas*.

DOING GOOD.—How often do we sigh for opportunities of doing good, whilst we neglect the openings of Providence in little things which would frequently lead to the accomplishment of most important usefulness! Dr. Johnson used to say, "He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do any." Good is done by degrees. However small in proportion the benefit which follows *individual attempts* to do good, a great deal may thus be accomplished by perseverance, even in the midst of discouragements and disappointments.—*Crabbe*.

CAUTION AGAINST IMPIETY.—"Can we pray to Him as all-wise and good, whose name we use in our worst moments of folly and anger?"

IDEAL OF YOUTH AND JOY.—Of all that I have lost on earth of youth and joy, I regret nothing so much as the loss of the ideal I had formed of all.—*Sterne*.

BLASPHEMOUS OATHS.—"There are no oaths in the Choctaw tongue, and when an Indian swears, he can only employ *English* expressions of profanity!"

THE CHINESE FABLE OF THE CREATION.—The rationalists have penetrated furthest into the Dædalian mystery of this cosmogony, and they go on to show what Pwanku did, and how he did it. They picture him holding a chisel and mallet in his hands, splitting and fashioning vast masses of granite, floating confusedly in space. Behind the openings his powerful hand has made, are seen the sun, moon, and stars, monuments of his stupendous labours, and at his right hand, inseparable companions of his toils, but whose generation is left in obscurity, stand the dragon, the phoenix, and the tortoise, and sometimes the unicorn; divine types and progenitors with himself of the animal creation. His efforts were continued eighteen thousand years, and by small degrees he and his work increased; the heavens rose, the earth spread out and thickened, and Pwanku grew in stature, each of them six feet every day, till, his labours done, he died for the benefit of his handiwork. His head became mountains, his breath wind and clouds,

and his voice thunder ; his limbs were changed into the four poles, his veins into rivers, his sinews into the undulations of the earth's surface, and his flesh into fields ; his beard, like Berenice's hair, was turned into stars ; his skin and hair into herbs and trees ; and his teeth, bones, and marrow, into metals, rocks, and precious stones ; his dropping sweat increased to rain ; and lastly (*nascitur ridiculus mus*), the insects which stuck to his body were transformed into people.—*The Middle Kingdom.*

OUR SECOND CHILDHOOD.—Some one has well remarked that “ it is a benevolent provision of nature that in old age the memory enjoys a second spring, and, that while we forget all passing occurrences, many of which are but painful concomitants of old age, we have a vivid and delightful recollection of all the pleasures of youth.”

“ FLOWERS are the true emblems of the best and sweetest creature enjoyments of this world, for, being moderately and cautiously used, they for a long time yield sweetness to the possessor of them ; but if once the affections seize too greedily upon them, and squeeze them too hard, they quickly wither in our hands, and we lose the comfort of them.”

“ WHOEVER stands upon a lofty mountain should not look merely at the gold which the morning sun pours on the grass and wild-flowers at his feet ; but he should sometimes look behind him into the deep valley where the shadows still rest, that he may the more sensibly feel that the sun is indeed a sun.”

“ IT was a fine and true remark, that, ‘ they who will abandon a friend for an error, know but little of the human character, and prove that their hearts are as cold as their judgments are weak.’ ”

THE FOX AND THE GRAPES.—Elderly spinster—“ So you're going to be married, dear, are you? Well, for my part, I think nine hundred and ninety-nine marriages out of a thousand turn out miserably ; but of course every one is the best judge of their own feelings.”

AN UNSOPHISTICATED WITNESS.—During the sessions at Wakefield, a witness was asked if he was not a husbandman, when he hesitated for a moment, then coolly replied, amid the laughter of the court, “ Nae, Sir, I'se not married.”

NOTHING NEW.—I compare me to a little wilderness, surrounded by a high dead wall. Within this we muse and walk in quest of the new and happy, forgetting the insuperable limits, till, with surprise, we find ourselves stopped by the dead wall ; we turn away and muse, and walk again till on another side we find ourselves close against the dead wall. Whichever way we turn, still the same.—*Foster.*

THERE is no word or action but that may be taken with two hands ; either with the right hand of charitable construction, or, the sinister interpretation of malice and suspicion ; and all things secured as they are taken. To construe an evil action well, is but a pleasing and profitable deceit for myself : but to misconstrue a good thing is a terrible wrong—to myself, the action, and the author.—*Bishop Hall.*

“ WHEN an extravagant friend wishes to borrow your money, consider which of the two you had rather lose.”

P O E T R Y.

TO THE SPIRIT OF MASONRY.

*Written on the Installation of the Social Friendship Lodge at
Montreal, on the 6th May, A. M. 5844.*

ONE altar more ! Bond of our ancient faith—
Another shrine of union, and of ties
Whose truth is firm in life, nor dies with death,
To thee we consecrate ! whose strength defies
Distance and Time, and the detractor's breath ;
Nor limits love to kindred, nor relies
Upon the bond of blood for truth alone :—
Thou art with us, where language is unknown.

All climes—all skies, behold thee still the same—
Strange eyes, to strangers, look thy language ; and
Earth's distant tribes a kindred tie can claim,
And prove their faith on the remotest strand ;
Thou dost not bind my nation—tribe—or name,
But set thy seal in every clime and land ;
Thou art with us—far as the waves can flow—
On India's plains, or midst the Northern snow.

Around the earth ! are not thy temples there,
Arching their Union—based from heart to heart
In shrines of concord, beautiful and fair ;
Breathing of Thee and Us ? We, as a part
Of that all-mystic concord—We, who dare
Look on thy ordeals, and unfold the chart
Of Time and of Creation ; and to scan
What God hath plann'd, and deign'd to do for man.

Benevolence attends thy steps ! the earth
Is hallowed in thy presence—We behold
In glorious rays thy countless names of worth—
The children of Eternity, enroll'd
On thy all-deathless records, from the birth
Of Time, thy twin-born brother ; those whose mould
Was essenced of the Godhead :—and in them
Thou hast reserved thy choicest diadem.

A Diadem of Glory !—and become
With Time the ministers unto thy light :
Speaking from age to age :—should we be dumb
Amidst the eloquence of all that's bright
And fair in wide creation ! from the hum
Of insect millions, to the dreaded might
Of the destroying earthquake ?—All we see,
And hear, and feel, but speaks and breathes of Thee !

Be with us in our Union!—let thy power
 Aid us, as erst, in many a clime and land—
 Let "Social Friendship" be our bond; the dower
 And blessing of all those whose truthful hand
 Is here extended, in this solemn hour,
 With love and truth to each: a mystic band
 Pervading and uniting—we would be
 Worthy thy name, as thus we're bound by Thee! *

AWA', YE FLAUNTING DAYS O' SPRING.

BY ROBERT GILFILLAN.

TUNE—*I do confess thou art sae fair.*

Awa', ye flaunting days o' spring,
 An' summer, wi' your hours o' bloom,
 To me nor hope nor joy ye bring,
 For a' is grief and a' is gloom!
 For aye when these fair seasons come,
 With wild flowers green and flowerets gay,
 To where the Highland red-deer roam
 My bonnie lassie hies away!

My heart is by the mountain steep,
 My heart is in the Highland glen,
 Or down the valley, winding deep,
 In sunless grandeur, darkening ben!
 O! there my fairest strays, I ken,
 In beauty bright and fancy free;
 O! for sic happy days, as when,
 'Mang Lawland braes, she strayed wi' me!

Ye'll ken her smile an' witching glance,
 Where beauty reigns in sovereign sway;
 Or, when she mingles in the dance,
 Or, raptured, lists the vocal lay,
 Or, when the sun, at close o' day,
 Saft sinks beneath the western sky,
 When forth the blooming maidens stray,
 Ye'll mark my bosom's dearest joy!

O! tent her weel, where'er she gangs,
 By streamlet clear, or valley green,
 Awake your sweetest minstrel sangs,
 Ye'll sing to few sae fair I ween.
 By ilka star that blinks at e'en,
 And yon bright sun, that shines by day,
 She'll live for aye my bosom queen,
 The bonnie lass that's far away!

* The above lines are understood to be from the pen of a non-commissioned officer in the Royal Artillery.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

MASTERS' PAST MASTERS', AND WARDENS' CLUB.

March 7.—Dr. Crucefix in the chair. Minutes of the last general meeting, as also of the council, read and confirmed—Correspondence read—Masonic statistics discussed—Business to be considered in Grand Lodge reported—A day appointed to examine into the transactions of the past year.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND.

QUARTERLY CONVOCATION, *February 7, 1849.*

Present—M. E. Comps. Rowland Alston, (G. J.) as M. E. Z.; Hall, as H.; Dobie, as J.; together with several Grand Officers, and Present and Past Principals.

The Chapter was duly opened, after which the minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation were read and confirmed.

There being no business before the Grand Chapter, it was then adjourned.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

COMMITTEE OF MASTERS.

Feb. 28.—Bro. Rowland Gardiner Alston in the chair.

Notices of Motion :—

Bro. R. G. ALSTON—In the event of the expulsion of General Cooke from the English Craft, that the monies he has subscribed to the charities to be returned to him, the amount to be taken from the funds of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. PHILIPPE—Renewal of motion for 100*l.* annually to widows.

Bro. SAVAGE—Renewal of motion for 200*l.* for the like purpose.

Bro. SCARBOROUGH—Notice of motion for a committee to consider of, and report on, the ritual of English Freemasonry.

Bro. J. LEE STEVENS—Notice of motion to restrict the election of the Grand Master to three years consecutively, and no longer.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.*

March 7.—Present, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M. W. G. M. on the throne; the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D. G. M.; R. W. Bros. Vernon and Campbell, Grand Wardens; Prov. Grand Masters Lewis (Sumatra), Alston (Essex), Dobie (Surrey), Hammond (Jersey), Simeon (Isle of Wight), &c.; R. G. Alston, Perceval, Gran-

* The circular of the Grand Master referring to the Grand Lodge of the 6th of December, emerged from its obscurity on the 4th of March, as a summary of debate, like unto the "Times." It is however a specimen of concealment of facts not easily to be equalled. General Cooke is avenged!

ville, *M. D.*, Crucefix, *M. D.*, Rowe, *M. D.*, Norris, Thomson, Philippe, Havers, Evans, Lawrence, &c.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, and the laws, as usual, being read,

Bro. SCARBOROUGH begged to call attention to the authorised Grand Lodge report which had just made its appearance. It was well known that he (Bro. S.) had had considerable difficulty and much trouble to bring the Masonic Library question before the Craft, and ultimately throwing it open to the brethren. In doing so, it had been expressly agreed, and publicly decided, that notice thereof should be inserted in the Grand Lodge report, but in the one he held in his hand, no such notice was given, although one of the clauses of the law upon the subject said it was not to be omitted. He thought that was not giving the library its fair chance of the advantages he hoped would accrue to the brethren from it.

The GRAND MASTER had no doubt that the Grand Secretary had heard the remarks of Bro. Scarborough, and would take care for the future. He (the G. M.) was not aware how the omission occurred, but he would remind Bro. Scarborough that the minutes of the last Grand Lodge had not yet been read, and until that had been done, no business could be entered into.

The minutes of the last Quarterly Communication were then read. On being put for confirmation,

Bro. FAUDEL would detain Grand Lodge a few minutes, while he submitted a question which seemed to involve a great principle, and on which he should be glad to elicit an opinion from Grand Lodge or from the M. W. G. M. On the minutes just read, it was stated, that at the last Quarterly Communication it had been moved, seconded, and carried, that the debate on a certain question which he did not now desire to go into should be adjourned. He meant no disrespect to the Deputy Grand Master, but he thought such a question should not have been entertained. He was aware that they ought to assimilate their proceedings as nearly as possible to the legislative assemblies of the realm, but there was this difference, that we met but once in three months, unless especially summoned, while those assemblies met daily. If, therefore, such a motion as adjournment could be entertained, any dozen determined brethren might entirely and effectually stay the business of Grand Lodge, and the machinery of the Craft, which had but a limited time now devoted to its consideration, and business would be stopped. This was a subject of importance, and he called attention to it.

The GRAND MASTER would, in reply, state that while he had doubts of the propriety of entertaining questions of adjournment, he yet thought the Deputy Grand Master quite correct in allowing it under the circumstances. It had been objected that Bro. Cooke had not been served with notice to appear, and therefore it was proposed to adjourn the debate, to give an opportunity of legally serving the notice, and proving such service to the satisfaction of Grand Lodge. These were peculiar considerations, and, under the circumstances, the motion was properly entertained.

Bro. GIBBINS rose and proposed the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland as M. W. G. M. for the ensuing year. The few short sentences the brother uttered were quite inaudible.

Bro. MUGGERIDGE seconded the proposition.

Bro. VERNON (Grand Warden) had no doubt the brethren at the other end of the hall were quite able to hear, because the speaker of necessity turned that way; but at his end not a single word could they catch distinctly. Perhaps the brethren would address part of their remarks each way, so that they might have a share, and know something of what was going on. He solicited this on behalf of the brethren near him in general and for himself in particular.

The EARL OF ZETLAND was then re-elected Grand Master, *nem. con.*, proclaimed, and saluted.

The question was put by the Deputy Grand Master.

The GRAND MASTER thanked the Grand Lodge for the compliment paid him by again being re-elected. He had devoted considerable time and all his ability to the service of the brethren and while he continued to enjoy their confidence, he should be glad, and at all times ready, to continue to use them for the benefit of the Craft. When he felt that he no longer possessed their confidence, he should retire from the office to which he had again been elected. In the various matters he might probably be sometimes in error, and would not be offended at receiving hints accordingly. The Grand Master's address was to the purpose, and of a most satisfactory character, avoiding all subjects of a debateable, personal, or party feeling.

Bro. GIBBINS proposed, and Bro. ALSTON seconded, that Bro. Perceval be re-elected Grand Treasurer for the year ensuing. Carried unanimously.

The GRAND MASTER would now request the Grand Secretary to read some papers connected with the subject that had been postponed from the last meeting—the service of notice on Bro. Cooke to attend and show cause why he should not be expelled. He (the G. M.) had received a letter, which he would also desire to have read, in order that all the particulars of the case might be before them.

The GRAND SECRETARY then read a copy of the notice to attend, which had been served by a secretary of the British embassy in the United States personally on Major General Cooke, with the affidavit of such service, made before the Mayor of Albany, and concluded by reading the letter from Major General Cooke to the Grand Master, of which the following is a copy:—

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, &c. &c.

Mansion House, Albany, New York,
Sabbath Evening, February 18, 1849.

My dear Lord,—Notwithstanding the feeble state of my health, which at this season of the year is always bad, I calculated, though much before my usual time of leaving home, to comply with your commands by the packet which conveys this message, so as to reach England the first week of the ensuing month; but, in consequence of a relapse of the gout, I cannot, with any propriety contend with an atmosphere ranging from ten to twelve degrees below zero. To my own feelings, I assure you, this is not a mere disappointment, but a grievance; because I had intended this year to present my first donation of fifty guineas to the Boys' School, the Annuity Fund, the Old Men's Asylum, and my third contribution to that excellent charity the Girls' Festival, which, of all others, claims a large share of our bounty, aside from our casual sympathy. This pleasure I hope, however, to accomplish at an early day.

Your lordship, of course, duly received my former message, written

when in Paris, last year, accompanying my resignation as Representative of the Grand Lodge of England, with the dignity of P. G. W., to the Grand Lodge of New York. In the tender of that document, your lordship no doubt observed that I was actuated by no other motive than a desire, before embarking in a wider sphere of research, to absolve myself from all existing ties and masonic obligations—the charities excepted, which I shall continue to support and maintain—a sense of duty towards myself and your lordship which time alone can appropriately develope; with an assurance that the height of my ambition—being fully ratified and confirmed, I purposed pursuing my travels on the Continent; in the meanwhile, I should make up my mind to retire from all public life, whether of a civil, military, or masonic character; an assurance I have uniformly and courteously observed since I last met your lordship in Grand Lodge up to the present hour.

I beg leave again very respectfully to inform your lordship that, while in Scotland, I received, by your command, a message from the Grand Secretary—a copy of which is before me, and from which I quote the following extracts—acquainting me “that in consequence of your lordship’s having appointed me by the title of Major General Cooke, to be the Representative of the Grand Lodge of England to the Grand Lodge of New York, your lordship had received a communication from a person in that city, in which it was stated that I did not bear that rank in the American service; and that, trusting I possessed the means of fully establishing my claim to that distinguished title, I would do so at an early period.” In accordance with that message, I replied to the same, appointing a day and hour to meet the Grand Secretary at his office in London, at which place, and his own appointed time—having “fully and satisfactorily established my claims” I left with him a duplicate of my credentials, copied by the Secretary of the Girls’ School, for your lordship; likewise informing him that I had formally resigned my appointment, and repeating my determination to retire from public life in every vocation on my return to the United States of America. Having thus established my claims to the title of Major General Cooke, in the American service, and, as I am *advised*, being *legally* exonerated from whatever claims the Grand Lodge of England, over which your lordship presides, might otherwise have had on my time subsequent to that interview with the Grand Secretary, a further communication has reached my hands, complaining that I had represented myself a Major General in the United States army—an *assertion* equally unauthorised as *uncharitable* and *untrue*.

I regret exceedingly that your lordship, in answer to my official message asking a committee of enquiry to investigate certain grievances, together with my title claims, did not, as was anticipated, bring the subject before Grand Lodge prior to my leaving England. An hour would have put your lordship in possession of all that has been stated and prematurely condemned in my absence. Aye, and still more, that an enemy hath done all this evil—a busy, meddling, discontented spirit—one that minds every man’s business but his own—one whom your lordship will one day or other discover that, in search of a “bone of contention” for a correspondence, of the nature of which he has long since repented—has “sold his brother’s birthright for a mere mess of pottage.”

Having, in all my negotiations with the Craft at large—officially or otherwise—conducted myself circumspectly and as becometh a faithful

servant of the Great Architect of the Universe, I cannot charge my conscience either with any dereliction of duty, any omission of fraternal sympathy, or even guilt of assumption and misrepresentation; neither can I believe your lordship will ever accuse me of any act derogatory to the character of a Mason whose only hope and prayer is, that all mankind—"In every coast, in every clime"—may act up to the principles of Freemasonry, whether they call themselves members of that "sacred order," or whether they do not. For my own part, I have set God always before me—He is at my right hand—I fear no evil. The Grand Lodge having smote one cheek, let them smite the other also, whatever be the weight of their stripes, my masonic principles will remain unsullied to the last—doing all the good for all the evil; and, despite of all obstacles, I hope to carry out those principles in faith, hope, and perfect charity; with all men doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly before God, by whose almighty guidance, I am ever directed, governed, and preserved.

Hoping the Grand Lodge, over which your lordship presides, may ever meet and part in the name of the Lord, locking up its secrets in the sacred repository of the heart with fidelity! fidelity!! fidelity!!!

I have the honour to be, my dear Lord,

Fraternally and respectfully,

Your lordship's humble servant,

COOKE.

Bro. R. G. ALSTON then moved that Bro. (otherwise Major-general) Cooke be expelled from the English Craft; he should not add to the remarks he had had occasion to make on this question at a previous meeting, but reserving to himself the right of reply, he should then make such statements as might be required to set this question at rest; he had very often given his unbiassed consideration to every part of the subject, and weighing the evidence, as it had been collected either way, he was fully persuaded justice demanded the expulsion of the brother.

Bro. TUCKER, P. G. M. for Dorset, had come to London, and attended Grand Lodge, on purpose to give his support to this motion, and he seconded the proposition, sincerely believing it was the duty of every Mason to expose deception wherever it existed, and to punish it most effectually if found in the Craft; there could be no doubt that this brother had practised on the credulity of the masonic body, and Grand Lodge had been deceived into giving him honours to which he was not entitled, nor would he have obtained them but by misrepresentation; he seconded most cordially the proposal for expelling him.

Bro. LEIGH was of the same opinion, and should vote for the expulsion.

Bro. DOBIE must remind Grand Lodge of the position in which this case really stood. It had been discovered that Bro. Cooke was not what he had represented himself, or allowed others to suppose him to be, it was therefore moved by himself that Bro. Cooke should be deprived of the purple apron, because he had obtained it unfairly; if this had been conceded, he believed the justice of the case would have been fairly met, and a punishment, which was really not a slight one, that of depriving a man of his rank, inflicted in proportion to his fault; but an amendment had been moved, that Bro. Cooke should be summoned, to show cause why he should not be expelled; and that amendment having been carried in preference to his motion, it of course became the original motion—that was what they now had under discussion, but to which he could not give his assent.

Bro. C. WILSON would submit a few words, not as an amendment but as an addition to the motion now before the chair. Much had been said of the lodge of which he was a member, the St. Paul's, for admitting Bro. Cooke; but he saw nothing irregular, and knew of nothing irregular about it; the brother had been named as the representative of the Grand Master in the Grand Lodge of New York; but had the Grand Master made the proper enquiries of the fitness of Major-general Cooke to be his representative? the General's character, station, and capabilities should have been enquired into, not after he was appointed, and raised to dignities and honours: and if that had been done, why now wish to expel him? if that had not been done, it was a disgrace to those who had recommended the brother for such preferment; on them, and on them only, the blame and entire disgrace of this affair should rest. He was not now giving an opinion of what course should be taken, but the course that had been neglected was very evident; or if the proper enquiry had been made, the misrepresentation and deception emanated from those who introduced and recommended Major-general Cooke to the Grand Master. He (Bro. W.) was no friend of the General's, and opposed his admission to the St. Paul's Lodge; it was not, therefore, from any intimacy with him that induced him to present himself before Grand Lodge, but a sense of justice only. He moved that, in addition to the motion, the words be added—"that this Grand Lodge considers the officers, whose duty it was to enquire into the character of Major-general Cooke before recommending him to the Grand Master, as extremely negligent and improper, and deserving the censure of the Grand Lodge."

Bro. SCARBOROUGH saw but one of two ways with this unpleasant affair—Bro. Cooke had been found on the floor, and had been raised to the dais—Bro. Cooke had been declared unfit for the dais, and was proposed to be returned to keep company with those below the dais. This could not be tolerated, keep him where he is; or if unfit for such company, let him go out of the society; if not proper company for the officers of a society, he must be equally unfit for the other members of it. He had proposed that he be expelled upon those grounds, and for the same reasons he persisted in it; but he could not think of not keeping him and yet keeping his money, which he had given, he must confess, with a bountiful hand; he trusted, therefore, if the brother was expelled, his money would be returned to him also.

Bro. R. G. ALSTON rose to order—notice of a motion had been given at the Committee of Masters, that if this motion was carried, it would be followed by one proposing to return the money Major-general Cooke had actually given to the masonic charities; and it was Bro. Scarborough's place to have made himself acquainted with such notice.

The GRAND MASTER admitted the state of the case to be as Bro. Dobie had put it; but to the last brother who had spoken he would say, that no one had recommended Bro. Cooke to be appointed to the office of representative at New York, the facts were these—Major-general Cooke was introduced to him by a most respectable brother, a member of the Prince of Wales' Lodge, and believing that the Major-general was what he had represented himself to be, he (the G. M.) appointed him as his representative at the Grand Lodge of New York on his, the Major-general's, own application. He (the G. M.) may have been wrong in doing so; but why should he have doubted the propriety for one moment—what was to induce him to think that Bro. Cooke was

deceiving him—why should he suppose that a Major-general, who gave his masonic word, whom he met in respectable company and well introduced, was not a Major-general at all—it never for one moment occurred to him—he had, however, been deceived, but not by any grand officer, for none ever recommended him to make the appointment. He agreed with the Grand Registrar that deprivation of rank was the more merciful and the more just punishment; but then came the argument, if he is not good enough for a grand officer, how do you make him good enough for the body of Freemasons; this appeared so fair and unanswerable, that he saw no middle way of meeting it.

Bro. PHILLIPS considered that it was admitted a masonic fraud had been perpetrated, and that must therefore be followed by a masonic punishment of as severe a nature as could be found. He approved entirely of the proposed expulsion of Major-general Cooke, who had in his letter conceded that he had no right to such a title.

Bro. HAYES did not agree in that view; Major-general Cooke, as he was pleased to call himself, was not a major-general but a doctor, and followed the very lowest branch of the profession as his particular practice, if then he had openly avowed himself as such, and came to England with that title only, he would have been admitted to the lodges, and some even would not have hesitated to have elected him as a member; it was unjust to expel him from the Craft, but quite proper that he should be deprived of the purple. He (Bro. H.) thought that such an amendment was before the chair, or would not have alluded to it, as he was quite desirous of confining himself to the question.

After a few words from the Grand Master,

Bro. ATTWOOD had addressed himself to this question at the last Quarterly Communication, but had then been requested by his Provincial Grand Master (Bro. Humfrey) not to enter into particulars, as that stage of the proceedings had not then arrived, but that he should be prepared to join issue on the merits of the case. He (Bro. A.) regretted to find that the Provincial Grand Master was then absent, but although he might deplore his absence, from the loss of the great talent and assistance he would have brought to the case, he nevertheless should not refrain from entering into the discussion on its merits only, although he had to contend with one, to whom he would at once yield the motives by which he was actuated to be the best, purest, and most honourable; he had brought to this subject all his talents, ingenuity, and force, indeed, if he had held a brief from the crown, with a thousand guinea fee, he could not have shown more ingenuity and determination to obtain a conviction, than he had in prosecuting this absent brother. The accusations against him were publicly submitted, and the revolting advertisements, said to be his, had been handed to the Grand Registrar to read; but his defence, resting, as it did, upon a letter, which the Grand Master had ordered to be read, was left to be read by the Grand Secretary, scarcely audible and not intelligible, making the contrast all the greater; the points urged therein he must therefore pass over, but they seemed a refutation of the charges, to some others he would address himself. He had not at the moment one of Bro. Cooke's cards, but Grand Lodge would take his word that he had had them in his possession; it was stated thereon, "Major-general Cooke, Albany," and in pencil at the foot, "U. S. A.," which to all intents and purposes meant United States of America; this contained the grand charge against him, because it had been urged that U. S. A. meant United States Army; he for one deemed it, Major-general

Cooke was as much a major-general as any of the officers who placed their titles before their names, while they belonged only to the yeomanry or militia; he received his rank in one of the States, and as such used it; if he had intended to say, of the United States army, those words or letters would have followed his name or title, and not the State in which he resided, showing clearly U. S. A. in pencil was a continuation of the address; these being established as facts, what became of the charges—nothing; the Major-general came here, had been here before, visited lodges, gave liberally to the charities, and was courted and petted; but a change came over “the spirit of the dream,” and with much less cause, and equal ceremony, he was to be expelled from the English Craft. Bound as he (Bro. A.) was by his obligation to protect his absent erring brother, it was much more his bounden duty to protect one whom he believed innocent of any grave or serious offence.

Bro. BEADEN would have sat quiet, as he had not intended to take any part in the discussion, but that his lodge, the Prince of Wales', had been alluded to particularly, and seeing two senior members present, he was in hopes they would have replied. Bro. Cooke became a member of that lodge in consequence of the supposition of his rank in the American army; but as no such Major-general existed, a wrong man had been introduced, and there was a necessity for his being expelled. Bro. B. at considerable length repeated some of the former arguments.

Bro. BIGG addressed the Grand Lodge, but was very indistinctly heard, the brethren manifesting considerable impatience to vote.

The GRAND MASTER would have been pleased if the first resolution had been persisted in, then the lodges of which Bro. Cooke was a member could have expelled him, and he would have had no right to attend Grand Lodge: the same thing as now proposed would thus have been carried into effect. It having been explained to the Grand Master that his reading of masonic law was incorrect, he conceded as much, and said it would be a round-about-way for the lodges to apply to the Board of General Purposes for them to apply to Grand Lodge to expel, when the same question was now before them.

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER was present at former meetings, when this subject was under consideration, and he felt that a deception had been practised by Major-general Cooke having represented himself to be what he really was not; even in the patent by which the Grand Master had appointed him, he was described as of the American army, and that document was and had been in Bro. Cooke's hands. He (the D. G. M.) entertained no doubt of the offence, and as little what the result should be.

Bro. FOSTER WHITE proceeded to state that great injustice was being practised towards Major General Cooke, whose cards he handed up to show that he had not misrepresented himself, but that it was the work of others; what he said he was, was what he was entitled to, and that he had proved satisfactorily to the Grand Secretary. He had visited England before, and stayed at the same hotel. If they had used but proper and common precaution, they would have found, as he (Bro. W.) had found, the same brother on a former occasion described as Dr. Cooke, and now Major General; and in either capacity he had opened his purse and his heart to the relief of others, and had made princely donations to the charities of the Order. He had that day received a letter from Bro. Cooke, complaining of severe indisposition. He would read a few extracts from the major general's letter, showing that he was more sinned against than sinning.

The GRAND SECRETARY said he made it an invariable rule to call upon brethren for whom patents were to be made out, to know how they wished to be described, as it was impossible he could know. In the case of Major General Cooke, he had made a draft of the patent, with which he waited on that brother, and read it to him; therein he was described as Bro. Major General George Cooke, of the army of the United States of America, and Bro. Cooke made no objection to such description, nor did he in any way insinuate that it was not a proper description.

Bro. SAVAGE's address was rendered inaudible from the noise and clamour of the brethren wishing to divide.

Bro. CRUCEFIX rose, but the exclamations, especially from the dais, of "divide, divide," for some time prohibited his being heard. At length, silence being perfectly restored, he addressed the Grand Master, observing that he had purposely waited until every other member of the Grand Lodge should have been heard both in accusation and defence of a brother whose case, in his opinion, ought never to have been intruded on the Grand Lodge, to the neglect of its general objects. It had been his intention to have animadverted on certain subjects relative to the question at issue, but the Grand Master had frankly stated that he (the G. M.) might possibly have been in error, and the probability was that he was not altogether wrong; furthermore, the Grand Master had very fraternally intimated that he would not consider a gentle hint to be ungracious. These sentiments from the masonic throne went to the heart, and tended much to disarm opposition, however well intended. (Here the interruption of laughter from a noble Provincial Grand Master caused Dr. C. to turn round and bow to him.) He would now touch on the case of General Cooke very briefly, having on previous occasions given his opinion at length; but as the letter from that brother to the Grand Master might be considered as a proof of service, it only remained to question whether, according to masonic law, a brother laid up with the gout at Albany, in the State of New York, could be considered as wanting in respect to the Grand Lodge, by not perilling the dangers of a voyage to comply with the mandate. It surely was not masonic to expect such compliance. He himself would not be guilty of such an absurdity. (Here the same noble brother repeated his derisive laughter, which again occasioned Dr. C. to bow to him.) Laughter might be well enough in its way, but it was never more ill-timed than on the present occasion. His intention was to propose an amendment based on the opinion of the Grand Master himself, and which would amply meet the justice of the case, the more especially as General Cooke had actually resigned the honours conferred on him—it might be from a mistaken view; and his amendment would be, that the first original motion entertained by Bro. Dobie, that the Grand Master having, for reasons stated, removed General Cooke from the office of Representative to the Grand Lodge of New York, that he be also removed from the rank of P. S. G. W. also, which rank was conferred in compliment to such appointment of representative. In this view of the case, there could be no offence to any party. General Cooke might have erred, but his case was not without parallel. To cast upon simple error the same penalty with which they had visited revolting crimes was awful—it was not Freemasonry. Let Grand Lodge bear in mind that the general had proved himself at any rate a liberal benefactor to our charities, and how were we about to reward him?

The amendment was not seconded.

Bro. R. G. ALSTON had not heard anything to call upon him to make any lengthened reply. Dr. Cooke's justification had entirely failed, and he stood publicly proved a deceiver; his own letters admitted that he had no title to the honours he assumed, and were an aggravation of his offence. He entreated Grand Lodge to get rid of such a man entirely from Freemasonry.

The GRAND MASTER declared the motion carried by a considerable majority.*

Bro. R. G. ALSTON then moved that the sums of money actually paid by the brother so properly just now expelled the Craft to the masonic charities be returned to him. They were not justified in keeping his money, and they would console themselves by paying out of the Fund of General Purposes one large amount for the good of the charities, on this an especial occasion.

Bro. SCARBOROUGH seconded.—Carried.

The Report of the Board of Benevolence was then read. The presentation of one hundred pounds to the widow of Bro. Burckhardt was carried, as also the grant to the widow of a brother in the north of England of fifty pounds, who, for upwards of half a century, had been a most faithful, active, and industrious member of the Craft.

The Grand Lodge was then closed.

On the grant of one hundred pounds to the widow of Bro. Burckhardt being carried, the W. M. of the Lodge of Antiquity, in the course of a conversation with the Grand Master relative to some MSS. of the deceased, and which it was arranged should be delivered to the charge of the said Master, it was observed that the DIES of the charity jewel were to be disposed of, when it was stated that Bro. Wm. Evans had purchased them from Mrs. Burckhardt, as well as her interest in the medal, and that he (Bro. E.) was registered at the Royal Mint as successor to the late Bro. Burckhardt. The Grand Master, addressing Bro. Evans, said—"Of course you will reserve the medal, especially for the Past Stewards of the charity." Bro. Evans: "Most certainly, my lord, for them specially."

GRAND CONCLAVE

OF THE ROYAL, RELIGIOUS, AND MILITARY ORDER OF MASONIC KNIGHTS
 TEMPLAR IN ENGLAND AND WALES, UNDER THE COMMAND OF SIR
 KNIGHT COLONEL C. K. KEMEYS FYTTE, MOST EMINENT AND SUPREME
 GRAND MASTER.

COMMITTEE, *January 5.*—President Sir Knights Stuart, Crucefix, Wackerbarth, Goldsworthy, Cox and Gibbins.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

Sir Knight Dover not being present, the subject of the "working" was not entered upon, but opinions were expressed that the difficulties were at present very apparent.

The subject of insignia was deferred.

A correspondence from an encampment in Barcelona, requesting to be admitted under the protection of the Grand Conclave of England was

* About three to two.

read ; but it appearing that such encampment was spurious, having been warranted by a person named Sadler, who left England many years since, and abstracted the warrant of the Mount Carmel Encampment,—the request could not be entertained, and it was understood also, that the Most Eminent the Grand Master, had the encampment being fully legal, would not have advised the intermeddling with any section of Masonic Templars not meeting in the dominions of the British Crown.

March 2.—Present, Sir Knights Colonel Tynte the Most Eminent Grand Master, Stuart, Crucefix, Claydon, Goldsworthy, Cox, Dover, Gibbins.

The accounts of the Grand Treasurer were audited, and found correct. A considerable balance appeared in favour.

It was resolved, that the following circular be issued :—

SIR KNIGHT,—I am directed to inform you, that the Annual Meeting of Grand Conclave will be held at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen-street, London, on Friday the 30th of March, 1849, at Three o'clock in the afternoon precisely. The Grand Officers, present and past, together with the Eminent Commanders, Past Eminent Commanders, and Captains commanding columns, in each Encampment of the Order, are particularly requested to attend.

I have also to request you will make it known to the several Members of your Encampment, that a Grand Banquet will be prepared at Six o'Clock on the day of the Annual Meeting, for which Tickets may be obtained on application to the Stewards, on or before the 28th day of March.

I am, Sir Knight, yours fraternally,

C. B. CLAYDON,

Grand Chancellor.

2, Hare-court, Temple, March 5th, 1849.

ENCAMPMENT OF FAITH AND FIDELITY, *January 31st, 1849.* Sir Knight J. A. D. Cox, M. E. C. Present, Sir Knight H. Udall, J. Watson, Emly, Spiers, Evans, Greaves, Tompkins, Best, Lucas, Rev. Moore, &c. &c.

The annual meeting for the purpose of installing an Eminent Commander for the ensuing year, took place at the Freemasons' Hall, when the high honour of Eminent Commander was conferred on Sir Knight John Watson, who had at a previous meeting been unanimously elected to that distinguished office. The honour of a visit by Sir Knight Tucker, Prov. Grand Commander for Dorset, was responded to on the part of the Encampment, by a hearty welcome, a compliment always awaiting that excellent Mason ; Sir Knight Captain Hooper, from Portsmouth, was also present.

Under the command of Sir Knight Watson, the Encampment will no doubt maintain its position, as one of the most celebrated in London, both for completeness in its appointments, and correctness in its ceremonies.

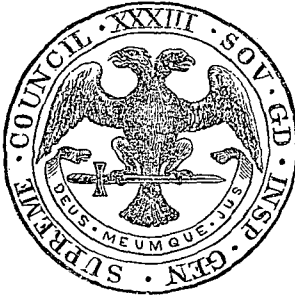
Sir Knight Watson's addresses at the banquet were such as might have been expected from that esteemed brother, and were an earnest of what it may be our happiness to witness, when circumstances enable him to prove his efficiency in the important ceremonial of installation.

Sir Knight Emly was appointed First Captain, and Sir Knight Spiers, Second.

A splendid banquet and social evening party, were not the only pleasures enjoyed by the Sir Knights.

CROSS OF CHRIST ENCAMPMENT, *March 16.*—The installation of Sir Knight Col. Vernon, E. C., elect, was the signal for a good muster of the members and their friends. The ceremony was impressively conducted, and reflected great credit on those who were engaged in the solemn rites. The banquet, as usual in this *Encampment*, was indicative as well of the rights of hospitality, as of chivalric sentiments.

SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL 33°.



The transactions of this illustrious degree have been altogether of a private nature,—but are in expectation that our next number will record matters of public interest.

THE CHARITIES.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.—The Editor of the "Freemasons' Calendar" having remembered to forget the announcement of the Annual Festival of this excellent Charity,—it is to be hoped that its interests will not suffer by the omission. We, however, think it right to enlist the sympathy of the brethren, and to state that on the Third Wednesday in May, they will have the great privilege of testifying their approbation of the school, and of supporting its interests.

The school affairs are prospering to the satisfaction of its patrons.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.—The Fifty-first Festival was celebrated on the 14th March, at Freemasons' Hall. We have not been complimented by receiving any report of the proceedings, but understand that the result was honourable to the liberality of the stewards, both as to the amount of subscriptions, and to the social happiness of the day. Bro. R. G. Alston presided with his accustomed energy and tact,—the numbers present fell short.

With regard to the statistics of the institution, there are some arrangements pending, which it would be premature to make public.

THE BENEVOLENT ANNUITY FUND.—The 30th of January was fixed on to celebrate the Second Festival,—to this no reasonable objection could be offered; and that it might not interfere with the interests of the charity, the Asylum Ball was postponed a month later than usual,—when lo! a second circular was issued, stating that such day was *inconvenient*,—and the 12th of June was substituted; of course it could not be inferred, that to fix a day within ten days of the celebration of the Asylum Festival could not at all affect the interests of that charity, and therefore we presume the change was purely *accidental*. We doubt, however, whether it be purely *Masonic*.

THE ASYLUM FOR AGED MASONS.

The following extracts from a circular are so pointed and effective, that we think it our duty to extend their publicity.

GRAND MASONIC BALL.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I have the pleasure to inform you, that the Annual Ball in aid of the Funds of the "Asylum for Worthy, Aged, and Decayed Freemasons," is appointed to take place at Almack's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, on Wednesday the 28th of February next.

To commemorate the auspicious commencement of the building, the foundation stone of which will be laid early in the spring, a great number of gentlemen and brethren have kindly consented to officiate as stewards, and have resolved to put in requisition every available resource that may contribute to render this one of the most delightful and best conducted Balls of the season.

The President and Board of Stewards respectfully request your co-operation in this pleasing work of charity, and if they presume to anticipate a highly successful result to this application, it is because they feel that charity in the abstract, must necessarily have the support of every high-minded and unprejudiced Mason.

The other truly excellent charities of our Order, give the most gratifying evidences of masonic liberality; and it would be unworthy that comprehensive benevolence which Freemasonry teaches, were they to assume a limit to its sphere of action, or to suppose that an institution, which provides a home for the worthy infirm and destitute of our Order, should lack its fair share of patronage and protection.

To those poor aged brethren who have outlived friends and connexions, and whose home is the wide world, (and how many hundreds of such are there) the Asylum proposes to become the resting place, where in honourable retirement, in complaisant ease, and in the indulgence of those social comforts which masonic bounty will not fail to provide them, they may pass the evening of their days happy and contented.

I remain, Sir and brother, yours very respectfully and fraternally,

J. WHITMORE,

Hon. Sec.

125, Oxford-street, January 29, 1849.

The Ball was conducted in a most delightful manner, it was not so numerously attended as on some former occasions, but the day had been most inauspicious, and deterred those from being present whose health might suffer. The Stewards' arrangements were admirable, and gave the highest satisfaction.

TURNING OF THE SOD, Feb. 19.—This day was the first grand movement. The sod of the soil on which the Asylum is to be built, was turned at Croydon, at the north east corner of the intended structure,—by Bros. Wilson, W. L. Wright, Patrick, Whitmore, Barrett, and the assistant architect.

The ground having been marked out and measured according to usual system, the party gave three hearty cheers for the success of the undertaking. Never were hearts more sensitively impressed with honesty of purpose or holiness of object. The cheers were as "Hallelujahs,"—spontaneous and life-like. Heart gave them expression, and truth wafted them as best she could upwards, in token of her own testimony in favour

of the aged and decayed Freemason. The laying of the foundation stone will of course attract greater attention,—but cannot excel the proud, yet happy assurance that irradiated the turning of the soil on which is to be erected a temple to the glory of God!

The Foundation Stone will, it is expected, be laid early in May, and the roofing-in of the building be completed in June. The ceremony of consecration is under arrangement, as of course a perfect masonic character must pervade the whole proceedings. Proudly associating, as well we may, Freemasonry as coeval with the magnificent scheme of creation itself, and hitherto contented with the humble acknowledgment that Freemasonry is universal in its system, we have on no previous occasion on record, met for the consecration of a temple dedicated to the master-work of the Great Architect of the Universe, as fitted for the reception of the being created in His own image—MAN!

Such consecration is about to take place, and in our next number we hope to lay before our readers the transactions of an auspicious solemnity, in which those who may be able to participate will imbibe truthful impressions, and in the relation of which those who are not present may feel that in heart and in soul, they would but could not join in the chorus of "*Hosannah to the Highest.*"

The Fourteenth Anniversary Festival is fixed to take place on Wednesday the 20th of June, at Freemasons' Hall, and as the day will be hailed as commemorative of the roofing-in of the building, it is trusted that the patrons and friends to the Asylum will muster well, and record substantial proofs of their determination to support the cause. The Board of Stewards is forming, and we are truly happy to say is very promising as to number and respectability.

THE REPORTER.

POLISH NATIONAL CHAPTER, No. 778, Oct. 28, 1848.—A warrant of constitution having been granted to attach a chapter to the Polish National Lodge, the ceremony of consecration accordingly took place; there were present on the occasion several officers of the Grand Chapter, and Present and Past Principals of the Order. Comps. W. Watson, John Savage, and Tombleson, of the Robert Burns' Chapter, having taken the chairs and opened the chapter, Companion Watson proceeded to the consecration, which ceremony was performed in a very efficient and masterly manner. The Principals were then installed as follows:—Comp. Weirsinski, as Z., by Comp. Watson; Comp. Beadon, of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, as H., by Comp. John Savage; and Comp. Toblonski, as J., by Comp. Tombleson. After the installations, several companions were exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Masons. This part of the ceremony was also performed by the three companions who had consecrated the chapter, and installed the Principals. In alluding to the very excellent manner in which the whole of the proceedings of the day were conducted, from the opening of the chapter through the various difficult and imposing ceremonies even to the closing of the chapter itself, it is only necessary to state that the excellent companions chosen for the performance of those important

duties acquitted themselves most efficiently, and without a blemish ; we must not omit to remark that the office of P. S., as performed by Comp. Goreing, was a perfect representation of the part. Among those present were Comp. W. H. White, Grand Scribe E., Comp. J. C. McMullen, Grand Scribe N., and Comps. B. Bond Cabbell, Biggs, Barnes, Evans, Graham, Levick, &c. An elegant dinner and an evening spent in social and truly fraternal intercourse, concluded the proceedings. Several excellent speeches were made ; Comp. White on behalf of the visitors on the dais, and Comp. John Savage for the visitors below the dais. Comp. Zaba returned thanks for the newly elected companions, in a speech replete with eloquence and feeling.

CHIT CHAT.

THE YEAR 1849.—THE 1849TH YEAR OF CHRIST.

5849 Anno Lucis^æ et Latomiæ.

5798th after the Creation of the World, according to Scaliger's computation ; but the

5353rd year, according to Usserius.

IT IS THE

6562nd of the Julian period.

2625th year of the Olympiad.

2502nd year of the building of Rome.

5610th year of the Jewish computation, which begins with the 17th of September.

1265th year after the Hegira.

7357th year according to the modern Greek calendar.

783rd year of the Norman line in England.

695th year of the Conquest of Ireland by England.

685th year of the Plantaganet line.

450th year of the line of Lancaster.

388th year of the line of York.

364th year of the line of Tudor.

332nd year since the Reformation of Luther.

224th year of the Stuart line.

135th since the accession of the House of Brunswick.

13th year of our Sovereign Queen Victoria.

FREEMASONRY EXTRAORDINARY.—During the past summer a certain countryman, who had never seen Paris, came up to one of the Republican *fêtes*, and wandered about at an early hour, gazing at all he could see. Many things seemed to puzzle him, and seeing a respectable young man by him on one occasion, he asked him several questions. The young man responded politely, "You are a stranger, I observe ; allow me to do the hospitality of my native city." The old gentleman from the country accepted heartily, and was delighted beyond measure when his new acquaintance offered to take him to a somnambulist *seance* at Alexander Dumas's house. They started at once, and soon reached a magnificent mansion on the Boulevards. The young man entered, and went into the porter's lodge. He immediately returned with the information that Dumas had put off the *seance* until next day, because of

the *fête*. "It is only adjourned for a day," remarked the young man, "let us dine in the Palais Royal, and go to the play afterwards." The old gentleman agreed, and they took a walk round Paris by way of getting an appetite. At five they turned to the Palais National, and entered one of the celebrated restaurateurs of that luxurious locality. They asked for a private room, where the young man ordered a most expensive and splendid dinner to be served up. The old gentleman protested against such expense; but the young man politely insisted, saying that it was his daily dinner, and the countryman gave way. The dinner was served, eaten, and the wines paid somewhat deep attention to—so much so, that the intellects of the old gentleman were slightly obfuscated. Dessert was brought, and the two sat down coolly to luxuriate over another bottle. Suddenly the old gentleman stared in astonishment. The young man was performing a certain series of cabalistic signs with his fingers and nose, somewhat of the same character which Mr. Denison so elegantly offered to the appreciation of the Yorkshire electors. The *campagnard* was indignant. "Oh," cried the young man, "I see you are not a Freemason!" "Is that the sign of Freemasonry?" cried the old gentleman. "The first sign," replied the young man. "Ah, I wish I were one," sighed the countryman. "Do you wish to join?" said the Parisian. "I shall be delighted." "Then, I'm your man. In this house the Grand Orient is now sitting. If you will accept, I will go up and have you elected at once." "You are too kind; but what is the ceremony?" "Very simple. Take off your coat and waistcoat; let me bind your eyes with this handkerchief; and then wait until I return." The delighted countryman accepted gladly, and hurried to comply. Coat and waistcoat were off in an instant, and his eyes bandaged. The young man in a few minutes left him. An hour passed in anxious expectation. Nothing occurred until the old man felt himself violently seized by the arm, and his bandage taken off his eyes. The furious landlord and three waiters stood before him. "My silver spoons, my silver forks, my clock, my silver candlesticks," cried the landlord. The terrified old gentleman answered, "My coat, my waistcoat, my watch, my money." The landlord stood petrified. "Explain." The old gentleman told his story. The landlord, despite his rage, roared with laughter, sent for a hackney coach, and drove with his fellow-victim to the Prefecture of Police. The story was told, and the secret agents set to work. Before morning, the clever youth and all his booty were captured. The countryman appeared as evidence, and then returned to his native village, a wiser if not a better man.—*North British Daily Mail*.

FREEMASONRY AT LAW.—At the Tralee Sessions, a curious case was tried before the Assistant Barrister, Mr. Freeman. A person named Thompson sued a gentleman named M'Gillicuddy, a Freemason, for the amount of entrance fees as a Mason paid by him to Mr. M'Gillicuddy. Thompson said he had attended for the purpose of being admitted, but declined going into the Mason's room, as he heard there was a poker in the fire for him, and that he should give up his watch and money as well as take an oath when he entered it. The Assistant Barrister observed, that if any oath were required by the Masons, it made them "an illegal society," and threatened to compel one of the witnesses (a Freemason) to declare whether an oath was taken by the Masons, as he should then have reason to think them an illegal society.

He, however, dismissed the complaint of Thompson. As he had given his money voluntarily, he was not entitled to get it back again.—*Dublin Weekly Register*, April 26, 1831.

HIGH HONOUR CONFERRED BY HER MAJESTY ON A JEW.—The Queen has been pleased, on the nomination of Lord Foley, to appoint the under-mentioned gentlemen to Her Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms:—Herbert Rice, Esq., Francis Vanderlure Mills, Esq., and Philip Salomons, Esq.; the last-named gentleman being a Jew. When we consider that the office of Gentleman-at-Arms requires attendance on Her Majesty's person, we think the distinction a very high one, and another omen of the ultimate removal of the last barrier which yet prevents our admission into the Legislature.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

COLONEL KEMEYS TYNTE has been appointed colonel of the staff of the Glamorganshire Militia, and he has assured the band he intends supporting them in the same manner as the late Lord Bute did. The gallant Colonel's appointment will, we are convinced, be hailed with satisfaction by the public, as he is not only an excellent landlord, but in every respect well qualified to discharge the duties which now devolve upon him.

WE have seen some really good paintings which have been entrusted to Mr. Eales White for disposal, and we confess our astonishment at the cost at which (under peculiar circumstances) a sumptuous production of art might be obtained. Mr. White is equally courteous to admirers as purchasers, and we know not where an hour can now be more agreeably employed than in his show-rooms at Taunton.

THE JEWS.—"No, Sir, you are mistaken. The cloak of maliciousness is not used by those who make liberty a boast, but by those who are opposed to all progression; who are enemies to religious liberty; who, from the bottom of their hearts, hate the "new order of things," because it spoils the trade in religion which has flourished so long; but who, with all their opposition to religious freedom, dare not, in the face of the marching intellect of the present day, openly avow themselves retrogrades.

"Let but the Jewish nation persevere in their endeavours for obtaining full justice; let them appreciate the liberty of the press to its fullest lawful extent; let them but manifest their zeal in the exercise of public as well as domestic virtues; and they will soon succeed in exposing to public scorn, those who, for some purpose or other, either abroad or in this country, make religion 'the cloak of their maliciousness.'"—I am, Sir, yours, &c., M. H. B.—*Jewish Chronicle*, Sept. 15, 1848.

RAILWAY COURTSHIP.—A short time ago a young lady, out of her teens, was travelling in a first-class railway carriage from London to Birmingham. There was but one other passenger, a gentleman, who became very agreeable by conversing very politely on various subjects. Before the arrival of the train at Birmingham, the gentleman displayed such interest in the fair damsel's welfare, that he outstepped the bounds of decorum, and stole a kiss from her roseate cheeks. This liberty gave such offence that, at Birmingham, our gentleman was given into custody of a police-officer. A scene in the police-court followed—a fine was imposed and paid; but our hero had been smitten—by this police procedure he learned the name and connections of the fair maiden; adopted

means to be introduced *comme il faut*, plied his suit, was accepted, and "the couple" were soon afterwards joined together in the holy bands of matrimony. We vouch for these facts.—*Hereford Times.*

DR. JOHN WILKINS, a man of uncommon parts and abilities, in the reign of Charles II., has been laughed at, together with his chimeras; but even these proclaim themselves the chimeras of a man of genius. Such was his attempt to show the possibility of a voyage to the moon. In a conversation with the Duchess of Newcastle, her grace asked him, Doctor, where am I to find a place for baiting at, in the way up to that planet? Madam, said he, of all the people in the world, I never expected that question from you, who have built so many castles in the air, that you may lie every night at one of your own.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATRIMONY.—It was one of the laws of Lycurgus, that no portions should be given with young women in marriage. When this great lawyer was called upon to justify this enactment, he observed—"That in the choice of a wife, merit only should be considered; and that the law was made to prevent young women being chosen for their riches, or neglected for their poverty."

THE PHYSICIAN AND THE SOLDIER.—THE BATTLE FIELD AND THE FIELD OF DEATH.—Heat and moisture, as I have already informed you, are the absolute essentials in producing putrefaction, and consequently the two grand agents in eliminating the poisonous gases and animal compounds of which I have endeavoured to give you a short but I hope effective history. Now, the two agents, moisture and heat, more especially the latter, exist in Scinde in an unmitigated and irremediable form. Little rain, it is true, falls in Scinde, but the sudden irruption of torrents of water from the upper country washing the already upturned grave-yard earth, the half exposed bodies, and filling deep and extensive excavations from which earth had been taken for building purposes, not only carried with it what it met with in its course, but constituted literally a solution of dead bodies. These pools of human corruption remained some time after the subsidence of the surface water, gave out their fluid material to the thirsty and fissured earth in every direction, whilst the sun, operating on the surface of these stagnant reservoirs, at a temperature ranging from 120 to 130 degrees, produced the most deadly exhalations. Hence it is that an error in judgment is so disastrous in result; hence it is that the lion in the field, the unyielding in battle, must take counsel from the votaries of science, the conservators of health; hence it is that Englishmen who have rushed upon visible danger, who have braved the bullet and the bayonet, who have sternly defied the iron shower or breasted the murderous grape and canister; who have made in far distant lands the name of their country at once great and terrible, have perished miserably—ignobly; have fallen in the prime of their days, victims to a lamentable ignorance, or an utterly mistaken policy.—*From Mr. G. A. Walker's Fourth Lecture on the Metropolitan Grave-Yards.*

THE EARL FORTESCUE'S FARM, *January.*—The arrangements of his lordship's farm, at Castle Hill, which is laid out on quite a new principle having been completed, his lordship invited a number of gentlemen, including the yeomanry of that neighbourhood, on Monday, to witness the improvements that had been made thereon. A sumptuous *dejeuner* was provided at the farm for the visitors, of whom there were between forty and fifty present.

Obituary.

"Death is the dark trance between time and eternity."

THE FAMILY BURIAL GROUND.—Yet, after all, do you know, that I would rather sleep in the southern corner of a little country churchyard than in the tomb of the Capulets. I should like, however, that my dust should mingle with kindred dust. The good old expression—"the family burying ground"—has something pleasing in it, at least to me.—*Edm. Burke.*

DEATH.—There is but this difference between the death of old men and young men; old men go to death, and death comes to young men.—*Bacon.*

On a black slab in East Church, Isle of Sheppy, under the effigies of Gabriel Linsey, in the centre of the monument, between the kneeling figure of Michael and the recumbent effigy of his son Robert, is the following, in Roman capitals :—

"Stay, passenger, and marke before thou passe,
Thine owne condition in death's looking-glass;
Thou yt dost read these lines shalt lye among
Wormes, bones, and rotten carckesses er long;
Them thousands yt are full of life to-day
Shall by tomorrow's tyme sleep in clay,
& freind, for ought yt any mortall knowes,
Thou maist be marked ovt for one of thos.
Let therfor these dead lynes remember thee,
How wel prepared thou hast need to be;
So thou shalt gaine by looking on ys tomb
A better life than from thy mother's wombe."

Dec. 25, 1848.—At Aberdeen, Bro. ALEXANDER BAILLIE, aged 45. By his death the Craft have lost a most zealous, active, upright, and enthusiastic brother, while his widow has to deplore the loss of a kind and faithful husband, and his family a most industrious and indulgent parent. Although in humble circumstances, he was most respectably connected, his mother being the daughter of Sir John Swallow, of Glasgow. He was raised in St. George's Lodge, No. 190, and was a Companion of St. George's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 21, and a Sir Knight of the St. George's Aboyne K. T. Encampment, Aberdeen. His remains were followed to the grave by a number of the Sir Knights, on St. John's Day; and to mark the respect and esteem in which he was held by them, at the first meeting of the encampment, the regular business was postponed, and a solemn and deeply impressive service conducted.

Dec. 26, 1848.—SIR AUGUSTUS FREDERIC D'ESTE, son of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, by Lady Augusta Murray, daughter of the Earl of Dunmore, to whom his royal highness was married at Rome, 1793. Upon the death of the duke, in 1843, Sir Augustus Frederic preferred his claim to succeed to the titles and honours of his father, and the claim was heard by the House of Lords in that year, when, after proof was given of the marriage of his father and mother, and of the birth of Sir Augustus Frederic in 1794, a question was submitted to the judges upon the effect of the Royal Marriage Act, 12 George III. The judges pronounced their opinion to be that that statute had incapacitated the descendants of George II. from contracting a legal marriage without the consent of the crown, either within the British dominions or elsewhere, whereupon the House of Lords resolved that Sir Augustus Frederic had not established his claim. The deceased held the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden in the United Grand Lodge of England.

Dec. 30, 1848.—Bro. JOHN CHRISTIAN BURCKHARDT, æt. 77.—The deceased was in his day an active and intelligent Mason—well versed in ceremonials, and most intimately acquainted with the Templar and Rosicrucian mysteries, as they were handed down by the late Bro. Dunckerley. Bro. Burckhardt was a German by birth, and by trade a jeweller. His dialect prevented an easy delivery in the English language, but he was nevertheless a fluent speaker, and even practically eloquent. His manner was not bland and persuasive, but, on the contrary, harsh and dictatorial. He was much in the confidence of the late Duke of Sussex, and considered it a duty to support whatever measures his royal highness suggested. In this view, however, he considered that he acted on the principle that he repaid confidence by fidelity. We willingly pass a veil over failings which gently shaded a kind heart and considerable mental endowments. The first yielded to the better knowledge of the character of those with whom he too frequently differed, but by whom his own character was never misunderstood, much less assailed. Bro. Burckhardt was, at least, neither a sycophant nor an apostate. He was an honorary member of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and a member of the Antiquity. On the decease of the Duke of Sussex, as Grand Sub Prior, he became, *pro tem.*, the ruler of the Masonic Knights Templar until the period of election, when the office of Grand Master of the Order was conferred on Col. C. K. K. Tynte. His worldly circumstances were, long before his decease, most unfortunate, and the Grand Lodge unanimously voted the sum of 100*l.* to his widow.

Jan. 15.—Of consumption, aged 30, MARY ANN, the beloved wife of Bro. ROBERT LEVICK, P. M. of the Royal Jubilee Lodge, No. 85.

PENSIONER ON THE ASYLUM FUND.—Jan. 20.—Bro. JOHN CLARK, æt. 76. For twenty-six years the deceased was a member of the Albion Lodge No. 9, and had been associated with other lodges. He was by trade a tailor, but for many years incapable of work. Poor Bro. Clark! how hopefully did he look for the time when he might enter the Asylum itself. His latter days were passed in the utmost penury—no helping hand, for his poor widow is bed-ridden, and has no means whatever of support—God her only friend. May He direct the stream of charity to flow in her behalf! Let her speak for herself, as she did in a miserable note: "I do not know how to bury him. I am a sad cripple, and cannot leave my bed. Would that some brother would call on me." Bro. Rackstraw did call, and the deceased was buried!—but the widow is destitute!

March 17.—The KING OF HOLLAND, æt. 57, at the Hague, of inflammation of the lungs. He was educated in England under the Archbishop of Canterbury. He served in the British army, under the Duke of Wellington, from 1811 to 1814, and commanded the Dutch troops at the battle of Waterloo. The Prince of Orange, now King of Holland, was in London when the melancholy tidings reached him. The late king was Grand Protector of the Freemasons of Holland.

Lately, in advanced years, at the Ship Hotel, Brighton, Bro. J. J. CUFF, formerly of the Freemasons' Tavern, London. In our next we hope to give a biographical sketch of the deceased brother.

PROVINCIAL.

CROYDON.—The members of the East Surrey Lodge of Concord, No. 680, having resolved to patronise a ball, the profits of which are to be applied in aid of the fund of benevolence of the lodge, the same took place at Bro. Bean's, the Greyhound Inn, on the Feast of St. Valentine, the day on which, according to common tradition, the feathered tribe select their mates. Perhaps the inference may be fairly drawn that certain of the brothers were equally disposed with the songsters of the wood and grove to "pair" themselves for life, and hence the choice of this auspicious day. Whether such was the case or not, we can only say, that if those who were thus disposed could not, out of the gallery of beauty present, select one to their mind, they deserve to remain bachelors for life. The ball was admirably conducted by the Stewards. The ball and refreshment rooms were most tastefully decorated, under the superintendence of Bro. Bean, with the masonic insignia of the lodge, interspersed with flowers and evergreens, and when graced with the fascinating presence of the lovely and fair, attended by the masonic brothers, in their glittering decorations, whether indulging in the lively polka, the mazy waltz, or the quiet quadrille, to the strains of Weippert's delightful band, presented a scene of extreme happiness and gaiety. The ball was most numerously attended, there being one hundred and twenty-two persons present, and it was honoured by the attendance of the provincial grand officers of the county, and most of the principal Freemasons and their friends resident in the neighbourhood. The greatest praise should be awarded to Bro. Bean for the excellence of the arrangements under his superintendence, the refreshments being of the best character, and profusely supplied.

HASTINGS.—Bro. A. Dobie, P.G.M. for Surrey, and Bro. Holland, *M.P.* have been elected members of our lodge. We are among the few remaining Athol Lodges; but are not sorry to engraft "moderns" on our stem. We are even hopeful that we may in exchange remind them of some good old sayings and doings in Masonry.

FOLKESTONE, Jan. 29.—The brethren of this neighbourhood had a treat. The D. P. G. Master, and several provincial officers, including Bro. Gravener, P. J. W. and P. M., No. 700, Dover, assembled with the brethren residing in Folkestone, for the purpose of consecrating a lodge and installing a Master, which, we are informed, is to be called the "Temple Lodge," No. 816. The ceremonies were ably performed by the D. G. Master, and Bro. Saunders, P. G. Steward. The brethren voted for Bro. J. G. Robinson to be W. Master for the year ensuing, and he was duly installed in the presence of those brethren who had acted as Masters of lodges, no other persons being admitted. The Wardens and subordinates being appointed, the lodge was closed about six o'clock, with that good feeling so characteristic of Freemasons, when about thirty from Hythe, Margate, and Chatham, together with the brethren of the Temple Lodge, partook of a banquet at the Rose Inn, and it was not until a late hour the brethren separated, expressing themselves much gratified with the proceedings of the day. It is intended to hold the lodge on the Monday nearest the full moon in every month.

OXFORD.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—A special lodge was held on the 6th of November, when an unanimous vote of confidence to the Earl of Zetland as Grand Master, was moved by Bro. Burstall, W. M. of the Apollo Lodge, seconded by Bro. R. J. Spiers, P. M. of the Alfred Lodge, and carried unanimously.

Feb. 22.—The Provincial Grand Lodge for Oxfordshire assembled at the Masonic Hall, when the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Rev. C. J. Ridley, appointed the officers for the year. In the afternoon of the same day, the members of the Apollo University Lodge assembled, when Bro. S. Burstall was installed Master for the third time. The Prov. Grand Master invested Bro. S. Burstall with the collar, jewel, apron, and gauntlets, appertaining to the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, to which he had been appointed. The clothing and jewel were presented to Bro. Burstall in the name of the members of the Apollo Lodge, and purchased by their voluntary subscriptions. Upon the jewel, which was of a rich and costly character, was engraved a very appropriate inscription.

The brethren afterwards dined together in the banquet room, when Bro. S. Burstall, W. M. of the Apollo Lodge, presided, supported by the Prov. G. M. for Oxfordshire, Bro. Rev. C. J. Ridley Bro. J. F. Beadon, W. M. No. 183, London, and member of the Board of General Purposes; Bro. Rev. J. S. Broderip, Prov. G. Chaplain of Somerset; Bro. Rev. W. E. Hill, P. M. Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 40; Bro. Lord Ingestrie, Bro. Sir Robert Buxton, and seventy other brethren of the Alfred and Apollo Lodges. The addresses of the Prov. Grand Master, of the W. Master of the Apollo Lodge, of Bro. Beadon, of Bro. Rev. W. E. Hill, Bro. Rev. J. S. Broderip, and Bro. Lord Ingestrie, were of an eloquent character, and elucidated in a striking manner the merits of Masonry in administering to the relief of the widow and the fatherless.

The initiations in the two lodges of Oxford continue to increase greatly, and among the brethren are some, who from their high talent and position in society, may hereafter occupy exalted stations in the masonic world. Among the newly initiated we may name Bro. G. O. Smyth Pigott, Sandys Lumsdaine, Childers, Lane, and Sir John Marjoribanks, Claudius Hunter, Wharton, Bagny, Padwick, Meynell, Wyndham, Portal and others. Their masonic education is well cared for by the brethren resident in Oxford, who so well sustain the highest character of the province; and among the toasts proposed at the banquet of the 22nd, none was more heartily welcomed or responded to, than the name of Bro. Spiers, to whose persevering energy much of the success of Freemasons in this province is owing. Stewards have been appointed to act, on the part of the province, at the festivals of the boys' and girls' schools, and as heretofore it is expected that a large number will attend.

March 5, 6.—The Alfred and Apollo Lodges held their monthly meeting, at each of which nearly seventy brethren attended, and all the three degrees were conferred in each lodge. The P. G. M. presided at the Apollo, and Bro. Spiers at the Alfred; Bro. H. C. Vernon, S. G. W. of England, who was on a visit to the latter brother, attended both meetings, and expressed his high gratification at the advanced state of Freemasonry, which he described as not to be surpassed in any part of the kingdom.

Apollo University Lodge.—The meetings of this lodge have not only been large, but full of interest, in consequence of the number of ini-

tiations, which have amounted to fourteen, making a total during the year of forty-four. Bro. Burstall, of University College, who has ruled the lodge so successfully, and with so much credit to himself during the last two years, has, at the unanimous wish of the brethren, consented to take the office of W. M. for another year.

Alfred City Lodge.—Although there have been but few initiations in this lodge during the last quarter, the meetings have not been deficient in interest, or unworthy of the brethren. The meeting on the 8th of November was honoured with the presence of Bro. H. C. Vernon, Esq., of Hilton Park, and Senior Grand Warden of England, who received a very hearty reception, and added much to the pleasures of the evening, by the urbanity of his manners and his kindness and social feeling. Bro. F. Symonds, Esq., a medical practitioner of this city, has been elected to the office of W. M. for the ensuing year.

BIRMINGHAM—*Feb. 14.*—The Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire was held at the Union Hotel, at which Bro. J. W. Baughton Leigh, D. P. G. M. presided. After the lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet. In the evening, several admirable addresses were given, more especially that of the D. P. G. M. attracted and rivetted the attention.

Feb. 14.—Grand Masonic Ball.—The second annual ball on behalf of the Masonic Benevolent Institution, took place in Dee's Royal Hotel. The extraordinary demand for tickets, from the moment the festivity was announced, decided the character of the ball. It is therefore, not without due cause that the fortunate holders may congratulate themselves on the privilege they enjoyed. The arrangements which were left to the able hands of Messrs. Kettle, C. W. Elkington, and F. Empson, were made in the most liberal and admirable style. Descending even to the minutiae of the programmes of the dances, they were produced in a style that would have gladdened the heart of Cellini or Owen Jones, and will form a graceful memento of a pleasant evening. Every other arrangement was in corresponding liberality and good taste. The ball-room was adorned with the flags and banners of the different lodges, the ante-room was occupied by card-tables, and in the spacious suite of rooms on the first floor of the hotel, a profuse display of the lighter concomitants of a supper was laid out. This arrangement was a decided improvement on that of last year. Throughout the whole evening the refreshments were provided with unstinted profusion, and the transition from the crowded ball room to the refreshing shades above was at once pleasant to the feelings and consolatory to the inner man. Let us remark *en passant* that the supper was provided by the stewards, whose liberality is therefore deserving of acknowledgment.

At nine o'clock the company began to arrive, and soon after that hour it became evident that there would be no superfluity of space for the display of choreographic feats. No less than three hundred and fifty-one persons were present, and those who know the superficial area of the Assembly Room, need scarcely be told that even Cerito, who can perform extraordinary variations in the smallest possible space, would have found it difficult to twinkle her wonderful toes on the square foot to which every couple was restricted. And yet the utmost hilarity reigned. In fact a few collisions adds greatly to the excitement of the Polka, and tests the skill of the dancers, as a difficult channel tries the ability of the pilot. About half-past nine o'clock the ball was opened

by a country dance, and from that hour until—we'd rather not say when, but we may hint that the thrush saluted us on our way home, and that bird sings seldom before daybreak—the amusement was kept up with unabated spirit. When the room was full it had a brilliant effect. The decorations, orders, badges, &c., of the brethren, mingled with the sober "mufti" of the uninitiated, and the elegant dresses of the ladies, who, let us remark, displayed more than ordinary good taste in the simplicity and beauty of their adornments, formed a tableau beautiful in its details, and picturesque in its *ensemble*. In conclusion we may add that the benevolent object of the present meeting will be considerably promoted.

BROMSGROVE.—A number of brethren in this town have petitioned for a warrant for a new lodge, which has been granted, and the lodge will therefore shortly be constituted.

WEST LANCASHIRE.—We understand that the R. W. D. G. M. for West Lancashire, Bro. John Drinkwater, on whom the active duties of the province has rested since his appointment, has resigned through ill health. Bro. Thomas Rodich, a Mason of thirty-nine years standing, a county magistrate, and much respected, has been spoken of as his successor; but, we regret to hear, will be unable to accept the appointment. It is hoped and expected by the brethren that some gentleman of distinction, of liberal spirit, and well acquainted with the principles of the Craft, and who will take an interest in the business to be transacted, will be selected for the high and responsible office.

LIVERPOOL, March 5.—A deputation, composed of principal officers from lodges Nos. 35 and 368, and the Chapters attached, waited upon Bro. John Molyneux, professor of music, and one of the oldest, most indefatigable, useful, and respected members of the masonic body in Liverpool, at his residence in Hope-street, for the purpose of presenting him with a very valuable silver tea and coffee service, which bore the following inscription:—"Presented to P. M. Bro. John Molyneux, P. M., E. Z., of the lodges and chapters of Nos. 35 and 368, by the brethren and companions, as a testimonial of their esteem and regard for his masonic worth and valuable services rendered to the Craft. Liverpool, January, 1849." The deputation were hospitably entertained, and an address and reply were elicited by the presentation.

YORK, Jan. 25.—A warrant having been granted to the Royal Arch Masons of the Union Lodge in this city, the ceremony of consecration took place at the lodge-room, Merchants' Hall, and was performed in a most solemn and impressive manner by M. E. Comp. Leveau, P. Z., (who was specially deputed,) assisted by Comps. Simpson, H. C. Vernon, W. Evans, Bailes, T. B. Simpson, G. A. Vernon, G. I. Wilson, J. Stevenson, W. Wood, W. Kirby, and W. Butler. On the conclusion of the consecration, several candidates were ballotted for, elected, and exalted. The business of the chapter having been concluded, the companions partook of a banquet provided at the George Hotel, and after spending an evening harmoniously, and in true masonic spirit, separated at an early hour, highly delighted with the day's proceedings.

LEEDS, Dec. 2.—The Lodge of Fidelity, No. 364, held its Christmas St. John at the Freemasons' Hall, Stone's-buildings, which has recently been renovated and newly painted. There was a good attendance of the brethren, and four candidates were initiated. The installation of

Bro. P. M. Young as W. M. also took place. After the conclusion of business, the brethren adjourned to banquet, at the Bull and Mouth Hotel. The greatest good humour and conviviality reigned throughout the evening. Several excellent spirit-stirring addresses were made by the W. M. and other brethren, and the usual masonic toasts were given and responded to with great enthusiasm. The W. M. retired from the chair soon after eleven o'clock, and all the brethren had dispersed before twelve. This is as it should be.

In the unanimous election of Bro. Young as W. M., it is proper to mention that this is the third time that worthy and excellent brother has filled this presidential chair. Long may he live to distribute and enjoy the principles of Freemasonry, which he so highly prizes and zealously cultivates.

Letters were read from the Earl of Mexborough, P. G. M. of West Yorkshire, and the Hon. and Rev. Philip Saville, P. G. C., expressive of their regret in being prevented by previous engagements from joining the brethren on this festive occasion.

KIDDERMINSTER.—“Freemasonry is exalting its brow mightily in the province of Worcestershire,” observes one of the local newspapers, and if we may judge from the zeal and enthusiasm of the brethren in this locality, such will continue to be the case. The ancient lodge of Hope and Charity, No. 523, in the above town, has seen many fluctuations of fortune, and for some few years has been struggling almost for existence, but has once again been raised upon a good foundation, and with a prospect of becoming firmly established.

On the 8th of January last, the brethren assembled to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist, and for the purpose of installing the W. M. elect. The lodge was opened at four o'clock, when the Rev. Bro. Bennett, P. S. G. W., P. M. No. 349 and No. 772, M. E. Z. St. Walstan's Chapter, was requested to officiate as Installing Master. Dr. Roden, D. P. G. M. for Worcestershire favoured the brethren with his presence, and presented the W. M. elect (Bro. Hodges, P. G. Secretary) to the Installing Master, to receive at his hands the benefit of installation. The ceremony was then proceeded with, and conducted by Bro. Bennett with his usual ability. The W. M. having appointed and invested his officers, thanked the brethren for their kindness, and observed that it devolved upon him to perform a very pleasing task (more particularly as the first in the execution of his office) in announcing that the members of the lodge had unanimously passed a resolution respectfully requesting the permission of Bro. Roden to be elected an honorary member of this lodge, in acknowledgment of his zeal for Masonry, and the services rendered by him to this lodge and the Craft generally, for which also the members begged to offer their humble thanks. Bro. Hodges then read the resolution which had been adopted, and having done so, addressed the D. F. G. M., and hoped he would acquiesce in this unanimous desire of the lodge.

Bro. Roden, in reply, said he was so taken by surprise at this unexpected compliment, that he could scarcely find words to express his thanks to the brethren for this mark of their confidence and esteem. He could assure them that all he had ever done for this or any other lodge, had been done only with a sincere desire to advance the interests of the Craft, and for all his exertions he desired no further recompense than the approbation of the brethren. He should, however, with very

great pleasure accede to their wish, and again he begged to reiterate his anxious desire for the prosperity of the lodge. (The proposition was subsequently duly made, and at the regular lodge in February the ballot was declared unanimous.)

The brethren then retired to banquet at the Black Horse Hotel. The chair was occupied by Bro. Hodges, W. M., supported by Bros. Dr. Roden, D. P. G. M., Bennett, P. S. G. W., Southall, P. M., Tilden, P. G. Sup. Works, the Rev. W. W. Douglas, Chaplain of lodge No. 730, M'Millan, W. M. of lodge No. 772, Simpson, P. P. G. R. Bro. R. O. Hunt, the newly appointed Senior Warden, occupied the vice-chair. About forty sat down to dinner, including visitors from the lodges No. 730 and No. 772. The cloth having been drawn, and grace said by the Rev. W. W. Douglas, B. A., who officiated as Chaplain, the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to. An apology was read from Bro. Richard Godson, M. P., Q. C., &c., whose state of health alone prevented him from attending. The W. M. of lodge No. 349, and other brethren, also sent apologies. The W. M. proposed the health of the D. P. G. M., whom he eulogised for the great benefits he had conferred upon the two lodges in this town. The D. P. G. M., in reply, traced the history of the lodge No. 523, and said that much praise was due to Bro. Hodges, who had endeavoured (and he was glad to see he had been successful in his endeavours) to establish this lodge upon a more permanent basis. He congratulated the lodge on the election of that brother as the W. M., and augured good results as well from that election as from the choice he had made of Wardens and officers. Their working that evening (the D. P. G. M. observed) might be taken as a pattern by many lodges. He exhorted the brethren to follow out Freemasonry practically as well as in theory, for he was quite persuaded that it was worthy of the pursuit of all. The D. P. G. M. concluded a very forcible address by proposing the health of the W. M., which was warmly responded to, and suitably acknowledged. The healths of the installing Master, the Past Masters, the visiting brethren, the Wardens and newly-appointed officers, and the usual routine of toasts, were then proposed, and in due time the business of Masonry was resumed, and the brethren parted, after passing a most delightful meeting.

It should be observed, that both the lodges at Kidderminster (the lodge No. 523, and the Royal Standard Lodge, No. 730) have lately received a goodly accession of members, and from the high position of many of them, and the interest they take in the royal art, make them a great acquisition to the lodges. Dr. Oliver, Dr. Crucefix, and Dr. Roden, are honorary members of No. 523; and it may be interesting to state that Dr. Oliver intends to dedicate one of the chapters on the "Symbol of Glory" to No. 523.

The Royal Standard Lodge-room has been most elegantly fitted up, and is one of the handsomest and most complete lodges in the country, and it is to the W. M., officers, and brethren, of this (the Royal Standard) lodge that the masonic historian, the Rev. Dr. Oliver, intends dedicating the tenth part of his forthcoming work, entitled the "Symbol of Glory."

The Hope and Charity Lodge have likewise lately been at considerable expense in furnishing the lodge with new pedestals, columns, &c.

WAKEFIELD.—We have obtained a charter under Lodge No. 727, to hold a Royal Arch Chapter; and the principals named therein are

most anxious to proceed immediately to work; they will however probably yield to the opinion of experienced companions, who have considered it better to postpone the opening of the chapter until it shall be duly and constitutionally consecrated.

Jan. 25.—Grand Masonic Ball.—This delightful ball was held in the Music Saloon, and presented a most brilliant and beautiful appearance.

The room was decorated with evergreens, interspersed with several banners, bearing loyal and constitutional devices. The Union Jack was conspicuous, and the masonic emblems, tastefully executed in silver letters, were placed in prominent positions. The banners of several lodges were suspended around the Saloon.

The admission of non-members had been arranged by permission of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Members of the Craft appeared in masonic clothing, adorned with their jewels, which added greatly to the novelty of the scene,—the mystic apron considerably exciting the curiosity of the softer sex. We say nothing about the arrangements of the dance, the attentions of the stewards, or the other *et ceteras* of ordinary ball etiquette, because at masonic assemblies, those things are always done correctly, and cur particularizing them would be a needless labour. When we name a masonic ball we mention the *ne-plus-ultra* of what balls should be, and this was one of the best.

The sum of ten pounds, the proceeds of the recent masonic ball, will be given to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Annuity Fund, through the medium of two Yorkshire lodges. The committee has selected a member of the Doncaster lodge, as one life governor, and leaves the choice of the other to the D. P. G. M., Bro. Charles Lee. A donation of five pounds to the fund, entitles the donor to a life governorship.

DURHAM.—Dec. 15.—Grunby Lodge.—The members met to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, at the City Tavern, and to elect the Master and other officers for the ensuing year. Nearly thirty brethren were present. After dinner, the election of officers took place; when Bro. J. H. Forster was chosen W. M., Bro. Shields, Treasurer; and Bro. Sutcliffe, Tyler.

Bro. D. P. G. M. Alan Hutchinson subsequently rose to present to the retiring W. M., Bro. William Stoker, a splendid and valuable gold watch and appendages, which had been purchased by subscription amongst the brethren of the lodge, in acknowledgment of his long and able services in the chair, and of his zeal for the interests of this lodge and the welfare of Masonry in general. Bro. Hutchinson prefaced his address by observing that the subscription had been commenced by those who, from their more frequent attendance at the lodge, had enjoyed the best opportunities of observing how the duties of the Master had been performed. It was then brought before other members of the lodge, who could only know his merits from the report of others, who testified to them from their own experience. They also conceived that he was entitled to some expression of their opinion as to the manner in which he had conducted the business of the lodge. Not alone had the lodge greatly increased in numbers and respectability under his mastership, but he had rendered most important services to the treasurer in watching over and promoting its financial prosperity, which was such as but few lodges enjoyed. His time as a medical

practitioner was most valuable to him ; yet, in the distribution of it, the Granby Lodge had never been forgotten : he was always at his post, and had never relaxed in the zeal and energy with which he devoted himself to the service of the lodge. The D. P. G. M. concluded his address by requesting the W. M. to accept this testimonial of the esteem, respect, and gratitude of the brethren for his conduct during his term of office, and expressing the wish of one and all that he might long live to use it, not only in remembrance of the events of that day, but as an assistance to him in his professional pursuits.

The Worshipful Master, in receiving the watch, &c., said he felt quite inadequate to express his sentiments on the occasion. The very handsome testimonial of the favour of the brethren which now laid before him put it almost out of his power to say much. The testimonial shewed him that his exertions had not been altogether in vain. He trusted he should always regard it as a memorial of the many pleasant hours they had spent together ; and he should ever look upon it as a proof that in this city there were those who had thought of him with other sentiments than those of mere respect. Having said thus much, he must entreat their indulgence, and content himself with returning them his most grateful thanks for the kindness they had shewn him. He felt that the D. P. G. M. had spoken of him in terms of too great eulogium : but he trusted that, if opportunity should hereafter permit, he would show them that he was no renegade to his professions.

The festivities of the meeting were maintained for some time after the conclusion of this ceremony ; and then the lodge was closed with the usual formalities.

GATESHEAD, Feb. 19.—The brethren of the Borough Lodge, No. 614, held their anniversary meeting in their lodge, when the officers were installed for the ensuing year. Bros. J. V. Storey, W. M. ; G. Weatherhead, P. M. ; Thomas Pattinson, S. W. ; Thomas Meldrum, J. W. ; the Rev. T. C. Smyth, M. A., Chaplain. An address, neatly engrossed on vellum, was presented to Bro. George Hawks, congratulating him on having been a second time elected Mayor of Gateshead. After the ceremonies of the lodge were over, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet at the Black Bull Inn.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, *Lodge de Loraine, No. 793.*—The lodge to which the following report bears reference, was consecrated at the Royal Hotel, on the 22nd December, 1847, for the better convenience of certain brethren residing in the immediate neighbourhood. It was principally established by the exertions of the present W. M., and his predecessor in office ; through whose unremitting labours and unwearied efforts in the cause of Freemasonry, the high position which it now occupies in the province of Northumberland is mainly attributable. The great prosperity of this infant masonic community has been most satisfactorily proved, by the invariable excellence of its meetings, and the high respectability of its subscribing members ; while the kind and flattering countenance which, from its first commencement, it has ever received from the Worshipful Masters and brethren of other lodges, (five of which are established in Newcastle, and the immediate vicinity,) sufficiently exhibits the cordial and brotherly feeling which characterizes the meetings of the Craft in this large and important province. On the 21st of December, 1848, being the day appointed for the annual festival, the members of the lodge assembled at their usual place of meeting—the

Royal Hotel, Grainger-street—to instal the W. M. Elect for the ensuing year. A large and most respectable body of brethren from other lodges attended on the occasion; the proceedings of the day being managed by Bro. William Dalziel, Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies, with his usual ability and masonic skill. The names of the officers for the ensuing year are as follows:—James Donald, W. M.; T. W. Fenwick, P. M.; the Rev. T. C. Smythe, (Prov. Grand Chaplain for Northumberland) S. W.; W. R. Todd, J. W.; James Houston, Treasurer; W. Dalziel, Secretary; J. S. Challoner, S. D.; Angus Brown, J. D.; Charles States, S. S.; T. Smith, J. S.; T. Fowler, I. G.; and Alex. Dickson, Tyler. On the conclusion of the duties more immediately connected with the ceremony of installation, and investiture of officers, the new W. Master delivered a very appropriate and impressive address on the beauties of the Order, with reference more particularly to the occasion of the present meeting. The lodge having shortly afterwards been adjourned to a later period in the evening, the brethren, still retaining their masonic clothing, sat down to an excellent dinner; and after a great variety of suitable toasts, and appropriate speeches from the W. M., and several others, the lodge was closed with that true harmony and brotherly feeling, which should ever distinguish the meetings of the Craft. It will be long, indeed, ere the brethren of the Lodge de Loraine, and their friendly visitors, forget the delight afforded them by the proceedings of their first anniversary.

MONMOUTH.—The brethren of the Loyal Monmouth Lodge assembled at their masonic hall, to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist. After the initiation and advancement of the several candidates to the different degrees, the business of the evening being ended, the brethren adjourned to banquet at the Beaufort Arms. The chair (in the much regretted and unavoidable absence of the W. Master) was ably filled by the Senior Warden, Bro. Pearson, supported on the right and left by Past Masters Chillcott and Williams, and assisted by Bro. Crook as vice, who was supported by the Treasurer, Bro. H. Dyke. Songs and toasts being the order of the evening, it was spent with harmony and good feeling. In concluding this short notice, we cannot debar ourselves the pleasure of alluding to an observation which fell from the Vice President, whilst proposing the health of the head of the noble house of Beaufort, as the Prov. Grand Master for Gloucestershire—"he anticipated the approach of a glorious era in the annals of Freemasonry in Monmouthshire, in the adhesion of a noble scion of that illustrious house, who, for aught he knew to the contrary, might, in the language of the Craft, 'receive the light' in a lodge held within the ancient and far-famed walls of Ragland Castle;" this happy omen elicited immense applause, and we have only time to add, "so mote it be."

March 8.—At a lodge held at the New Freemasons' Hall, Bro. G. Crook, Prov. G. P., was unanimously elected W. Master of the Loyal Monmouth, No. 671, for the ensuing year.

CALLINGTON, Jun. 29.—A new lodge was constituted at Callington in this county, and the officers installed by Bro. John Ellis, Deputy Prov. Grand Master of the province, assisted by Masters and Past Masters of Cornwall and Devon lodges. This is the fourth lodge constituted since the Prov. Grand Master, Sir C. Lemon, Bart., has been installed, which imposing ceremony we recorded in 1844, and was performed by the present Deputy above named.

STONEHOUSE.—The members of the Lodge of Brunswick, No. 185, celebrated St. John's day by dining together, at the Prince George Hotel, Stonehouse. The brethren, including visitors, numbered from thirty to forty.

TAUNTON.—The annual festival of St. John was celebrated by the fraternity of Western Somerset, in the lodge-room of the Taunton Lodge, at Giles's Hotel, when the W. Master for the ensuing year, Bro. Kingsbury, was duly installed into the chair of the lodge after the ancient manner; the ceremonies were assisted by the Prov. Grand Master, Col. Tynte, who honoured the banquet also with his presence, and who, we rejoice to say, was in excellent health and spirits. Bros. J. W. Street and R. Dinham are appointed Wardens of the lodge, and Bro. Eales White, Secretary for the tenth year; it was remarked that this useful Mason joined the mystic fraternity twenty-four years since, for twenty-three of which he has never been out of office.

SHAFTESBURY.—The brethren of the Lodge of Friendship and Sincerity, No. 694, assembled together for the purpose of celebrating the festival of St. John the Evangelist. The lodge was opened in due form about four o'clock, P. M., and the brethren speedily adjourned from labour to refreshment to Bro. New's. The W. Master, Bro. Wm. Hannen, presided, supported by Bros. C. E. and R. Buckland, G. Chitty, G. M. Roberts, Harvey, Woodcock, Rumsey, Davis, Green, and many others. The usual loyal and masonic toasts having been given, and the health of the W. Master proposed, he, in returning thanks, took a short review of the history and progress of Freemasonry, and called the attention of the brethren to the fact, that since the establishment of this lodge, only a few years ago, upwards of one hundred and twenty new lodges had been formed, of which thirteen were in the East Indies, eight in the West Indies, twenty-two in different parts of America, nine in Australia, two in China, and one in New Zealand. The W. Master remarked, that it was most extraordinary that whilst thrones had been overturned, empires convulsed, and revolutions effected, Freemasonry still exists, the same as ever in principle and practice, throughout the civilised world, unchanged and unchangeable; that he was proud to acknowledge himself as belonging to so ancient and honourable a fraternity; that whatever its enemies might say, the brethren knew full well that every sign, character, and symbol in their lodges, had a moral tendency, and inculcated the practice of piety and virtue—that it was a system of peace, of order, and harmony, uniting parties of all degrees in one vast bond of unity—that it inculcated brotherly love, relief, and truth, and taught us to admire and practice virtue, honour, and mercy—and that if we acted up to the principles and precepts of Freemasonry, we must become wiser and better men. Many other excellent speeches were made by the brethren present, and the pleasure of the evening was enhanced by some good music, glees, and songs.

RINGWOOD, Jan 4.—An interesting meeting of the Lodge of Unity took place at the lodge-room of the White Hart, when a large party of the brethren and some visitors sat down to banquet, at the invitation of the W. Master, Bro. William Jones, given by him in honour of his appointment as Senior Grand Warden of Hampshire, and an evening of great cordiality and happiness was passed. Bro. Jones presided with great ability, and in the several toasts from the chair expressed with much feeling those philanthropic and benevolent sentiments in reference

to the charitable objects of Masonry, for which his long life had been so conspicuous and distinguished. The lodge was addressed in eloquent terms by the Rev. Chaplain Bro. Maturin, as also by Bro. Rankin Stebbing (of Southampton), Bro. Wyatt, and the several officers of the lodge.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The members of the Royal Gloucester Lodge, No. 152, celebrated the festival of St. John at the Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Bemister was elected Master for the ensuing year, and appointed the following officers:—Bro. Snowden, S. W.; Bro. Girdlestone, J. W.; Bro. Douglas, S. D.; Bro. Ianson, J. D.; and Bro. Moore, I. G. A banquet afterwards took place, which was ably presided over by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire, C. E. Deacon.

ISLE OF WIGHT, Dec. 1848.—This province continues to advance; on each succeeding year brethren of talent and respectability govern the lodges with ability and zeal, while the constant accession of new members from the most respectable classes of society, evinces the improved opinion of the Order entertained by the general public of the island. The observance of St. John's day in each of the lodges of Cowes, Newport, and Ryde has this year possessed unusual interest.

At Cowes, the brethren of the Medina Lodge, No. 41, gladly availed themselves of the opportunity to evince their respect and attachment to their respected townsman, W. C. Hoffmaster, by re-electing him to the chair of the lodge, which he has so ably filled during the past year. His re-installation and appointment of officers took place at the Masonic Hall, now richly and appropriately decorated and furnished, and at the conclusion of business the brethren adjourned to a banquet at the Vine Hotel.

Dec 28.—Following the example set them by their brethren at Cowes and Newport, the members of the East Medina, No. 204, have erected an elegant and commodious hall, in a most convenient part of the flourishing town of Ryde, and where they will in future hold their lodges throughout the summer months, affording the opportunity, hitherto denied to the brethren from the metropolis and distant parts, of joining the lodge when on their summer visit to this delightful watering place. This day having been selected for the dedication, the Prov. Grand Master of the province, Bro. John Simeon, *M. P.*, attended by his Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Hearn, and the officers of the Provincial Lodge, with a large number of brethren from the other parts of the island, attended at the hall at three P. M., and the lodge having been opened by the Prov. Grand Master, the ceremony of dedication commenced, and was most ably and impressively delivered by Bro. Rendall, the W. Master, assisted by Bro. the Rev. W. Moore, *M. A.*, the Chaplain of the lodge.

Dec. 29.—If the report of the lodges of Cowes and Ryde is satisfactory, that of Newport (Albany Lodge, No. 176) is equally so. During the past year, under the very able government of the highly respected brother and zealous Mason, B. Dowse, *M. D.*, nineteen new members have been introduced by him into the Craft, and the regret felt by the brethren at the termination of his year of office, has only been removed by the election to the chair of Bro. the Rev. Allan Wallace, *M. A.*, the Master of the Grammar School of the town, and who was this day installed, in the presence of an unusually large attendance of the Craft. The selection of officers by the W. Master gave general satisfaction. Bro. Major John

Alves, the second in command of the depôt stationed at Parkhurst, a distinguished veteran officer, being appointed to the chair of the Senior Warden. The officers having been invested, the W. Master rose and said—Permit me, brethren, to offer you my hearty congratulations on the love and good feeling which characterised our labours of the past year, to which congratulation I would add the expression of my hope, that the coming year may behold the like harmony and love pervading all our undertakings.

In the selection of Officers who are to assist me in my government, I beg to assure you that I have been actuated but by one feeling,—the good of the Lodge,—time may show whether I have erred in judgment, but it can never show that I have erred in heart. In our society, as there must be some to rule and some to teach, so there must be some to obey and some to learn; humility therefore is not only grace, but it is an essential duty;—envy, pride, and ambition must not be known among you, for if suffered to find a place in your hearts, they will, like the worm at the root of the tree, prey upon the vitals and canker the fair blossoms of harmony and peace. Had not these sentiments dwelt in the bosoms of our forefathers when engaged in the erection of king Solomon's temple, we may greatly doubt whether that gorgeous building would ever have arisen to that height of splendour and magnificence which astonished, and will continue to astonish mankind to the latest generation. Suffer me now, brothers, briefly to exhort you to a diligent study of our noble science,—like a mine, the deeper into which you penetrate, the more and greater beauties will be unfolded to your vision; study it, yes, study it I again repeat, for its object is noble and sublime. The erection of a moral edifice based upon universal charity, and cemented by kindness and affection,—an erection which, when submitted to the Great Architect of the Universe, will fail not the test of the square and compass,—will be proved perfect in all its parts,—and pronounced worthy of the approbation of the Grand Master of Heaven and Earth. But, brethren, in this your study, and in this your endeavour, you must strictly adhere to those grand principles of the Order, brotherly love, relief and truth. The practice of the first, leads us to acknowledge ourselves as children of one father,—heirs of one promise,—travellers to one far country,—inheritors of one common and eternal glory. Relief teaches us our dependance for our daily food on an all loving and bountiful Providence,—while the cultivation of truth, that divine attribute, the foundation of all virtue, will lead us to be good men and true,—to banish from our breasts all hypocrisy and deceit, and finally render us acceptable in the sight of him “to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid.” Oh! let us love one another then as brothers should,—“let us do justly, have mercy, and walk humbly with our God,”—so that, when the Grand Architect of the Universe shall command us to close the lodge of human labour, we may, each and all, be admitted into that great assembly above, where faith being swallowed up in vision, and hope in enjoyment. Charity will alone remain,— will shine in undiminished lustre,

“ And stand before the host of heaven confest,
For ever blessing and for ever blest.”

The address of the W. M. made a deep impression on all present, and which was far from being lessened by the presentation of the collar and

jewel of a Past Master to Bro. Dowse, by Bro. Alex. Clarke, as a slight return for his truly paternal attention during a long and severe illness, under which Bro. Clarke was still suffering.

The annual banquet took place at the close of the lodge, at the hotel of Bro. Bryant.

We cannot conclude our notice of this very flourishing Province, without expressing our pleasing anticipation, that the Yarrowbrough Lodge, at Ventnor, recently formed under the auspices of Thomas Willis Fleming, Esq., as W. M., will progress most satisfactorily.

The removal of the lodges at Cowes, Newport and Ryde, from hotels, portends much good to the Craft, and the Ventnor brethren, have commenced well, by selecting a private house as their place of meeting.

Newport, Isle of Wight, Jan. 26, 1849.

To the Editor.—Sir, In the notice which appeared in the last number of your Review, of the opening of the Masonic Hall, lately erected by the brethren of the Albany Lodge, in Newport, Isle of Wight, I beg to state that your correspondent has somewhat misinformed you on the matter, and his so particularly omitting the W. Master's name, Bro. Dowse, evidently shows that he could not have been present at the ceremony of dedication.

You will in consequence excuse my giving you an outline of the proceedings on that day.

The lodge was opened in due form in the three degrees in the old lodge room, and then adjourned to the New Hall, where, after the visiting brethren had been seated, the Albany Lodge, (the charter being carried by a brother, forty-six years a member), entered in procession, while the organ gave forth a solemn peal, and on the W. Master taking the chair, he called on the brethren to prepare to receive the P. G. M., who, entering and assuming the chair, (which the W. M. then vacated), was saluted with due masonic honours.

The W. M. then made known to the P. G. M. the purport of the meeting, who, in a concise address expressed his admiration of the building, and deputed the W. M. to perform the ceremony of dedication, he at the same time vacating the chair, and taking the one prepared for him on the left.

The W. M., Bro. Dowse, on resuming the chair, called the brethren to attention, and addressed them at some length in a speech truly appropriate to the occasion, and replete with genuine masonic principles, after which he proceeded with the ceremony of dedication, which was conducted in the most solemn and impressive manner. The P. G. Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. Allan Wallace, officiating as Chaplain of the lodge.

After the ceremony of dedication was concluded, the symbols of the Craft were illustrated by Bro. P. M. Williams, after which the P. G. M. Bro. Simeon, *M.P.*, the D. P. G. M. Bro. Hearn, and Bro. P. M. Clarke, severally addressed the brethren on the principles, precepts, and usefulness of Freemasonry, and the whole concluded by an anthem.

Yours fraternally, W.

RYDE, Dec. 28.—The dedication of the new Masonic Hall, situate in John-street, took place this day. John Simeon, Esq., Prov. Grand Master, performed the ceremony, assisted by J. H. Hearn, D. P. G. M., and a numerous assemblage of the brotherhood from various parts of the

province. Bro. Rendall, of the Pier Hotel, was again installed as Master of the Lodge, being his second year of office. The banquet was held at the Pier Hotel at the close of the ceremony. The new hall is spacious and commodious, and, when the furnishing is complete, will have an imposing appearance.

JERSEY, Feb. 1.—Freemasonry seems to be lifting its head mightily in Jersey since the installation of the Prov. Grand Master. A new lodge, designated "The Samarés Lodge," was dedicated under the warrant of the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland; and consecrated by the Prov. Grand Master, J. J. Hammond, the later ceremony being one entirely new to Jersey. We learn that a masonic hall is about to be built on a scale worthy of the Craft of the island.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.—The roll of members of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, has just been issued by Comps. Morris Leon and John Cameron, the Grand Scribes.

We are in this city employed more hopefully than actively in our masonic labours,—there is literally nothing of importance stirring,—even the elders of the Craft here look with something like envy at the English Lodges, where some sort of discipline keeps them within compass. The railways have tended to a gentle re-action in the Scottish provinces, and lodges are reviving, several we hear are desirous of approximating their contemplated new by-laws to those of England, and have commenced the formation of masonic libraries, and *mirabile dictu*, even the *F. Q. R.* is included in the list of necessaries!

ABERDEEN.—The principles of Masonry in this quarter are very little understood, or at least if they are understood, are very far from being acted up to. Time, however, may make a change for the better, as there are symptoms of improvement taking place; and it is to be hoped will spread over the lodges in this district. The meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge exerted some little interest amongst the brethren, as it was the first regular meeting that has taken place for many years. If the regular meetings of the P. G. L. fail to interest the members, there will not be much to expect from them; but if the value and use of this lodge can be impressed upon the minds of the brethren, there can be little doubt but that a marked change will soon take place for the better. The material is here in plenty, it has only to be wrought into shape; all that is wanted for Masonry to take its proper position amongst the other institutions in this city, would be a little more activity and zeal, to be shown by those who know and appreciate the principles of Masonry, and who are

anxious and willing that these principles should be carried out, in order that it may not continue to be conducted as it is at present. The intentions of many of the members are good, but they are too ready to continue the system which age has rendered venerable, at the expense of principle. It is much to be wished that the members of the various lodges here were better acquainted with Preston, Ashe, Oliver, &c., than they are with other authors of a more *apocryphal* character. Improvement generally follows instruction, and it is possible that such a publication as Dr. Oliver's Book of the Lodge may do much good; and excite their minds towards the study of Masonry, and at the same time impress upon them the beauties of masonic principles, without which no lodge can work with either credit to itself, or honour to the Craft.

Copy of Protest by Royal Arch Masons, Aberdeen, sent to the Supreme Chapter, March 6, 1849.

We the undersigned, Most Excellent Past Principals, First Principals, Second Principals, Third Principals, and other Office Bearers, and Companions, belonging to and holding office in, various chapters, whose designations and numbers are at our respective signatures: *Do hereby PROTEST*,—by these presents, at the meeting of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, on the First Wednesday of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, for the nomination of Office Bearers, in the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter; or at whatever time such meeting may be held.—*Against the nomination of any individual or individuals, to any office in the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland; who aids or assists, or who belongs to any body, who contrary to all masonic rule, claims and arrogates to itself, the right and title of conferring and does confer or grant, on individuals, or pretends to confer or grant, some of the higher degrees of Arch Masonry on individuals, who are not Royal Arch Masons, and who are not even Craft Masons. We PROTEST* against the conduct of any person who aids or countenances any such irregular and unmasonic practices; inasmuch as it is totally subversive of all regularity in the masonic body in whatever degree; and we further consider that in a more particular manner it has been the means of affecting the prosperity and progress of Royal Arch Masonry in Scotland to a very great extent. And that if such conduct is allowed by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter, in any of its office bearers, we fear that there will be a still greater falling off in the subordinate Chapters, and that at no distant day, *we may be obliged to transfer our obedience as Royal Arch Companions, to other quarters where greater masonic regularity obtains, and where any Companion guilty of such unmasonic conduct would not be allowed a seat in Chapter. This our solemn PROTEST* against the nomination of any Companion to hold Office in the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, who countenances in any way, or aids and assists at the introduction of individuals who are not Masons, into the higher degrees of Arch Masonry, we have committed into the care of our *well-beloved Companion JOHN CAMERON, Scribe N*, that the same

may be read at the meeting, for the nomination of office bearers of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter. Given at Aberdeen, and signed there this Sixth day of March, A.D. One thousand eight hundred and forty-nine years.

(Signed) W. Duthie, Sec. Prin., St. George, No. 21 ; E. Mitchell, St. Peter, No. 30 ; J. Farquhar, St. Peter, No. 30 ; J. Jameson, P. Z., St. George, No. 21 ; Geo. Matheson, Scribe E., St. George, No. 21 ; Robt. Findlay, St. George, No. 21 ; James Rettie, Third Principal, St. George, Aberdeen : W. R. Riddle, St. Peter, No. 30 ; Thomas Menzie, P. P. Z., St. Peter, No. 30 ; Geo. Sandeson, St. George, No. 21 ; Alex. Wallace, St. Peter, No. 30 ; John Mannelle, P. Z., St. Peter, No. 30 ; — Stables, Old Aberdeen, R. A. C., No. 20 ; Wm. Ramage, P. P. Z., St. George, No. 21 ; Wm. Cumming, St. Peter, No. 30 ; W. H. Griffiths, St. Peter, No. 30 ; Wm. Sandeson, St. George, No. 21 ; James Stephen, St. Peter, R. A. C., No. 30 ; John Hay, jun., St. Peter, No. 30 ; James H. Hay, St. Peter, No. 30.

ABERDEEN, Dec. 27, 1848.—At meetings held this day in their respective lodge rooms, the office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year, by the various lodges belonging to this city.

Aberdeen Mason Lodge, No. 34.—Alexander Hadden, R. W. M. ; Alexander Martin, Depute M. ; John Allen, Senior Warden ; George Smith, Junior Warden ; John Sheed, Secretary ; Leslie Cruickshank, Treasurer ; the Rev. Simon Mackintosh, Chaplain ; Chas. Winchester, Clerk.

St. Machar's Lodge, No. 54.—Isaac Machray, R. W. M. ; John Green, P. M. ; James Rettie, Senior Warden ; William Ramage, Junior Warden ; William Duthie, Treasurer and Clerk ; Wm. Gray, Secretary.

St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 93 —William R. Hickey, R. W. M. ; Alexander Wallace, P. M. ; William Cumming, Depute M. ; Randal Hazilhurst, Proxy M. ; Charles Mitchell, Senior Warden ; John Durrell, Junior Warden ; John Duncan, Treasurer ; William Mollison, Secretary ; George Leys, Chaplain.

Operative Lodge, No. 150.—John Elrick, R. W. M. ; John Burnell, Depute M. ; George Brander, Senior Warden ; William Hay, Junior Warden ; William Howie, Treasurer.

Old Aberdeen Lodge, No. 164.—Alexander Thom, R. W. M. ; Alexander Stables, Depute M. ; James Jaffray, Senior Warden ; John Melvin, Junior Warden.

St. George's Lodge, No. 190.—William H. Griffith, R. W. M. ; John Jamieson, P. M. ; Alexander Roberts, Depute M. ; James Harvey, Senior Warden ; Andrew Sutherland, Junior Warden ; Thomas Leigh, Treasurer ; Alexander Howie, Secretary.

St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 110.—William Ramage, R. W. M. ; James Walker, Depute M. ; Henry A. Dewar, Senior Warden ; Alexander Colte, Junior Warden.

Provincial Grand Lodge, Aberdeen City Province.—A meeting of this lodge took place in the Aberdeen Hotel, on Feb. 12, 1849, for the purpose of constituting the lodge, in consequence of a requisition having been sent to the P. G. M. Alexander Hadden, by a number of the masters, wardens, and other brethren of the district. The office-bearers of the lodge, chosen by the Prov. G. Master, are Alexander Hadden, of Persley, P. G. M. ; Alexander John Kinlock, of Park, P. G. D. M. ; Alexander Martin, P. G. S. ; Alexander Gordon, P. G. S. W. ; John Green,

P. G. J. W. ; Rev. Dr. Mackintosh, P. G., Chaplain ; Charles Muchaster, P. G., Secretary. Elected by the Members of the Lodge, Charles Mitchell, P. G., Treasurer ; Henry A. Dewar, P. G. S. D. ; James Rettie, P. G. J. D. ; Andrew Masson, P. G., Inner Guard ; George Sandison, P. G. Tyler.

EAST PERTHSHIRE, Jan. 25.—Provincial Grand Lodge.—The Right Honourable and Right Worshipful Lord Kinnaird and Rossie, Provincial Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland for the district of Perthshire, convened a meeting of the various lodges of the district in the City Hall, for the purpose of forming a Provincial Grand Lodge, and inducting and installing into office the Provincial Grand Office-bearers. At a preliminary meeting of the lodges, held within the City Hall, at one o'clock, it was agreed to form a procession to Barnhill station, there to meet and receive his lordship and the office-bearers of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, who were to accompany him, and to escort them from thence to the City Hall. The brethren present were accordingly marshalled in masonic order in a grand procession, which, in point of order, and uniformity of clothing, and neat appearance, we have never seen surpassed ; the procession was preceded by an excellent brass instrumental band. The masonic ceremony of reception being duly performed, the brethren were re-marshalled, and the procession returned. When it had proceeded to the centre of the New Railway Bridge, and upon the word "halt" being given, three rounds of cannon were fired, from several pieces of large calibre, placed for the purpose on the top of the bridge, close to the draw, by the directors of the company. This being followed by three hearty cheers, the procession was again in motion, and so soon as the draw was cleared, another round of cannon announced that the bridge had been opened with masonic honours. The procession now descended the flight of steps at the temporary station, and winded its way along Princess-street, through a dense multitude congregated there, to the City Hall, where it arrived at three o'clock ; shortly after which the brethren assembled in the large committee-room.

The Provincial Grand Lodge for Perthshire East was then formed, and opened in true masonic style by the Provincial Grand Master, who announced the following appointment of office-bearers :—

Bro. Sir Peter Murray Threipland, R. W. Prov. Depute G. M. ; Bro. John Murray Drummond, of Megginch, R. W. Prov. Substitute G. M. ; Bro. the Hon. James Drummond (Strathallan), R. W. Prov. Senior Grand Warden ; Bro. David Halket, R. W. Prov. Junior Grand Warden ; Bro. John Anderson, D. D., Right Rev. Prov. Grand Chaplain ; Bro. Archibald Reid, W. Prov. Grand Secretary ; Bros. John Cameron and John Macfarlane, Grand Tylers.

The brethren afterwards re-assembled in the City Hall at four o'clock, and partook of a substantial dinner at the Star Hotel. The Right Hon. Bro. Lord Kinnaird, Prov. Grand Master, presided, and discharged the duties of his office with much tact and ability. His lordship was supported on the right and left by Bro. Captain Lawrence, Dept. Prov. Grand Master for Shirlingshire ; by the Prov. Grand Office-bearers of East Perthshire ; and by Bro. Laurie, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The duties of croupiers were ably discharged by the W. Master of the Lodge Perth Royal Arch. The evening was convivially spent in the bonds of unity and peace, and sentiments of

brotherly love were ever and anon stimulating the warmest emotions, and promoting the best feelings of those within the mystic circle. Altogether, the whole proceedings of the day were such as met with a response of unmitigated satisfaction from all parties concerned. The lodge was afterwards closed by Bro. Lord Kinnaird, Prov. Grand Master, in due time and order.

STIRLING, Jun. 24.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—The Right Honourable Baron Abercromby, the Provincial Grand Master, having appointed Captain Walter Lawrence, younger of Lisreaghan, Touch House, Deputy Prov. Grand Master; William Stirling, of Keir, Sub. Prov. Grand Master; John Stirling, of Kippendavie, Senior Prov. Grand Warden; Major Henderson, of Westerton, Junior Prov. Grand Warden; and James Mathie, Prov. Grand Secretary; a meeting of the lodges of the district, consisting of the Stirling Ancient, the Stirling Royal Arch, the Alloa Royal Arch, the Bannockburn, Bruce, and Thistle, and the Lennoxton and Campsie Caledonian St. John and Royal Arch, was held in Gibb's Hotel, Stirling, at two o'clock, for the purpose of inducting and installing the above-named brethren, and electing the other office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The lodge having been joined by the following members of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, viz.:—Colonel Kinloch of Kilrie, *K. F. S.*, Sub. Grand Master; Sir William Miller of Glenlee, Bart. Junior Grand Warden; Sir John Dick Lauder, of Fountainhall, Junior Grand Deacon; and the Rev. John Boyle, Grand Chaplain—together with Sir Alexander Charles Gibson Maitland, of Cliftonhall, Bart.; Sir James Walker Drummond, of Hawthornden, Bart., and others, Masters of lodges. Colonel Kinloch, at the request of the W. Master of the Stirling Ancient, was called to the chair; and Captain Lawrence, and the other office-bearers above-named, having produced their commissions, the same were sustained, and the brethren installed in due form. Thereafter, Captain Lawrence having, at the request of the Sub. Grand Master of Scotland, taken the chair, proposed the following other office-bearers, who were unanimously elected, viz.:—the Rev. John Boyle, Prov. Grand Chaplain; James Graham of Leitchton, Prov. Grand Treasurer; Sir Alexander Charles Gibson Maitland, Senior Prov. Grand Deacon; A. Seton Stewart, Junior Prov. Grand Deacon; Robert Sconce, Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies; Patrick G. Morrison, Prov. Grand Standard-bearer; Lucius French, Prov. Grand Sword-bearer; John James Dunlop, Prov. Grand Bible-bearer; Hector M'Lean, Prov. Grand Architect; Duncan M'Ara and Robert M'Farlane, Prov. Grand Marshals; Colin Munro, jun., John Forbes, Robert Sawers, John D. Mathie, and Jas. Monteath, Prov. Grand Stewards; and Peter Stewart and Thomas Robertson, Prov. Grand Tylers; and they being present, were admitted in due form. On account of the inclemency of the weather, many brethren from the neighbouring lodges were prevented from attending. Immediately after the election, the brethren moved in procession from the grand lodge-room to the banqueting hall, the brethren of the band of the 93rd Highlanders playing the masonic anthem. A banquet having been laid out, the evening was spent with that perfect harmony which characterises all meetings of the brethren of the mystic tie. Many eloquent and excellent speeches were made by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, who presided, and other brethren, all containing the most loyal, patriotic, and brotherly sentiments, to the delight of all present, and the advancement of the principles of Masonry

in the district. The meeting was enlivened by some excellent songs, and the instrumental music of the Highlanders. The Deputy Prov. Grand Master, who discharged his duties in a most able and efficient manner, to the delight of all present, intimated his intention of visiting the district lodges; and we are assured that one and all of them will give him a most kind and brotherly reception.

BANFF, Jan. 8.—St. John's Lodge held their annual dinner in their lodge-room, Seatown; and it ought to be mentioned that many of its most attractive viands were presented to the lodge by Lord Fife, whose kindness on these festive occasions the lodge has, like all other bodies in the town, frequently had occasion to acknowledge. His lordship, we believe, also sent two dozen of the good old liquor, which gladdeneth the heart of man. An elegant masonic almanac, presented to the Treasurer by his lordship, was also exhibited at the table. After dinner the office-bearers were elected:—James Mason, W. Master; John Watt, Depute Master; James Simpson, Past Master; John Rhind, Senior Warden; James Murray, Junior Warden; J. W. M'Kenzie, Secretary; John M'Ewan, Chaplain; William Hossack, Treasurer.

I R E L A N D.

We have received several communications on current matters, but the following has reference to masonic statistics, and we present it accordingly to our readers.

Cork, February 1849.

Sir,—The Provincial Grand Lodge of South Munster held its first quarterly meeting for this year, in the lodge room No 1, Tuckey Street.

As the P. G. M. was absent, the P. G. S. W., at the request of the brethren present took the chair, and after the usual routine, the first business entered on was the installation of Bro. Robert Atkins of Waterpark as D. P. G. M. of South Munster.

Bro. Richard Meard having been selected to act as installing Master, the ceremony was performed after the most correct ancient form, and afforded both satisfaction and enlightenment to all the brethren present.

The concluding addresses to the chair, to the officers, and to the brethren, were very judicious and appropriate, as well as singularly impressive, and exhibited those masonic acquirements for which Bro. Meard is remarkable in a very pleasing and instructive manner. The Deputy Grand Master, with a gentlemanly grace and manner, then returned thanks for the honour conferred on him, and pledged himself to labour ardently to promote the true interests of the Craft in general, as well as those of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Munster. After some other business was done, the lodge was closed with the greatest harmony.

The result of the annual masonic ball, which took place on the 14th inst. at the Imperial Hotel, in aid of the Cork Masonic Female Orphan Asylum, was stated to be satisfactory, a sum of 100*l.* proving available after all expences were discharged. Some discussion followed this very gratifying announcement, as to the best mode of supporting this admirable

charity for the future. And from all that fell from some of the most active brethren in this good work, it was apparent that the degree of zeal among the masonic body of South Munster was far less ardent or active than this excellent charity deserved.

Some suggestions were offered, which, if acted on, would insure ample funds for the future, and probably afford means too, for enlarging the establishment, an object that ought to be anxiously promoted by every good brother. And it seems to me, that what Cork has done so creditably, may be acted on in other provinces, and let Freemasonry have its national charity. By such a measure, those great and unchanging principles of benevolence and fraternity which all members of the Craft profess to uphold and to practice, would then be carried out in the way best calculated to prove to the unenlightened that charity, the greatest and noblest of Christian virtues, burns with its purest flame in the bosom of every brother. To effect so truly creditable and noble an object, would not require more than the merest trifle annually from every brother; and when it is remembered that among Ireland's sons there are numbers of the highest and wealthiest, presiding over, and belonging to the masonic body, there seems little if any difficulty in the proposition.

There is another subject of a less agreeable character to which I cannot help turning, although reluctantly. It will be best understood by what follows.

When the beautiful and time-honoured structure of Freemasonry is assaulted by ignorance, and envy from without, and threatened from within with corruption, the period has arrived when every enlightened and zealous member of the great fraternity is called on to defend it with united energies; first from its external and benighted enemies, a task of easy and triumphant accomplishment; and then to relieve it internally from those foul spots and blemishes which a vicious system, the creation of well-meaning but ill-informed and indiscreet brethren have introduced, and in several instances have substituted for that simple, impressive, and sublime ritual, which, based upon those everlasting foundations of wisdom, strength, and beauty, have rendered this most venerable and ancient institution the wonder and the admiration of every age of the civilized world. As a bond of fraternity, love, and charity, where is the equal of Freemasonry? it unites men of different sects, tongues, and nations, and inculcates every social, moral, and Christian virtue. Like the fine gold seven times tried in the furnace, it has stood the test of every political and moral change, every national convulsion, and every lawless revolution that convulsed the world from one generation to another, and remains erect upon its imperishable foundation, unaltered and perfect.

Are we then the sworn supporters of its free constitution and laws to stand with indifference, while we behold its purity tarnished and its brightness clouded by the hands of its protectors, and refrain from interposing to efface and dispel the offensive blemishes? surely, my brethren we are not. Any thing subversive of the harmonious order of its parts, or the simple grandeur of the beautiful edifice, it is our bounden duty to remove. Even irregularity in the lighter, or levity in its more serious particulars should be scrupulously avoided, and jealously guarded against. Yet that such blemishes actually exist is perfectly certain, and that they require prompt and effectual removal is undeniable.

Before I indicate the locality where I affirm such defects exist, or

particularise their nature and extent, I will premise my observations by a solemn declaration that I have no motive in coming thus forward, but zeal for, and attachment to the noble institution of Freemasonry.

I have the pleasure of knowing long and intimately many a member of the ancient Craft, and can say with truth that I have always found them upright high-minded and estimable, ornaments alike to society, and to the body of which they are members; brethren who would never put forward a willing hand to alter the beautiful symmetry of the ancient building, or to replace any of its pure ceremonies and simple impressiveness with the inventions of inexperienced and thoughtless workmen. In truth the wide circle of brethren among whom I have moved, do not require my humble mite of praise. But among the best intentioned there will be found those liable to err, and subject to the influence of bad example, but who still are ready to retrace their erroneous steps, and be prompt in aiding a sound reform, a reform to preserve the primitive beauty of the structure and preserve it unaltered; and convince erring and mistaken brethren that any deviation from the ancient avenue that leads to the great temple, is a movement in the wrong direction, and must terminate in the wilderness of error. The strictest observance of our ancient laws and simple and impressive ceremonies is vitally necessary for that full preservation of their enduring and excellent effects, and to enforce, where necessary, their proper observance, is among the first duties we are all bound to discharge. The substitution of senseless forms or juvenile buffoonery for a beautiful and serious ceremony is surely a lamentable corruption.

Public as well as private institutions will sometimes require care to preserve them pure from all innovations, and this is peculiarly the case in Freemasonry.

In England "the working of the ceremonies and remodelling of the laws" was required, and carried into effect with the most salutary and satisfactory results, and there seems no reason why the same principle should not be acted on in Ireland, when found necessary. If we cannot excel our British brethren in the regularity and uniformity of our working, let us take care not to fall short of them, what is worthy of imitation among them let us follow, what we have that is pure, let us preserve.

Those deviations from the pure and ancient forms of the Craft that I have alluded to, are twofold, viz. : first, admitting members before any period of probation has elapsed, and on some occasions receiving even perfect strangers, and giving those so admitted, *more than one step at a time*; reasons we know are always found for such irregularities by those who are guilty of them, but that does not remove the just ground of complaint, and it is suspected that the augmentation of lodge funds has but too frequently operated to induce this innovation. In the ordinary business of life where confidence must be reposed, and where integrity is indispensable, the character of the individual is the first object of enquiry. And without an assurance of these qualities, who is it that would intrust his secrets or his property to a stranger. *This principle applies very strongly to Freemasonry.*

The second subject of just complaint is the habit now so prevalent, of substituting senseless forms and idle jocularities for those solemn rites and impressive precepts which enlist the serious attention, and fix and attach the mind of the candidate to that admirable institution of which he has just become a voluntary and faithful member.

The existence of the abuses alluded to, is not confined to one or to a few lodges, for they are to be found in a greater or lesser degree in almost every one with which I am acquainted, or of which I have heard from others, particularly those idle and senseless substitutions above alluded to. The infraction of the laws respecting initiation of candidates, and the mercenary motive that sometimes prompts it, is an abuse of far less frequent occurrence; indeed, I believe this last is confined to those lodges, the members of which are of the humbler classes of society.

The question is, how are these evils to be removed? I can hardly presume to suggest the mode of remedy, knowing that the subject will attract the attention of so many brethren far more competent than I am, to point out the most effectual means of reforming them. Mine is only an inferior office in the court of the temple. And to those mature in experience and wisdom, who stand upon the highest step of the altar, we are to look for counsel and guidance, when the simple beauty of the ancient structure is injured by unhallowed or ignorant hands.

Trusting that the motive which has prompted the above observations will not fail to be appreciated, I hope the length of them will be excused.

I remain, Mr. Editor, faithfully and fraternally yours,

THOMAS J. HUNGERFORD.

To the Editor of the Freemasons' Quarterly Review.

DUBLIN, Jan, 24.—*Centenary Celebration.*—One of the most delightful reunions of the brotherhood which has occurred for many years took place this day, on the occasion of the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the Grand Master's Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Ireland. The members of this ancient lodge, in order to mark this interesting occasion, had a handsome medal struck, copied after a valuable antique in the possession of the Grand Treasurer. The members wore one of them, in addition to the usual ornaments betokening the different grades to which each had attained. His Grace the Duke of Leinster, M. W. G. M., presided on the occasion, assisted by Bros. Viscount Suirdale, S. W., N. Hone, Assist. S. W., J. Hone, J. W., Banks, S. D., Sir John Mac Neill, J. D., G. S. Warren, I. G., and the Secretary. Among the brethren were—the Marquis of Ormonde, W. M. No. 37; the Rev. Lord John Beresford, Lord Otho Fitzgerald, No. 12; Hon. Capt. Jocelyn, Grand Lodge of Scotland; George Hoyte, D. G. M.; W. J. Fox, M. P., No. 76; Sir W. Hort, Bart., Grand Secretary; E. Grogan, M. P.; H. W. Massy, D. P. G. M. North Munster; T. J. Quinton, Grand Treasurer; Fowler, D. G. S.; Rev. Dr. Wall, G. C.; Norman, P. D. G. M.; Professor Smith, Grand Organist; Lieut. Brereton, R. N., Lodge of Antiquity, England; — Bankhead; Meridian Lodge, — Potts, Master; Colonel Browne; Sir E. Borough, Bart.; Dr. Beatty, &c.

The brethren assembled at five, P. M., in the grand hall, and at half-past six sat down to banquet, which was served in the most sumptuous and admirable style by Bro. Thompson. The wines, by Bro. P. Roe Clarke, left nothing to be desired for excellence. The delights of the evening were greatly enhanced by the vocal exertions of the Grand Organist, aided by Bros. Magrath, R. Smith, Geary, Mackay, Talbots, &c. The usual loyal acknowledgements to her most gracious majesty and the rest of the royal family, were most enthusiastically accorded, as well as those to the heads of the Order in England and Scotland, and most fervently the health of his grace "our own Grand Master," was

responded to. In the course of the evening, one of the commemorative medals was presented by the Grand Master to Bro. Walmisly, of London, to evidence the reciprocal feelings of brotherly love existing between the brethren of Ireland with those of the sister kingdom. The Hon. Capt. Jocelyn presented to his grace a superbly illuminated copy of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, which was graciously accepted. There was nothing left wanting on the part of the stewards to make the festival in every way worthy of the occasion for which they had met, and it will long be remembered as a red letter day by all who had the happiness to be amongst those who assembled and parted in "peace, love, and harmony," on this interesting centenary.

BELFAST, St. John's Day.—The masonic lodges in this district celebrated, according to usual custom, the anniversary of St. John's Day. Lodges No. 40 and No. 154 assembled, at an early hour in the evening, in their separate halls, and installed the Masters and Senior Wardens in their respective offices for the ensuing six months. They afterwards dined at the Donegall Arms. Lodge No. 40 was presided over by the P. G. M. the Ven. Archdeacon Mant. Lodge No. 154 had banquet served up in a room specially prepared for the occasion. It was most elegantly decorated with tasteful transparencies, evergreens, &c. The brethren were presided over by the Prov. Grand Senior Warden, Bro. E. W. Williams. After dinner, Bro. Williams, on behalf of the lodge, presented Bro. Past Master M'Gee with a gold Past Master's jewel, chastely mounted in blue enamel, the execution of which reflected the highest credit on Bro. Macartney, at whose establishment it was manufactured. Before the lodge closed, a sum of nearly 5*l.* was subscribed for the Female Masonic Orphan Asylum.

Since the late meeting at which the provincial grand officers were installed, Masonry has received a great impetus in this district. Several of the most respectable inhabitants of the town have been admitted into the Order; and, altogether, the cause is prospering, as it will continue to do, under the presidency of so excellent a Grand Master as Archdeacon Mant.

LONDONDERRY, Jan. 1.—A ball and supper on a large scale took place in the new masonic hall in this city. The structure is externally rather a handsome one, having a wooden portico of the Roman Ionic order, surmounted by Corinthian pilasters in low relief; but the site is not very eligible, as it appears to be compressed between a couple of unsightly buildings, and there is not sufficient space in front between the entrance and the city wall. A suite of three rooms were tastefully fitted up for the festive occasion. The promenade room is in the upper story. It is an oblong apartment, having an arched roof, and surrounded by a colonade of Corinthian pillars, standing a few feet distant from the walls. This is also the lodge-room of the fraternity, and on a dais at one end are disposed Gothic seats, covered with crimson cloth, for the Grand Master and other functionaries; and various insignia of Masonry meet the eye throughout the apartment. The ball-room was decorated with evergreens, artificial flowers, transparencies, &c., and it was lighted with gas. Compasses, the line and plummet, and other masonic devices, formed of laurel leaves and flowers, were placed between the windows, and the chandelier which depended from the ceiling was wreathed with evergreens. A chair for the Grand Master occupied an arched alcove at the upper end, above which was a royal crown brilliantly illuminated,

and an orchestral gallery, richly festooned with wreaths of laurel, laurus-tinus, and artificial flowers, was placed at the opposite extremity of the apartment, the *coup d'œil* having a very pleasing effect.

Supper was laid out in the basement story. Two tables ran length-wise through the apartment, while a third, at which the president sat, crossed it at the farther end, a large star, lighted with gas, appearing above the seat of the chairman.

The company was numerous, amounting to between eighty and ninety; and the gay dresses of the ladies, and the collars, aprons, and badges of the masonic brotherhood, gave to the scene an air of extraordinary brilliancy and animation. Quadrilles, waltzes, galopes, polkas, &c., were danced with unflinching spirit, to the enlivening music of Mr. Laughlin's band, till an early hour in the morning.

The supper was a standing one. The entertainment was exquisite in all respects; and the evening was spent most delightfully, the enjoyment of the company having been much enhanced by the desire of all, both ladies and gentlemen, to please and be pleased. The Grand Master, Sir James Stewart, was in attendance; and the exertions of Bro. Alex. Grant to make all happy and pleased, cannot be too highly applauded. The other members of the committee were also very attentive.

Now that these rooms, which are the object of admiration to all who have gone over them, have been completed, they are available to the public for either public or private entertainments; and considering the great extent of accommodation connected with them, their comfort will be found equal to their elegance.

NORTH MUNSTER.—LIMERICK, Feb. 24.—The Provincial Grand Lodge held the Quarterly Convocation this day, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Henry W. Massy, on the throne. The illustrious Prov. Grand Master, M. Furnell, was present, but not sufficiently restored to health to preside. The amended by-laws, conformable to the revised Grand Constitutions, were confirmed, and the general state of the district pronounced satisfactory.

Feb. 24.—The Prince Masons' Chapter No. 4, as also the grades of Royal Arch and Templars, severally met during this day for the installation of officers, &c.

NEWTON LIMAVADY, Feb. 28.—A convocation of Royal Arch Chapter No. 719, was held in the Town-hall. The chapter having been opened in due form, the exaltation of new members was then proceeded with; and at no former period since the charter was granted has there been so full an attendance. The unanimous thanks of the chapter was voted and given to Principals G. Given, Z., and J. Mooney, H., for their indefatigable zeal and exertions in behalf of R. A. Masonry in this town. The chapter having then closed in form, the members separated, highly delighted with the evening's proceedings.

FOREIGN.*

PARIS.—The M. W. G. M., Bro. Las Cases, has resigned his office. Bros. Bertrand and Des Aulis are fulfilling the duties until a successor shall have been installed.—The proceedings of the Grand Orient are now published every two months, and sent by circular to all the lodges, they are superintended and signed by Bro. Pillot, Grand Secretary, who is responsible for the contents.—The subscribing Masons in France number 60,000, in 391 lodges.—The masonic subscription to the fund for the sufferers by the inundation of the Loire, amounts to 10,000 francs.—The various systems of Freemasonry practised in France, under the Grand Orient, Conseil, &c., are about to be amalgamated, the higher grades abolished, and a *Grand Loge Nationale* established.

Feb. 22.—The *Credit* having announced that M. Pierre Buonaparte had been lately initiated in the Grand Orient of Paris, he has addressed the following letter to the editor:—"You were misinformed in stating that it was only lately that I was received a Freemason. It is now nineteen years since I was admitted a member of the French lodge of New York. I have also the honour to belong to the Philanthropists of Brussels."

ALTONA.—A lodge of mourning was held at Charles of the Rock, on the 16th February, 1848, to commemorate the death of the King (Christian VIII.) of Denmark, one of the few monarchs who did not disdain to wear the badge of brotherly love with regal robes. The particulars have been written by Worshipful Master Callisen, and published in the Hamburg Archives for Freemasons, by Messrs. Horstmaun and Strauss.

BASEL.—A circular has been issued from here, informing the fraternity that the Masonic Congress, or public gathering of Freemasons, would be held there this year; that, at the same time, the Grand Lodge of Switzerland (Alpina) would be opened at Basel on the occasion. A very neat address accompanies the circular, and gives, in the shortest possible space, the history of the two preceding gatherings. The first was held at Strasburg, and the second at Stutgard. The official opening of the congress was to take place on Sunday, the 24th September, 1848, at two o'clock, and would then adjourn till the following day. The general instructions consist of notices of subjects to be discussed, and form of proceedings. The circular is signed by Frederick Brenner, W. M., F. Brommel, and E. Wybert, Wardens, and L. de Wette, Secretary. The arrangements for delegates and visitors seem to have been perfect. The committee of management engaged a certain number of apartments at the hotels, arranged prices, &c., a list of which were at the secretary's office, and as the brethren arrived, on application at the office, were at once introduced to each other, and then shown to their respective residences.

COBURG.—The Lodge of Truth, Friendship, and Right, has again opened for masonic work, after being dormant for some years.

* As usual, we are greatly indebted to "*Latonia*," for much of our foreign intelligence.

DARMSTADT.—The admission of non christian brethren is to be tolerated at the Grand Lodge of Unity, on certain conditions, the said Grand Lodge having some two or three subordinate lodges, “which are to make what local decrees they think proper on the subject.” The said Grand Lodge of Unity made application to have a representative at the Grand Lodge of England, some time since.

DRESDEN.—The Grand Lodge of Saxony has determined upon having a representative at the Grand Orient of France, at Paris, and to receive one from there in return. A unanimous vote was also taken at the Quarterly Communication, to endeavour to make arrangements to the same effect with the Grand Lodge of England.

ELBERFELD.—Herfman near the Mountain, a lodge under the constitution of the Three Globes of Berlin, has requested the Grand Lodge from which it is constituted to pay particular attention on the revision of its laws this year, that no excluding clauses may be allowed to remain in their constitution. We suppose the political disturbances in Prussia have seriously interfered with masonic doings.

GLAUCHAU.—The eyes of a considerable number of the German brethren are turned to the proceedings of the Lodge Unity of Mankind, in consequence of the great liberality and enlightened spirit in which its career has commenced. It was founded in December, 1846, and has already funds set apart respectively for widows’ and orphans’ pensions, for Christmas gifts to aged and distressed men and women, and outfits for helpless children. It has also contributed to the fund for relieving the sufferers by the inundation of the Loire, and many other subscriptions. It has become celebrated for its charitable acts, and is an example to much older lodges. It holds its warrant from the Grand Lodge of Saxony.

GERA.—Considerable misunderstanding has arisen in this town in consequence of several articles that appeared in the newspapers intended to excite the public against the Freemasons. To some extent they have been successful. The journeymen bricklayers and shoemakers seemed disposed to demolish the Freemasons’ Hall. They have as yet been induced to postpone the work of destruction, but fears are entertained that unpleasant results will follow.

LEIPSIK.—The Lodge of Apollo has initiated during the two years ending 1848, seventy-six members, besides a large number declined. The result of so numerous a lodge has been the formation of a masonic club, in which, once a week, a masonic subject is submitted for discussion, and the debate entered in a book. Considerable advantages have already arisen from the instruction given to the junior brethren by the more experienced, and very expert (speculative) working Masons will be trained. Members of the other lodges are admissible on payment of a small sum, part of which it is intended to devote to charity. That distinguished Mason, Bro. Messmer, has taken the club under his especial care.

MEININGEN.—The Queen of England has presented to the fund Bernhards Help five hundred thaler, (65*l.*) This fund was commenced at the (twenty-fifth year) jubilee of the lodge Charlotte of the Three Carnations, by the Prince of Saxe-Meiningen.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA.—*Sussex Lodge, No. 447, Dec. 18, 1848.*—The festival was celebrated this day, when Bro. Isaac G. Swainson was duly installed as Master, after which the following brethren were invested with their insignia of office:—Bros. W. B. Douglas, S. W., Wm. Duff, J. W., J. K. Pingzies, Treasurer, J. D. Ford, Secretary, Wm. Lee, S. D., H. Ford, J. D., J. M. Drummond, I. G., J. Chavis, Tyler, A. Thom, Organist.

The usual ceremonies were efficiently performed, and the addition of an organ to the lodge gave increased solemnity to the ceremony of installation. The attendance of Past Masters from the sister lodges exceeded that of any former installation. The brethren afterwards sat down to banquet, at which the newly-installed Master presided with happy effect. Several toasts were drunk, and the brethren separated at "high twelve," truly gratified at the proceedings of the evening.

GRENADA, WEST INDIES.—An effort has been made to extend the principles of the Craft in this island. On the 27th of January last, a new lodge, by name the St. Patrick, No. 224, on the roll of Ireland, was opened in due form, when the various officers were installed, and a candidate initiated in the mysteries of the Order. Several influential members of the Craft were present, among them the Hon. Bro. Wm. Stephenson, Prov. Grand Master of the Scotch lodges in the West Indies, and Master of the Caledonian Lodge. After the lodge was closed, the brethren partook of a supper-banquet, at which the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given by Bro. D. W. Gibbs, the newly-installed Master, and heartily responded to. The brethren separated shortly after eleven o'clock.

ST. LUCIA, Dec. 27.—The festival of St. John was celebrated in this town by the brethren of the Albion Lodge, No. 762, on registry of the Grand Lodge of England, with the co-operation of the brethren of the Sagesse Lodge, No. 223, on registry of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The brethren assembled at five o'clock, at the Albion Masonic Hall, whence they moved, in the beautiful panoply of their ancient Order, to the banquet-room in Mongiraud-street. Twenty good men and worthy, united in the indissoluble bonds of brotherhood unalloyed, here sat down to refreshment. Bro. J. W. Todd, W. M. of the Albion Lodge, presided, supported by Bros. John Grant, W. M. of the Sagesse Lodge, R. G. M'Hugh, P. M. of the Sagesse, and W. Seon, P. M. of the Albion; Bro. C. Wells, S. W. of the Albion, occupying the W.:. The utmost harmony as usual prevailed at the board. Masonic and loyal toasts and sentiments, accompanied by appropriate songs and enlivening coruscations of wit, made the time glide sweetly on, and it was not until a late hour that the brethren, "happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again," sought their respective homes.

TRINIDAD.—The members of the Lodge United Brothers, No. 251, celebrated the anniversary of St. John. They attended, pursuant to public notice, divine service at Trinity Church, where, by the kind permission of the Rev. Rector, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Bro. Beckles. The Rev. Gentleman set forth in most forcible language the importance of brotherly love. The objection erroneously made, that Freemasonry is anti-Christian, was ably corrected. How can an institution be anti-Christian, where brotherly love is the beginning and the end, and where the texts, "Love one another," John, xviii, 34,

“Love is the fulfilling of the law,” Rom. xiii. 10, are constantly inculcated and practically applied? Faith is the love in God; Hope is love in eternity; and Charity is love to our fellow-men. These three pillars of Freemasonry are a guarantee to the religious mind, that whatever the peculiar tenets or ceremonies of that institution may be, they cannot be anti-Christian. The sermon of the Rev. Gentleman gave high satisfaction to the honourable fraternity, as well as to the numerous congregation who attended on that occasion. The service was closed with a collection for the poor, which was liberally responded to.

During the afternoon and evening the brethren assembled in great number on Mount Moriah, to be present at the installation of the Office Bearers of the lodge for the ensuing year, and to partake of a banquet. Thence followed fireworks and illumination of the lodge, affording pleasure and amusement also to those who could not partake of the fraternal enjoyment inside.

The health of “Her most gracious Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert and the Royal Family,” was drunk during a royal salute of 21 guns fired on Mount Moriah, which was followed by that of “His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Harris,” “The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and other Grand Lodges,” The Provincial Grand Master, and all the brethren on the globe.” After the usual other toasts, the brethren separated in peace and harmony.

May the valuable and ancient institution of Freemasonry, represented in this island, by Lodge United Brothers, No. 251, prosper and increase, and be instrumental, by its charitable and social tendency to harmonise this diversified community, and to diminish the woes and sufferings which men are heirs to in this vale of tribulation.

TORONTO, CANADA.—The brethren of St. Andrew’s Lodge, celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist, when a splendid entertainment was provided. The Worshipful Master, T. G. Ribout, D. P. G. M. in the chair. The usual masonic toasts were given and cordially responded to by the brethren; several songs were sung, and the brethren separated at an early hour. During the evening a deputation waited on the Ionic Lodge, at Mrs. Dunlop’s room, where their brethren dined, conveying the usual expression of masonic feeling from the W. M. and members of St. Andrew’s Lodge, to the W. M. and members of the Ionic Lodge, which was duly and warmly responded to by the latter, who also sent a deputation to reciprocate the compliment paid to them by St. Andrew’s Lodge. The W. M. and Officers of the Ionic Lodge were duly installed on St. John’s day. The following are Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Kivas Tully, W. M.; Francis Richardson, P. M.; James Keiller, S. W.; Charles Fitzgibbon, J. W.; Bro. W. M. Gorrie, Treasurer; Bro. George Crookshank, Secretary. The brethren of the Richmond Lodge celebrated St. John’s day by a ball, at their lodge rooms, at Bingham’s Tavern, Elgin Mills, Richmond Hill. The ball room was neatly decorated, and dancing was kept up until an early hour, when the company separated, highly pleased with the entertainment.

MONTREAL, Feb. 1.—The Victoria Chapter has been consecrated, and with *eclat*. After the opening, the Rev. Companion Leach, Grand Chaplain, offered up a solemn and impressive prayer, the Companions all kneeling. The P. G. Superintendant then delivered the invocation. The Grand Chaplain commenced the dedication, and the assembly sang an ode,—Choral music, and hallelujahs were interspersed with the

rites. When we bear in mind that this district ceremonial was the arrangement of Companions who were without instructions from head quarters, we cannot praise too highly their researches into the hidden mysteries of our art.

The Provincial Grand Lodge progresses with success. Bro. T. D. Harrington, who has been appointed Deputy Grand Master, has, after three years service as Master of St. George's Lodge, been most deservedly complimented by a testimonial. The Lodge of "Social and Military Virtues," No. 227, Ireland, being in a state of abeyance, he has kindly consented to act as master for the ensuing year. This lodge was formerly in the 46th regiment, and was re-constituted by Dr. Crucefix some years since, at Weedon Barracks. In a former number we gave some most interesting particulars, doubtless now that the warrant is entrusted to Bro. Harrington, he will give increased publicity to the documents of the lodge.

I N D I A.

The Agents in Calcutta for this *Review* are—MESSRS. LATTEY, BROTHERS & Co., Government-place; and MESSRS. THACKER & Co., St. Andrew's Library. Madras, Bro. PHAROAH.

CALCUTTA, Sept. 30.—*Foundation of the Medical College Hospital.*—The ceremony was performed with masonic honours by the Earl of Dalhousie, the Governor-general. The site of the new building is a large plot of ground due east of the Medical College. The visitors began to arrive about an hour before the appointed time, five o'clock in the evening. Among them were Majors-general Sir J. H. Littler and Dudley Hill, Bishop Wilson, the Hon. Mr. Bethune, the Hon. Mr. Millett, Mr. H. M. Elliot, Mr. Halliday, Mr. Bushby, and others. A quarter of an hour prior to the arrival of the Governor-general, the brethren of the masonic Craft marched in procession from the Medical College into the area where the ceremony was to take place, and drew up in front of the platform which was to form the basis of the cornerstone.

His Lordship upon arrival was led by Mr. Longueville Clark, as Grand Marshal, and by the Hon. Mr. Bethune, Mr. Elliot, and others, to the throne in the pavilion that had been erected for the occasion, the band playing the national air. The brethren of the mystic tie also did honour to his Lordship by a salute after their own fashion, by raising both hands high in mid-air, and the bringing them down simultaneously upon the thighs, three distinct times.

After this, Dr. John Grant, (as Grand Master of Bengal and its territories), conducted his Lordship to a seat on the eastern side of the platform, which was to receive the tablet and stone; and went through the ceremonial of the "masonic honours." At his summons, one brother produced a glass bottle containing the current coin of the country;

another, a second bottle, containing the plan of the Hospital and the local publications of the day, (the *Hurkaru Star* and *Englishman*, &c.); a third (Dr. Mouatt), the silver tablet; and a fourth, the silver trowel. Each article in turn was touched by his Lordship; the inscription upon the tablet being also read, at the request of the Grand Master, who then proceeded to place the two first into recesses formed in the platform for their reception, remarking, in reference to the newspapers, that he would not hazard an opinion as to whether or not they "would be held in high estimation two or three thousand years hence."

The tablets were next presented to Majors-general Sir J. H. Littler and Dudley Hill, the Bishop, and the members of council present, to be read. This done, the Grand Master said that nothing remained for him to do but, with the permission of the Governor-general, who had been pleased to do honour to the occasion by his presence, to lay the corner-stone of the Fever Hospital. The act, however, must be taken to be essentially that of his Lordship himself, who was to the east of the platform, and he, (Dr. Grant), must be regarded as only the medium of its performance.

The Grand Master then called for the cement; but, before proceeding to use it, he remembered that the tablet ought to have been read, and demanded to know where Bro. Henry Elliot was, that he might be called upon to discharge the office. Bro. H. M. Elliot responded from the midst of a crowd, saying he was without an apron.

The Grand Master summoned him forward notwithstanding, saying he was a right sterling man and Mason, apron or no apron. Bro. Elliott complied, and read the inscription.

The Grand Master now stopping with cement the recesses into which the glass bottles had been put, placed the tablet over them, and covered it with mortar likewise. He then plunged the trowel, cased in tin, into the mortar, which he spread over the stone in the proper manner; after which he drew the silver trowel out of its tin sheath, and presented it to his Lordship, expressing a hope that it would long be an heir-loom in his family.

The instrument is set in an ivory handle, having a view of the Fever Hospital, his Lordship's arms, the Collar and Cross of the Order of the Thistle, and several masonic devices upon it; and, considering the short, very short space of time in which it was got ready, it does the greatest credit to the artistic skill and taste of the Messrs. Lattcy Brothers. The peculiar masonic salute, described before, was here repeated.

The Grand Master then directed the brethren to lower the stone into its place, aiding himself in adjusting it, and turning towards the east, with hands uplifted, exclaimed, "May the Great Architect of the Universe grant a blessing on this stone which we have now laid, and that we may be enabled, by his Providence, to finish this and every other virtuous undertaking." The brethren replied with the masonic answer, "So mote it be."

The Grand Master next poured a cornucopia full of corn, a vase filled with wine, and another containing oil, all of which had been previously touched by Lord Dalhousie, upon the corner-stone, exclaiming, "May the all-bounteous Author of Nature bless the city with corn, wine, and oil, and with all the necessary conveniences of life." The brethren replied as before, "So mote it be."

The Grand Master then addressing himself to the Governor-general and the rest of the company, feelingly expressed the gratification he had

experienced in taking part in the ceremony, and characterised "the design of founding so noble an institution as one of the most eminently palpable and satisfactory proofs that a great, wise, and liberal government could give of its deep anxiety for the welfare of the people. The building, of which the corner-stone had been laid this evening, is supplemental to the Medical College, and will prove an asylum that was much needed for the sick; while it will, at the same time, prove instrumental in the advancement of science. In proportion to the amount of civilisation in any country will be found the solicitude for human suffering. Tell me," said the Grand Master, "of any country where the sick and the poor are not cared for, and I will at once say, that, whatever its pretensions, it is a country or city in a low state of civilisation. (Hear.) It is a subject of honest pride to us, that the founding of such edifices as hospitals and infirmaries, and the establishment of funds for their due maintenance and support, is a feature of Christian civilisation, and of Christian civilisation alone. I hope that the spectators of this scene do not consider it as an idle pageant, but one fraught with a moral meaning."

"I consider," added the Grand Master, especially addressing Lord Dalhousie, "it is a very happy omen for your Lordship, that the very first appearance which you have made in public before the people of Calcutta, has for its object the foundation of an institution which is to prove a temple of piety, of peace, and of mercy, to the hundreds of the sick, the homeless, and the friendless. When the generation that is now standing around me will have long passed away, the significant ceremonial of this day will still have a meaning and a moral, and be gratefully appreciated in the recollections of the living. It has been a ceremonial of forms; and I am aware that in these forms were many things which appeared without a purpose to the crowd at large assembled here to-day; but let them receive the assurance from me, that every one of these forms which, as a Mason, I adopted to day, is pregnant with a meaning expressive alike of our hopes for the future and of thanksgiving to God for the bounty which He bestows upon us, for the peace which He suffers us to enjoy, and for the illustrious Head and Governor whom He has given us, in whom we place the most implicit trust and confidence." (Hear, hear.)

The Governor-general now rose and said:—"Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Wardens, and brethren all:—It is a matter of the highest gratification to me that it has been in my power to be present to bear a part in the proceedings of this evening. It is gratifying to me equally in my capacity of a public officer in this country, and of a brother of the masonic Craft. It is in the highest degree gratifying to me, that, having been, from circumstances connected with public duties, deprived for some years of the opportunities of social intercourse, and the exercise of the functions of a member of the masonic fraternity, I find myself, thousands and thousands of miles away from the point at which I left them, called upon to renew my communication with friends in private life, and aid as a brother Mason, in works of public charity and beneficence. Ages and ages have passed away since you, my brethren, have ceased actively to engage in the practice of your arts; but, though magnificent monuments of your skill cover the face of England and Europe in edifices and buildings more noble, of superior architectural beauty, and of more extended usefulness than the Calcutta Fever Hospital may be, you will have more reason to pride and congratulate yourselves, regard being had

to circumstances, upon the share you have taken this evening in the discharge of your masonic duties in laying this corner-stone for an hospital for the poor. I venture to express to this assembly the high admiration I felt upon learning, from the records of the Indian Government, of the liberality of this community in contributing so princely a fund to the laudable and admirable purpose of founding a charity Fever Hospital for the poor of this land; and I beg to offer the tribute of my humble but just and sincere admiration, to the honourable gentleman who placed so large and munificent a donation at the disposal of the Government, and, upon the part of the Government, to tender to him my warmest thanks for the ready and cheerful acquiescence which he gave to its being applied in furtherance of the project of founding a Fever Hospital for Calcutta."

His Lordship then explained that he had proposed that the funds left at the disposal of the Government should at once be added to the contributions realised for the Calcutta Fever Hospital, so that the aggregate might be adequate for the completion of the building. "Now that the corner-stone has been laid," said his Lordship, "I hope that, when I return among you after the temporary separation which the exigences of the public service require, I shall find that the edifice itself will have far advanced towards completion, holding out an object of emulation to the wealthy inhabitants of Calcutta, as an institution which we help to spread the bed for the poor in sickness, afforded a home to the houseless, give skilful friends to the friendless, and extend the hand of succour and protection to the afflicted and forlorn. (Hear.) The implement, Right Worshipful Grand Master, which you have presented to me, I shall retain with great and constant satisfaction; and if it shall please God to preserve my life, it shall serve to recal, years hence, the grateful memory of the imposing and most interesting ceremony of the laying of the corner-stone of a public Fever Hospital for the capital of British India, which I have witnessed this evening." (Loud cheers.)

At the conclusion of his address, his Lordship was conducted by the Grand Master and his brethren to his carriage, as was the Bishop and Sir John Littler; and the assembly dispersed.

The ceremony must, altogether, have been a splendid spectacle. In the *Indian News*, whence we have condensed our report of the proceedings, it is stated that "the concourse of people collected on the occasion was immense. The scene that presented itself was altogether highly picturesque and imposing, and must have been particularly so to those who had never before witnessed any thing of the kind. The masonic brethren, all arrayed in their richest costumes, with the setting sun glittering upon their various decorations; the thousands of natives grouped around them; and, though last not least, the ladies, who, seated in a raised pavilion, graced the ceremony with their presence, all combined to produce an effect which it is easier to imagine than describe."

The preceding report has been abridged from the *Illustrated News*, whose journal gave a portrait of the Lord Patron of Freemasonry in India, with a splendid engraving of the proceedings.

The finish of the untoward and unmasonic transactions in relation to the members of the Lodge Kilwinning in the East, has been forwarded to the Editor of the "Freemasons Quarterly Review," who will, we have no doubt, do justice to the case. Pending the opinion and advice of such unquestionable authority, we refrain from extended remarks. In justice however to those who have been most severely and unmasonically treated, some explanation might have been given by Bro. John Grant, who wields the provincial truncheon, with a not altogether military attitude, exacting all deference,—conceding no courtesy; character, reputation, personal feeling, all are treated as the idle wind. Fortune swells avain man, who thus is altogether reckless of the effects on those whom he has the power to offend, without the desire to reconcile.*

THE REV. DR. OLIVER.—We have much pleasure in stating that a portrait of this illustrious brother has been presented by Bro. Pereira, to the Grand Lodge of Bengal, which on being handed round at the banquet table, was universally admired by the brethren, more especially by the Clergymen who officiated during the auspicious ceremony of laying the foundation stone,—they were highly pleased to view the likeness of one who has enriched Freemasonry by the most precious gift of an exalted literature. We hope in our next number to give the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge in relation to this subject.

BOMBAY, Nov.—A numerous meeting was held in the Lodge Perseverance for the election of the Master, when the Grand Master for Western India, James Burnes, *M. D. K. H.*, was unanimously elected and duly installed in office.

Resolutions acknowledging the W. Master head of the Order, as the staunch defender of its ancient landmarks, and the bulwark of its privileges, were passed unanimously. Bro. Jones was unanimously elected Treasurer. Capt. Inglefield, *R. N.*, and Lieut. Ball, *I. N.*, were afterwards initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, the ceremony of which was increased in solemnity by the introduction into the lodge, for the first time, of an organ, played by Bro. Palliser. Amongst the numerous brethren present were observed, P. W. Legeyt, Commodore Hawkins, Capt. Lynch, Capt. Gibb, E. Danvers, Col. Schuler, &c.

The business of the lodge terminated about half-past nine o'clock, when the brethren (upwards of fifty in number) adjourned to banquet, after which toast after toast followed, speech followed speech, song followed song, and all accompanied with good humour, conviviality, and good fellowship.

Capt. Lynch read a resolution, passed a short time since at a meeting of the brethren at the residence of the Past Master, expressive of the high sense of the members of the lodge, of the way in which the Grand Master had come forward to support the interests and the dignity of the Lodge Perseverance, and Masonry in general, by accepting the chair for the ensuing year, and voting, as a slight token of that conviction, the presentation to him of a jewel, with a suitable engraving.

Dr. Burnes returned thanks for the honour done him in a brilliant and eloquent speech, expressive of his heartfelt wishes for the continued

* The "finish" of the transactions not having reached us, we of course cannot offer any comment; this we the more regret, as the want of the packet leaves a *hiatus*.—ED.

prosperity of the lodge and its members, and enlarging upon its widespread blessings, &c. This was the speech of the evening. The conviviality was kept up till near midnight, when the company broke up.

SINGAPORE.—Lodge Zetland in the East, No. 748.—We continue to go a-head, our members increase, and are much pleased with the masonic library, which already comprises many standard works. Among which, and not the least prized, is the “Freemasons’ Quarterly Review.”

THE
GENERAL ASSURANCE ADVOCATE.

31st MARCH, 1849.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

THE OLD AND NEW OFFICES.

THE whole world is deep in the vortex of competition—men seek for wealth in the thousand avenues of speculation. Labour, teeming in abundance, is striving anxiously by every outlet to emerge from poverty into comfort—from comfort into wealth—too often to be repulsed, and driven discomfited back ; but still the swarm of gold-seekers, impelled by an irresistible impulse, presses impetuously onward, and the war of competition continues to rage as fiercely and as constantly, with as much persistency of effort, and with apparently as little avail for the happiness of the many, as the hoarse waves which have for ages washed against, without undermining, the steadfast rocks which bulwark our island home. Every speculation which promises cent. per cent., every *Eldorado* vision, enlists its thousands of willing hands, acute brains and adventurous spirits, eager to win, with lightning-like rapidity, that affluence which experience teaches them is so often denied to steady and enduring labour. This is the true spirit of the rage of speculation which burns so fiercely among us—the true key to the problem of our commercial society. Well, it is perhaps necessary that it should be so. We see good so constantly evolving itself out of evil, that we are accustomed to look for it almost solely from that source. We cannot conceive any way by which man can struggle through the transitory state from ignorance, the great evil, to knowledge, the great good ; except through the deadly strife of competition, in which, though myriads perish, men are stimulated, for their own sakes, to take advantage of every discovery of science, every appliance of art, to work out that dominion over the powers of nature which, while it now tends to make only the few rich, is piling up resources out of which must arise the prosperity of the future, and which must, in the fulness of time, ensure the physical happiness of the masses. The transition state from a knowledge of wants, which is misery, to a knowledge of the means of satisfying those wants, which

is happiness, must necessarily be a state of suffering ; but all men should take care, that while competition—the great engine which has led, and is leading, society upwards—has fair play that its attendant, though opposite principle, Combination—on which the very foundations of society rest, which forms the very basis of all government and association—for the good of humanity should not be neglected.

What California promises to the gold seeker, Life Assurance presents to those who labour—the realization of industrial efforts ; with this difference, however, that while speculation promises wealth to the seeker himself—in his own lifetime—for his own actual immediate enjoyment, and is therefore entwined with those selfish feelings which lie so thickly around the hearts of the best among us—Assurance holds out for each man only a prospective advantage for himself, to be won by continuous moral controul, courage, and perseverance, and insures that those who we leave behind us shall not, after the departure of those on whose exertions they have been accustomed to depend, be left destitute in the world, with their sorrow for the dead aggravated by a feeling of their own hopeless and forlorn condition. The selfish instinct is so deeply implanted in man, and more particularly in the man existing in the midst of an almost purely commercial community, that its promptings and cravings must be satisfied, at whatever prospective risk. No danger will deter men from the pursuit of their own aggrandisement—they will set their “ all upon a cast,” and “ stand the hazard of the die ;” and, therefore, enterprise—rash, perchance, and it may be vain, will exist. But there is no need that while the selfish instinct is thus fully gratified, prudent forethought, and careful economy, should be lost sight of, and that those tenderer and better feelings of humanity which, amid all our golden visions—all our dreams of power—come irrepressibly bubbling up from the deep well of natural truth and goodness, filling us with hopes and fears for the future, of those on whom our affections rest, should be entirely smothered and overlaid. To provide for their exercise, we have the principle of Combination ready to our hands, in the form in which it may be most beneficially applied—that of Life Assurance. And thus the two extremes, Competition and Combination, may be linked hand in hand—Competition working for self, Combination for those who should be even dearer than self ; Competition shaping the present, Combination building the future ; Competition creating resources, Combination applying them in the most beneficial possible manner : both by opposite roads, drawing onward to the same centre the prosperity and happiness of all mankind.

The directors of the great Assurance movement which is going on, to be true to themselves—to advance the great cause in which they are engaged—must be true to their principle of Combination ; they must not admit the commercial spirit of Competition within their spreading

domain. They must revise the principles upon which Assurance has hitherto, in the great majority of instances, proceeded, and practically recognize the truth that Assurance is not, or at all events ought not to be a trade; that barter is not any part of it, and that profit—individual profit, in the ordinary meaning of the term—is not one of its legitimate objects. They must act upon the truth that they are to combine rather than to compete, and that their proper aim in fostering Assurance is not to acquire wealth, but so spread the effects of the losses which in the course of nature fall upon families over as wide a surface as possible, so that their weight may crush none—may nowhere be perceptibly felt; and that this purpose may be answered, all such considerations as profit upon subscribed capitals (where, in point of fact, no such capitals are needed) eating up, for the benefit of a few proprietors, those resources which should be applied for the good of all, must be at once and for ever abandoned. The spirit of the age is an enquiring one, and it is becoming daily more and more protestant against all abuses, and men acting under its guidance, will no longer consent, even while purchasing a benefit, to pay for that of which they have no need. They demand that every scheme or movement shall be what it professes to be, and that advantages of all kinds shall be obtainable with as much ease as possible. They are willing that thought for the future shall subtract something from the resources of the present—that prudence, looking forward, shall lay a burden upon effort; but they must be assured that those deductions and burdens are as light as may be consistently with the attainment of the object sought for, and that all the discoveries of science, and all the appliances of art, are brought into play to serve their present and future interests. Every institution which would avoid the ravages of that cankering decay which attacks everything that has outlived its time, and ceased to subserve its proper ends; every institution which seeks to see its strength increased by lapse of years, and its usefulness grow with its strength, must advance with the advancing spirit of intelligence. To do so is to recognize the policy of self-preservation, and to humanize utility; to oppose its progress, is to seek destruction, and to perish in the attempt to make the good of the mass subservient to the aggrandisement of a fraction. In this respect the younger offices have done good service—they have, with scarcely an exception, recognized the purely mutual principle, and, both by word and deed, have shown that they are alive to the wants of the time, by promulgating and acting upon Life Assurance as a power to be used solely for the good of the Assurers, instead of for the benefit of a limited number of speculative capitalists; and thus, too, they have taught their elder brothers a great moral lesson, which it is to be hoped will be conned with attention, and produce results pregnant with wide-spread benefits.

The proof that the younger offices are working a great moral revolu-

tion in the empire of Assurance, is to be found in the fact, that almost every movement they have made, almost every improvement they have introduced, almost every change they have made, to ensure the whole benefits of Assurance to those to whom they properly belong, the Assurers, has been adopted, or approximated towards, by offices of very high reputation and of long standing. It is true that in some offices the deeds of settlement, relics of past ignorance and wrong, prevent the introduction of any such healthful and invigorating changes, and tie them down to continue the practice of past error. In these cases, we are informed, that it is in contemplation so to amend the deeds as to allow them to take advantage of those improvements which younger offices have developed. In some instances, however, even that is impossible, for their deeds are as irrevocable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and these unfortunate institutions seem doomed to drag on a wearisome existence, bound down by restrictions and conditions unsuitable to the spirit of the age in which they live, and which self-imposed for some fancied advantage, which modern knowledge has proved delusive and false, threaten to cling to them still more tightly than ever the old man of the sea clung to the shoulders of the luckless Sindbad. For such waifs and strays upon the sea of doom there is but little hope of escape; but even they, too late, seeing the destruction which threatens them, are making desperate efforts to escape, tempting the unwary by promises of large bonuses to embark their fortunes in the same leaky bark. But these efforts must fail; for wherever the principles of Assurance are spread with the bane comes the antidote. Men are being taught that to receive bonuses they must first pay them, that a part is not so much as the whole, and that those societies which are free to take advantage of every improvement, and which have no divided interest between Assurers and Proprietors, which husband the resources of all for the benefit of all, embody the true form under which Life Assurance is capable of the most extended and beneficial application—

“ What a change has come o'er the spirit of the scene.”

We have just passed through a period of extreme commercial depression, and apprehensions might well have been excited, that the contraction of the resources of the mercantile and trading classes would not only have proved inimical to the spread of Assurance, but have diminished the extent of its empire. Those apprehensions have not been realised; for while it would appear, from the reports of the older offices, that they have at least had the pleasure of congratulating themselves upon maintaining their position, several new offices have sprung into life, grown into vigour, and put forth fruit, as the proof of their increasing strength; so that it must be evident, that contemporaneously with great commercial distress, the business of Life Assurance has actually greatly increased.

We do not mean to contend that all other conditions being alike, years of distress would necessarily be years of improvement in Assurance business; such a conclusion appears to us to be illogical, because it would be in effect saying, that provision for the future will be greatest, when the means of making that provision are at the lowest ebb; but still there is the startling fact before our eyes, forbidding doubt or denial, and we know that it must have a logical cause. That cause appears to us to be the difference in the conditions of Assurance itself. It must be recollected, that in the past year greater efforts than at any previous time have been made to extend a knowledge of the principles and powers of Assurance, and that its practice has been rendered more equitable and advantageous, and its attractions placed in a fairer light towards the public; and that men, thinking men, by the very failing of those springs from which they expected to draw a provision for themselves and their families, have been rendered more accessible to considerations of a wise and prudent forethought, and by this accumulation of causes have been led to recognize and act upon a moral duty, which they owe to society, of providing immediately and securely for the comfort of their families. We hold, that if Assurance had remained what it has too long been, merely a commercial speculation for the benefit of the capitalists engaged in it, that these conditions would not have existed, and that 1848 would, if it had not witnessed a great decrease in Assurance, at least have furnished no evidence of its extension; and we are encouraged to hope that men's eyes being once opened, a return of commercial prosperity, an extension of the means of the assuring classes will lead to a great and permanent extension of Assurance itself, that all, both masters and employed, will provide for their families, to the utmost extent of their means, and that the business of Assurance offices will be as unailing a test of prosperity, as the returns of the national revenue. While the new offices may find in all this abundant matter for self-gratulation, we cannot sympathize with the happiness of their seniors, that they have maintained their position. They arrogate to themselves the superiority of age. Do they not know that *per se* age is a disadvantage? Are they not aware that all things have at their birth the seeds of decay? That youth is more vigorous than age, which but barely compensates for its loss of freshness and primeval strength by greater knowledge? Are they not aware that the most valuable attribute of age is experience, and that when Time does not bring that, it takes away all? And if they know this, if they have acquired knowledge and experience, do not those qualities teach them, that not to gain, when all around are gaining, is to lose? That to stay behind, when all others are advancing, is relatively to fall back? If not, then their time has been sadly misused. They may depend upon it, that those benefits which have attracted men in

distress will rivet them in prosperity; and that unless they put themselves upon the same footing as those whose efforts have brought about the present movement, the future has no hope in store for them. They may for a time hold their ground, but the fresh blood which should invigorate them will flow into other bodies, and year by year, as their present members die off, they will wither and shrivel, till at length they shall become no better than dead branches which cumber the ground. The fact is, and practical men should at once recognize it, that like steam, electricity, and other great powers, Assurance is yet but in its infancy, all its laws are not yet known, a portion only of its capabilities are developed. it is still susceptible of further improvements, and those who are ever ready to take advantage of every beneficial discovery must prosper, while those who cling to old usages and customs, merely because they are old, must fall in common with all who refuse to avail themselves of the improved machinery and powers which science brings to light, art sets in motion, and all the rest of the world are applying to their own advantage.

We do not wish to be harsh or unjust, but the time has come when all the truth should be told, and we will not by hiding it, shrink from our duty to both the offices and the public. The benefits of Assurance can only be made fully available by those who guide its action, being on the alert to improve every opportunity, and by their taking care that they at least keep pace with the advancing intelligence and spirit of the age.

MEDICAL FEES.

“Honesty is always the best policy.” It must be self-evident to every one that the medical opinions required to be furnished by persons proposing to assure, are necessary for and conducive to the safety and well being of the offices, and it squares with true notions of honesty and justice that services should be paid for by those for whose benefit they are rendered. If policies in either Proprietary or Mutual Offices could be effected at such rates as would only just enable the institutions to meet the liabilities which fall upon them, there would be some excuse for adopting one of two courses—either raising the premiums, or declining to pay medical referees. But we need not tell those who have even the most casual acquaintance with the business of Assurance, and the generally flourishing state of the offices, that the Assurers pay enough, by way of premium, to sustain all the direct and indirect expenses of Assurance, meet all liabilities, and then leave a large margin of profit, and that therefore there is no pretext for the shabbiness of calling upon individuals to pay the charges of medical referees, or suffering the medical men, as we know they often do through unwilling-

ness, to charge old patients for an opinion, to go unrewarded for the important services which they render to the companies. The policy, too, of adopting the just and honourable course, appears to us to be obvious. The companies must necessarily rest their safety upon the fidelity of the information they receive; and it must be to their interest to make the medical referees their agents rather than the agents of the Assurers, and to attach the profession to themselves. The power of medical men to spread the practice of Assurance from the position which they occupy in society, and the footing upon which they enter among families, must necessarily be very great, and we have no doubt that it will be exerted for the advancement of those offices which behave to them and their patients in a fair and honourable manner; and upon this point we are glad to see that the medical papers have spoken out; The *Lancet* in particular having published the following list of those offices which have determined to act justly and honestly toward the profession, by paying such of its members as are called upon to exercise their skill for the benefit of Assurance Companies.

PAYING OFFICES.

Britannia.	Royal Farmers.
British Mutual.	Medical Invalid.
Commercial.	Medical and Legal.
English Widows' Fund.	Metropolitan Counties.
Engineers' Masonic and Universal.	Professional.
London and Provincial Joint	Westminster.
Stock.	Yorkshire.

INCREASE OF ASSURANCES.

In 1831 the value of real property insured was above 526,000,000*l.* In 1841 it had increased by about 30 per Cent., having then reached 682,000,000*l.*, and since that period the increase has been still more rapid.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

Much valuable and interesting information has been furnished at the meetings of Proprietors and Members of various Companies and Societies. We give notices of such as have fallen under our observation, and leave our readers to ponder upon the greater opportunities afforded by Life Assurance, than by any other means heretofore devised, for securing domestic comfort and tranquility, promoting social happiness and well-being, encouraging prudence and forethought, cultivating the better feelings and sympathies of our nature, and preventing the future destitution or distress of families and individuals.

MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE OFFICE, *Nov. 30, 1848.*—New Insurances during the year, 508, yielding in premiums 7609*l.* 12*s.* Bonus declared; two per cent. added to participating policies. We regret to have mislaid the very circumstantial details of Mr. Neisson's most valuable report.

CITY OF LONDON LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, *Jan. 3.*—The third annual meeting of shareholders was holden at the office of the institution, Royal Exchange Buildings, James Risdon Bennett, Esq., M. D., in the chair.

E. F. LEEKS, Esq., Secretary, submitted the report of the society's operations for the past year. This document showed that, during the last financial year, ending 31st October, one hundred and ninety proposals had been accepted by the Directors, assuring a total of 74,012*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, and producing an additional income of 2,874*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* They had also declined to assure policies to the amount of 18,000*l.* Since the accounts had been audited, the Directors had the gratification to announce that they had further accepted twenty additional proposals, assuring 7,996*l.*; thus making the gross annual income 6,224*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, and showing, on comparison, the increase of income this year to have exceeded last year's increase by the sum of 440*l.* Proposals had also been accepted, but were not completed, for assuring an aggregate of 4,550*l.*, at premiums amounting to 128*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* per annum, and these applications are now under the consideration of the Directors, as are also ten other proposals for assuring a total of 2,250*l.* The report further stated, that during the three financial years, ending in October last, no death had occurred among the assured, but that, after the close of the last year, a claim had arisen upon the funds of the society to the extent of 500*l.*, by reason of the death of one of the Directors (George Bulwer, Esq.)

After the usual routine business, F. A. Dunford, Esq., Lieut. Colonel Rowland, Royal Artillery, W. Simpson, Esq., and F. Watts, Esq., F. S. A., Directors, who retired by rotation, were re-appointed without a dissentient voice; and H. J. Cameron, Esq., Provost of Dingwall, J. J. Chalk, Esq., and H. W. West, Esq., of the Northern Circuit, were also unanimously re-elected Auditors for the ensuing year.

J. BACHE, Esq., proposed a vote of thanks to the Directors.

EDWARD BREWSTER, Esq., proposed that the best thanks of this society are due to E. F. Leeks, Esq., the indefatigable Secretary.

E. F. LEEKS, Esq., responded to this vote.

DAVID JONES, Esq., Actuary of the Universal Life Assurance Company, proposed the thanks of the meeting to G. S. Farrance, Esq., the Actuary of the society.

G. J. FARRANCE, Esq., responded to this vote.

A vote of thanks, moved by the very Rev. the DEAN OF HEREFORD, and seconded by the Rev. CHARLTON LANE, Vicar of Kennington, was then unanimously awarded to the Chairman, who responded, in a very feeling address; at the conclusion of which the court was declared dissolved.

SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, Jan. 3.—The third annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Sovereign Life Assurance Company took place at the Thatched House Tavern. Lord Arthur Lennox in the chair.

Report:—“The number of proposals made to the board during the past year, have been one hundred and ninety-one, in respect of which one hundred and seven policies have been granted, covering assurances to the amount of 53,700*l.*, and yielding, with renewal premiums, an annual income of 3,501*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*.”

“The proprietors are aware that many of the policies effected in the Sovereign are issued in connection with loans. During the crisis which prevailed in the commercial world, towards the close of 1847 and the beginning of the past year, the Directors thought it prudent to suspend almost entirely all operations arising from that department of business.

“It having been thought desirable to ascertain the exact position of the company’s affairs, and the value of its assets and liabilities, from the commencement up to the close of the year ending the 9th October last, the Directors took the opinion of Mr. Arthur Morgan, the Actuary of the Equitable Assurance Office, for that purpose.

“The Directors have recently felt themselves at liberty to resume, to some extent, what so far has proved a safe and most valuable source of profit, and the result has been, that in the interval between the 9th of October and the present time, sixty-seven proposals have been submitted to the Directors, out of which they have accepted forty-seven, and already granted thirty-five policies, the others not having yet been taken up.

“Two deaths only have occurred amongst the assured between the 9th of January, 1846, when the company commenced business, and the 9th of October last, in respect of which claims, amounting to the sum of 900*l.*, have arisen, and which sum is included and allowed for in Mr. Morgan’s valuation. On the other hand, an annuity granted by the company, for which a consideration of 400*l.* was received, has fallen in by the decease of the annuitant.

“In compliance with the unanimous resolution of the proprietors at the last general meeting, the Directors have declared all shares forfeited on which the call remained unpaid.

“The Directors recommend that a dividend out of the interest arising from the subscribed capital of the company, shall be declared after the rate of 4*l.* per cent. for the past year.

“The Directors and Auditors retiring in rotation, offer themselves for re-election.”

The report was, after some discussion, unanimously adopted. Several resolutions were unanimously passed, comprising the re-election of Directors and Auditors, and expressive of entire confidence in their management.

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman and officers of the company, and the meeting terminated.

NATIONAL MERCANTILE ASSURANCE SOCIETIES.—The annual dinner of the members and friends of these very improved and successful Life and Fire Assurance Societies took place on the 6th January, at the London Tavern. The annual meeting was held at the office of the society, in the Poultry, in the early part of the day, Robert Wilcoxon, Esq., in the chair.

PROVIDENT CLERKS' MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—The eighth annual General Meeting, was held on the 15th January, at the London Tavern, Bishopgate-street. Mr. Richard Henry Jones, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided.

The **CHAIRMAN** congratulated the members on the prosperous state of the association, notwithstanding the vast amount of sickness that had prevailed. He then read the report, which stated that notwithstanding the great commercial depression which had retarded its progress during the year, the association had considerably increased its members. Five hundred and twenty-five proposals had been made, amounting to 111,460*l.*; of which four hundred and nine had been accepted, sixty-six declined, fifty withdrawn and waiting. Four hundred and thirty-four policies, representing 85,110*l.*, had been issued during the year. The claims continued below the average rates, only eleven deaths having occurred during the year, being claims to the extent of 2,150*l.* The annual premiums has been increased by 2,355*l.*, which, with the interest on stock, amounted to about 8,900*l.* During the past year, the board had purchased 4,500*l.* three and a quarter per cent. stock, making the total in the names of the Trustees 15,000*l.* The report then alluded to the first quinquennial division of profits which took place during the year, and which gave a reduction equivalent to 33 per cent. on the premiums payable for the next five years. At the last annual meeting, the Board called attention to the favourable results produced by deputations to the provinces, to make known the advantages of the association, and during the past year the same plan had been pursued. The report alluded to four of the Board retiring, viz., Mr. S. Jepps, Mr. R. H. Jones, Mr. S. Notley, and Mr. R. Price, by rotation, but being eligible, offered themselves for re-election; and that a vacancy having occurred through the retirement of Mr. J. J. Iselin, Mr. J. Dankaerts, offers himself for election. The Chairman wished particularly to call attention to the nomination clause. During the past year, many of the families of deceased members had suffered great expense on account of the deceased having neglected to nominate. The process saved so much trouble and expense, that it was extraordinary any one should omit it. In case of death, the party nominated received the amount of the policy without expense; but if neglected, the relatives of the deceased member had to undergo all the ceremony incidental to proving a will in the Prerogative Court.

Mr. HONEY proposed the thanks of the meeting to the Board of Management, and that the sum of 400*l.* be awarded them for their valuable services during the year.

Mr. MOLLITT seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The **CHAIRMAN** expressed his thanks and that of the managers.

Mr. J. W. WELGH moved, "That Mr. R. H. Jones be re-elected manager of the association," carried unanimously.

Mr. S. Jepps, Mr. S. Notley, and Mr. Richard Price, were also re-elected managers of the association. Mr. J. Dankaerts, chief clerk in the house of Messrs. Anthony Gibbs and Sons, was also elected.

Mr. SAWTELL moved the warmest thanks of the meeting to the medical officers, the provincial medical referees, agents, and local committees; Wm. Ratray, Esq., consulting actuary; and Messrs. Lawford, the honorary solicitors, for their valuable services.

ALFRED SMEE, Esq., F.R.S., returned thanks.

Mr. RATRAY briefly returned thanks.

Mr. ISELIN moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion.

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks, saying it was to him the greatest satisfaction to see that his exertions met with the approbation of the members of the institution. It might not be inopportune to state that they had completed in this year ten policies for 2,800*l.*, and one deferred annuity.

The meeting was then dissolved, and another was held for the purpose of taking into consideration the alteration of the thirty-second rule, which provided that no person should participate in the profits unless he had been a subscriber for five years.

The CHAIRMAN said that at their last meeting, suggestions had been made for the alteration of the thirty-second rule, and it was stated that the Board would give the suggestion their best attention. He had now to propose that the words in rule thirty-second, "as have been assured five years," be altered to, "as have been assured three years."

Mr. W. S. D. PATEMAN supported the motion.

The resolution was put and carried, and the meeting then broke up.

GENERAL HAIL STORM INSURANCE SOCIETY.—The fifth annual meeting was held on the 16th of January at the office, Bethel-street, Norwich; Samuel Bignold, Esq., in the chair. The report represented the affairs of the society to be in a very satisfactory state. Attention had been drawn to the practicability of adopting a lower scale of premiums, but notwithstanding that the price of corn must be the guide, and there was a prospect of low prices, the Directors did not consider that they could adopt a lower rate than the present (a farthing a bushel) with safety. About three thousand persons, occupying a quarter of a million of acres of land, had at various times insured, and the numerous claims had been settled without litigation.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE OFFICE.—The annual general meeting of proprietors, was held at the office, Surrey-street, Norwich, on the 17th January. Anthony Hudson, Esq., President, congratulated the proprietors on a most favourable report. The President went into details, showing that while the annual premiums stood at 93,000*l.*, the actual loss for the year had been under 37,000*l.*, and the directors had felt justified in appropriating 28,000*l.* between the proprietors and insurers, in the proportion of two-fifths, to the former, and three-fifths to the latter. One half of the proprietors' share would be added to the reserved fund, and the other half was applicable to dividend, and this, with the interest on the proprietors' capital, would give 3*l.* 15*s.* per share, or 12*l.* 10*s.* per cent.

SAMUEL BIGNOLD, the Secretary, said the state of the society's affairs would bear the test of the most rigid investigation. First he would allude to the capital account of the proprietors. There was a sum originally raised by 2300 shares, viz., 66,000*l.*—and this, in twenty-seven years, had fructified to 151,155*l.*, and an average interest of about 7*l.* per cent. had been paid to the proprietors.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—A general meeting was held at the London Tavern, on the 18th January, for the purpose of considering the propriety of altering the society's third rule, and other business. Mr. Lucas (Chairman of the Directors) presided.

Mr. LOCKHART, of Dunstable, proposed that the following clause in the third rule be amended, viz.:—"That two Directors, not being trustees, or the present medical Directors, shall annually retire by lot or rotation, such Directors to be ineligible for re-election for two years." He would move that the rule be so altered as to render the retiring directors eligible for immediate re-election. The members would retain all their privileges, with this advantage, that when they had good and efficient directors, they would have the power of securing a continuance of their services.

Mr. H. Coles Brown seconded the motion; and Mr. Thomas Burr, of Rochester, supported it.

Mr. JAMES RICHARDSON moved as an amendment that the rule should be allowed to stand as it was. He thought the endeavour to change it looked like an attempt on the part of the Directors to retain their situations for life, and 120*l.* or 130*l.* a year might be no despicable matter.

Mr. BALLAM seconded the amendment.

Mr. R. GAMMAN (one of the Auditors) had come to the conclusion, for reasons he gave, that it was highly desirable to alter the rule. If they changed the old Directors, they would lose the benefits of their past experience. Great names had been recommended to be got, but great names could not devote sufficient attention to the interests of the institution; and what they wanted was working Directors, who would devote their energies to the personal supervision of the society's concerns.

Mr. SHAW was in favour of the amendment, because he thought the opening for two new Directors every year threw a popular life, and the healthful spirit of competition, into the institution.

Mr. C. ANSELL (the Actuary) did not attribute the great prosperity of the institution to the mere fact that the Directors could not be re-elected until an interval of two years had elapsed. They would find that the increase of business was mainly owing to the bonuses, which operated like tonics. The bonus in 1842 had the effect of doubling their members, and their business had similarly increased in consequence of their 1847 division. The question was a much narrower one than many persons seemed to think; it was this—the old Directors possessed knowledge which new Directors had to acquire; and the members had to consider whether they could intrust themselves with the power of electing or rejecting those who were commended by past services.

Mr. GORING did not consider the proposed alteration would cramp the power or diminish the privileges of the members; on the contrary, it would give them the option of doing what the rule debarred them from doing.

After some further discussion the question was put, when only about ten hands were held up against the alteration of the rule. The motion was accordingly declared carried, by a very large majority, by the Chairman; after which it was proposed, and unanimously resolved, that the clauses of Assurance effected by the institution should be inserted in the society's rules.

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

LONDON LIFE ASSOCIATION.—The half-yearly General Court was held on the 24th January, at the offices in King William-street. The chair was taken by Mr. Charles Franks. The auditor's report showed, that including a balance of 22,345*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, the receipts for the half year ending the 31st December last amounted to 264,372*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* In the same period 38,999*l.* had been paid in discharge of claims on policies, 9,565*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* had been invested in the purchase of policies, 70,541*l.* 14*s.* advanced on mortgage, in addition to 14,445*l.* upon policies of the association; whilst the remaining items of salaries, pensions, purchase of stock, income-tax, &c., left a balance in favour of the association upon the half-year of 22,867*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* The income arising from funded property and other assets on the 31st December last was 95,767*l.* 19*s.*, and 299,519*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* from 4,730 existing policies; total 299,287*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* The accounts having been unanimously passed, the proceedings terminated.

ENGLISH WIDOWS' FUND AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—The first annual general meeting took place at the office, on the 25th January, Edward Esdaile, Esq., in the chair.

The Chairman having introduced the object of the meeting, the Secretary read the report, which stated that "from the commencement of the Association to the 31st December, 1848, two hundred and eight proposals had been made, of which one hundred and sixty-eight had resulted in policies amounting to 38,682*l.* 9*s.*, and producing an annual income of 1,221*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, and several remained for completion. One annuity had been likewise purchased of the value of 499*l.* The Directors had declined proposals amounting to 8,199*l.* Notwithstanding the heavy mortality during the past year, the Directors had to report only one death, amounting to the small sum of 100*l.* The Directors have further to apprise the shareholders, that proposals have been received since the close of the year, amounting to 2,400*l.* The Directors had appointed a highly influential local board at Manchester, had taken measures to establish others at Nottingham and elsewhere, and had organized an efficient agency throughout England and Wales. Applications for agencies had been received from Ireland, Scotland, and Holland; but for the present the Directors had resolved to confine their operations to England and Wales. Major-General Sir George Pollock and Thomas Lawson Jenkins, Esq., resigned their seats at the board; and Augustus Frederick Bayford, Esq., LL.D., Thomas Neufville Crosse, Esq., and Frederick William Green, Esq., retired, and offered themselves for re-election. The Directors recommended, in lieu of the Director resigned, William Hamilton, Esq., and proposed Henry White, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn Fields, as auditor. In pursuance of the deed, interest at five per cent. has been calculated on the paid up capital, to the 31st December, payable to the shareholders after the 1st February."

The Report having been unanimously adopted, the CHAIRMAN said, that amongst the policies the classification of trades and professions amounted to between eighty and ninety, sixty of which had been practically debarred from the benefits of Life Assurance by existing offices.

ANTHONY STEVENSON, Esq., expressed his thanks that the Directors had shown a determination to economise, although he believed that economy might be carried too far; referred to the classes for which the Institution was chiefly founded, and hoped that the Directors will take active steps to appeal to those classes, and suggested lecturing as a

means. Having eulogised the balance sheet, and lauded the successful management he moved, and Mr. White seconded, that Messrs. Bayford, Crosse, and Green, the retiring Directors, be re-elected Directors, which was carried.

Moved by John Hulbert, Esq., seconded by Latymer George Crosse, Esq., and carried, that William Hamilton, Esq., be elected a Director.

Moved by William Hastings Martin Atkins, Esq., and seconded by Mr. J. Costelow, and carried, that Henry White, Esq., be elected an Auditor.

Moved by Professor Owen, seconded by Septimus Read, Esq., and carried, that the thanks of the Proprietors be presented to the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, and Directors.

EDWARD SCARD, Esq., briefly acknowledged the thanks to the Directors.

Moved by Mr. Esdaile, seconded by Mr. Henderson and carried, that five guineas be presented to each of the Auditors.

Anthony Stevenson, Esq., proposed the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, seconded by Henry Birchfield Swabey, Esq., and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN having returned thanks, the meeting separated.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.—The first regular meeting was held in the Board-room of the Guardian Assurance Company, on the 29th January. John Finlaison, Esq., President, in the chair.

Mr. JENKIN JONES, one of the Honorary Secretaries, read the minutes of the previous meeting and the by-laws, which were confirmed.

The PRESIDENT, in opening his inaugural discourse, said—that the members form not a club, but an efficient literary and scientific school, It was the opinion of some of the leading men in our profession, that no necessity existed for such an institution. A portion of the press also imputed to us, the arrogance of acknowledging no one fit to be esteemed an actuary but a member. We deny this absurd imputation; but without questioning the competency of those who decline to unite, we affirm that those who submit to examination, and obtain certificates of competency, shall be worthy of the confidence of their employers. But is the opinion well founded, that there is no urgent need of such a school. The three great divisions of our studies are—1st: the mathematical formula; 2nd, the experience, or observed rate of sickness, or mortality prevailing among mankind; 3rd, the practical business of a Life Assurance, a Reversionary, and a Life Annuity office. The brilliant works of Mr. Griffith Davies prove that our mathematical knowledge was not, very recently at least, all that could be wished. In the experience of the laws of sickness and mortality much remains to be done. I have before me documents of the highest interest, which have been compiled by Mr. Alexander Finlaison. These papers contain the facts relating to upwards of fifteen thousand persons of all ages and either sex, enrolled as annuitants in the Irish tontines of 1773, 1775, and 1777; in the two sets of nominees, selected by the contributors and the government, in the great English tontine of 1789; and among the nominees on whose lives annuities were granted by the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt, during the ten years subsequent to September, 1808. Up to the present hour, no such mass of facts in this elementary state, has ever been at the disposal of the profession. It is my intention, when the papers have as far as possible been perfected, and when Mr.

Alexander Finlaison has abstracted the facts for his own use, to place them at the service of the Institute. Every member can then class and arrange the facts according to his own method; and it will be hard if the true value of annuitant life be not presently placed beyond a doubt. Men of our profession will not then hazard inaccuracy of assertion, which, boldly ventured before inexpert audiences, tends to form an erroneous public opinion. It will not then happen that persons, who may or may not have been parties to a lucky speculation, but who *cannot* be in possession of all the grounds necessary to form an exact opinion, shall be found deciding that enormous loss had been incurred in this or that quarter, by the use of this or that measure of value. On the third point, namely, the conduct of the business involved in the vast interests entrusted to our professional charges, I will merely mention an instance which shows to what momentous error a door is opened by inattention to accounts. It was my fortune, many years ago, to attend, as assured member, a general meeting at a great mutual life assurance society. I arrived late, the meeting was about to dissolve. A happy unanimity prevailed as to the prosperity of the society. I obtained a view of the balance-sheet, and at once observed an error of about 500,000*l.* ! It did not take much time to show that to credit the society, as an asset, with the possession of the present value of the *full* annual premiums; when, in fact these were reduced by sixty per cent. to a very large class of the assured, was rather bad accountantship. It turned out that the Actuary had taken things as he found them on joining the society, and had pursued the system of book-keeping practised by his predecessors. Gentlemen, my remarks must now draw to a close. It is unnecessary to exhort you to contribute your efforts for the advancement of the Institute. That success and fame which we all desire for the Institute, however, will not be brought about by any ill-natured criticism of other men's works. Its permanent establishment will be effected by nobler and purer proceedings. It will be our business to extinguish the deceptive lights of false doctrine by the brighter rays of truthful and accurate observation.

Mr. PETER HARDY said—Gentlemen, all you who have listened to the admirable address of our honoured President, must have been struck at the animated picture of the evils which will be mitigated, and the mischiefs which will be averted by this Institute. Our profession will, I do not hesitate to assert, at no distant day occupy its proper position amongst the acknowledged grades of society. If, however, gentlemen, the science of life-measurement, and the subordinate studies on which that profession depends, can lay claim to no very great antiquity in point of age, they can at least claim to have engaged the attention of the most illustrious mathematicians who have adorned the past or present. Grant, the father of vital statistics, the first who gave our common notions of a modern table of mortality; Halley, who, in his learned paper on the Breslaw Mortality, foresaw the future application of the science of life-measurement to practical purposes; De Moivre lives yet in his brilliant hypothesis, which commands the respect of modern mathematicians; Dodson, Simpson, the acute and practical Price, the laborious Maseres, and Morgan; Barrett, a name which should never be forgotten by the Actuary, laid a foundation on which a more illustrious mind erected the Columnar method. Contemporary with Barret, Baily has descended to the tomb with scientific honours. I come now to a name which should receive a tribute of respect—I mean the amiable and talented Milne,

who, although still with us, is scarcely of us. He and our friend Gompertz stand, as it were, midway between those who have been, and those who are. I might hesitate to select from amongst you any one name for especial notice, did not the universal finger of the profession point to *one man*—Mr. Griffith Davies! the senior Actuary of any life assurance society, and, with the exception of our President, the senior member of the profession. You will all remember that, at the first meeting of the Institute, I had the honour to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Griffith Davies for kindly assistance in the formation of our institute. That meeting was indisposed to mark its gratitude to Mr. Davies by the mere evanescent record of a vote of thanks; your Vice-Presidents were therefore instructed to prepare a suitable address, to be presented to Mr. Davies. This is the testimonial which your Vice-Presidents have prepared, and it is to the happy accident of having on the first occasion moved the vote of thanks, that I owe the honour of presenting this address to Mr. Davies.

Mr. Davies, in accepting this handsome tribute of respect, was evidently labouring under strong emotion.

Several gentlemen were then balloted for, and unanimously elected as new members.

RELIANCE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—On the 30th January, the half-yearly meeting was held at the offices, King William-street, Henry T. Prinsep, Esq., in the chair.

The Actuary and Secretary, E. Osborne Smith, Esq., read the report, which stated that the growth of business is regular in progression, with a considerable advance in the rate of improvement, and that the business is of the best description. The number of policies taken out in the past year, as well as the amount assured, exceeds that of the preceeding, while the lapses through discontinuance of payments have been fewer. Upon the estimates of mortality, which are the basis of the Reliance tables, the probable claims for the year 1848, were 2,273*l.* Taken for the whole period since the establishment in 1841, they have been estimated at 10,266*l.*, but while the claims were nil in 1848, they have only amounted in the prior years to 3,350, affording a test of care in the selection of lives. The Directors have always prepared for adverse fluctuation of the chances of life; so much so, that at the last allocation of profits, in March, 1847, they set apart the sum of 3,500*l.* to meet such probable change of fortune. Only 2,200*l.* of this sum has been claimed, and it will be a singular coincidence if, at the next allocation of profits, the amount reserved shall be found to have met all the claims of the triennial period.

The chairman referred to the fact, that not a single life had dropped, during the past year, as affording proof of the medical skill of Dr. Waterfield, its physician. Proposals to the amount of 29,000*l.* had been declined, or not proceeded with at the rates required; that notwithstanding there had been a considerable increase in new policies. He adverted to the soundness of their calculations, as evinced by the fact, that though a liberal bonus was allocated at the first period for distribution, if the society were now desirous of reassuring the holders of their policies at their present ages, the same might be done, leaving a profit of 10,000*l.* The Chairman concluded by exhorting every member to use his utmost exertions to bring as much business as possible to the office. The customary acknowledgments of services were rendered, and warmly responded to.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—The twenty-third annual general meeting of this company was held on the 15th of February, at their office, 3, George-street, Edinburgh, William Wood, Esq., Surgeon, in the chair.

The number of new policies for Life Assurance issued by the company from the 15th of November, 1847, to the 15th of November, 1848, was five hundred and seventy-one. The sums assured during the same period contained in these policies amounted to 395,864*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* The number of applications for policies made to the company, and from which the above transactions were selected, was seven hundred and thirty-six, containing proposals for assurance to the extent of 519,329*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* The meeting expressed entire satisfaction with the report and statements.

COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, No. 112, Cheapside.—At the annual general meeting of the shareholders, held on the 15th January, H. G. Ward, Esq., M. P., in the chair, the Directors' report was read, and received with much satisfaction, showing an increase amounting to twenty per cent. upon the business effected during the past year. A dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital was declared. The officers for the ensuing year were elected; and after passing a unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors, for their continued exertions in promoting the prosperity of the association, the meeting adjourned.

LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—A general meeting of the proprietors of this society was held in the second week of February, at the offices in Fleet-street, Mr. Robinson, Queen's Coroner, in the chair. The Secretary read the report, which stated that the receipts for the past year amounted to 392,121*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, which included new premiums, 17,670*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; renewal premiums, 294,191*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*; and profit and loss, 80,328*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* The expenditure for the same period amounted to 235,972*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, including claims on deaths, to the amount of 160,333*l.*; bonuses, 44,456*l.*; surrenders, 94,525*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*; charges for management, including law charges, 6,662*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* The balance for the year was 156,217*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, which, added to the balance up to the end of the year 1847, made the total amount of the society's property 3,265,138*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

In answer to the question of a member, the Chairman stated that the total number of policies issued during the past year amounted to four hundred and seven, which was an increase of forty over the year 1847.

Mr. Beddome proposed a motion that the qualification for the office of Director should consist in holding fifty shares of the society, and assurance policies to the extent of 5,000*l.*

In reply to questions, the Chairman stated that of the entire number of shareholders, only thirty-nine held fifty shares, and only five held assurances on their own lives to the amount of 5,000*l.* Of these five, three were officers of the society, and another was disqualified by residence in the country, so that there would only remain one person in the proprietary who would be qualified to fill the office of Director under Mr. Beddome's proposition. After some conversation, the proposition was negatived. The following resolution was then adopted—"That, notwithstanding anything contained in this society's deed of settlement, it shall be lawful for the Directors, on request of any person entitled to a bonus or addition already made, or hereafter to be made, upon any policy effected with this society, to apply such bonus or addition, or any

part thereof, in reduction or extinction of the future premium on such policy, the calculations being made upon the same principle as adopted by the society in cases of ordinary surrenders."

The report was adopted, and a vote of thanks given to the Chairman.

EQUITY AND LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—The Annual General Meeting was held at the offices, 26, Lincoln's Inn-fields, on the 22d February. Francis Newman Rogers, Esq., Q.C., in the chair.

The Directors might have made a greater show, and, by splitting their policies, have exhibited a larger number, in proportion to the amount insured; they might have added four, for four of the one hundred and forty-six proposals made within the year had been since completed—but they would not depart from the literal fact. They might do a great deal that they had not done: they might invite all comers, and by facility of acceptance, acquire the character of an "easy-going office." They might then present flaming reports for two or three years, and in two or three years more might have the house tumbling about their ears—but they pursued a different course. Their medical officers were cautious, and they felt bound to act upon their advice. They consequently declined many proposals, and thus deterred many from coming at all.

Since they met the Proprietors last year, the Directors had been enabled to enlist eight gentlemen of the highest professional character at the now great city of Manchester, as members of a Local Board, who spoke with confidence of being able to establish a good business there; as it was but an experiment, the Directors had not thought it right to burden the funds of the Society with any additional charge, but had agreed to furnish, to the extent of 200*l.* per annum, the means of carrying on this Local Board.

Report.—"During the year, the Directors received and considered one hundred and forty-six proposals for Assurance, of which one hundred and seventeen, for 117,180*l.* 17*s.* at annual premiums amounting to 3,118*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, were completed.

"The number of policies existing on 31st December, 1848, was four hundred and thirty-five, for 42,679*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, at annual premiums amounting to 12,373*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

"The Directors have continued, in all cases of risk exceeding 3,000*l.*, to re-assure in some other office of well-ascertained stability, to such an extent as to reduce the risk to that amount.

"The excess of interest received on investments, beyond the amount of that paid to Proprietors, which in the first three years amounted to 1,569*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*, was in the last year alone 1,391*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; showing, notwithstanding the payment of interest at three per cent. per annum on the deposits on shares, an increasing fund from this source.

"Although the Society has met with losses amounting to 1,800*l.* by the death, during the year, of two of the assured, the Directors feel it to be a subject of congratulation that, with the exception hereafter referred to, this is the whole amount claimed in respect of losses by death during the four years of the Society's existence.

"It may be observed that in one of these cases, death happened by an accident; and in the other, under circumstances showing no want of caution in accepting the risk.

"As respects the claim before referred to, it arose out of two policies, amounting together to 900*l.* on the life of a person resident in Ireland, which the Directors thought themselves bound to resist: actions were brought, but the plaintiff, after the commencement of the assizes, with-

grew notice of trial, and no further proceedings can now be taken without the payment by the plaintiff of costs to a considerable amount."

A vote of thanks to Mr. Rogers, for his able conduct in the chair, having been unanimously passed, the meeting separated.

TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of members and friends of this institution was held in London, on the 23rd of February. Tea was provided for the occasion, of which about two hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen partook. The Rev. W. R. Baker in the chair. The secretary (Theodore Compton, Esq.,) communicated some very interesting particulars relative to the advantages of Life Assurance, and introduced a list of statistics, by which it appeared that the rate of mortality in this office had been less than one half that of other offices. In one of the most successful Life Offices, it appeared that the deaths in eight years had been four per cent., while in the "Temperance Provident Institution" it had been less than two per cent. Some interesting statements were also made of the mortality among the different classes. In the class of clerks, the usual rate of mortality was about two per cent. per annum. In the "Temperance Provident Institution," during the last eight years, out of one hundred and thirty-six clerks assured, the only death was that of a person aged seventy-four years. In the class of tailors, an occupation not generally considered healthy, out of one hundred and forty-eight persons assured, not a single death has occurred in eight years. Several valuable suggestions were made by various speakers, and the greatest harmony and good feeling pervaded the meeting.

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—The Annual Meeting of this Company was held at Radley's Hotel, Feb. 27, 1849. John Gover, Esq., in the chair.

Second Annual Report.—"The Directors have the pleasure to inform the members that the following policies have been executed during the last year:—General Life Assurances, four hundred and four policies, 63,137*l.*; Investment Assurances, four hundred and eighty-four policies, 34,227*l.*; total, eight hundred and eighty-eight policies, 97,364*l.* The average number of policies executed monthly, during the fourteen months which elapsed from the commencement of the Company's operations up to the last annual meeting, was forty-two. During the last twelve months, the monthly average of policies executed has been seventy-four, showing an increase both gratifying and encouraging to the future prospects of the Company. In addition to these policies, two hundred and seventy-one proposals for Life Assurance have been received, some of which are in process of completion, and others have been declined, for various causes, the Directors, while desirous to extend the business of the Company, being still more solicitous that such extension should be perfectly safe. The whole number of policies executed during the twenty-six months of the Company's operations, has been—General Life Assurance, seven hundred and thirty-seven policies, 121,780*l.*; Investment Assurance, seven hundred and forty-four policies, 50,937*l.*; total, one thousand four hundred and eighty-one policies, 172,717*l.* One death has occurred during the last year, making a claim on the Company's funds to the extent of 100*l.* The increasing income of the Company has enabled the Directors to pay off nearly one half the sum advanced at the commencement of the Company, to aid its establishment. An arrangement has been made with the Directors of the British Empire Mutual Fire Assurance Society, for dividing the rent

and office charges between the two Institutions, by which the expenses of carrying on the business of this Company will be materially diminished."

J. BLACKET, Esq., moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Board of Directors. SAMUEL WATSON, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the meeting then separated.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL, *March 1.*—General meeting, Dr. Joseph Moore in the chair. The report was highly satisfactory to the meeting, which was very numerous. The number of policies had greatly increased during the year. The amount of claims exceeded 60,000*l.* The sum lent to first-rate railway companies was 30,000*l.*

There were many valuable remarks made, which we regret have not been furnished.

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE, *March 5.*—The annual general meeting of this society, being its first quinquennial meeting, was held at the London Tavern. The attendance of members was most numerous, Charles Harwood, Esq., in the chair.

Mr. Hillman proceeded to lay before the assembly the fifth annual report. The business done in the year 1848, has exceeded that of the year preceding. The Directors, in the year 1848, received five hundred and fifty-two applications for policies, for the sum of 174,865*l.*, and granted four hundred and five policies for the sum of 128,795*l.*, whilst the applications in 1847 were five hundred and seven, for the sum of 162,541*l.*, and the sums insured on four hundred and nine policies issued, 122,911*l.*

Annual income—1843—4, 6509*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*; 1845, 10,871*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; 1846, 14,127*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*; 1847, 17,344*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*; 1848, 19,492*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

The Directors have received two thousand seven hundred and twenty-five proposals for insurance, two thousand two hundred and four of which resulted in policies; five hundred and twenty-one of those submitted having either been declined by the board as ineligible for admission on the society's books, or have been refused, or neglected by the applicants finally to be carried out.

The total amount of Assurance granted was 690,477*l.*, upon which new premiums, amounting to 22,506*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, were payable.

THE ENGINEERS, MASONIC, AND UNIVERSAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—The first annual meeting of this society, which is established on the purest principles of mutual assurance, was held yesterday at the chief office of the society, No. 345, Strand. The meeting was well attended, and the chair was taken at two o'clock by Mr. W. F. Dobson, chairman of the board of directors. By the report, which was read by Mr. Frederic Lawrance, actuary and secretary to the society, it appeared, that in the interval from the 7th of June, 1848 (the date of the society's certificate of complete registration), to the close of the year, 253 proposals for assurance, to the amount of 51,330*l.*, were submitted to the board; 28 of which, for an amount of 11,000*l.*, were declined, while 208 policies, securing the sum of 64,580*l.*, were completed, the annual premiums derivable from which were 2,066*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* For the last two months of the present year the business of the office proportionately far exceeded that of the previous half-year, inasmuch as 144 additional proposals, for the amount of 33,140*l.*, have been received, and 108 already completed, making the number of policies existing with the society 316, for an amount of 93,380*l.*, and the annual income from premiums 3,013*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The report further stated, that no claim had arisen from death amongst the policy holders; and concluded by

exhorting the members to mutual co-operation in the extension of those principles which have secured to the society so large an amount of public support. The question that the report be received by the members was then put by the chairman, and, having been duly seconded, was carried unanimously. The auditors' report was also received, expressing their high opinion of the satisfactory state of the accounts and of the excellent way in which the books were kept. Votes of thanks to the chairman, directors, auditors, and actuary were then proposed, and carried unanimously; and the meeting broke up, having been characterized, from first to last, by the most perfect harmony between the directors and the members at large. At five o'clock the directors again met the members at the Freemasons' Tavern, where an excellent dinner was provided by Mr. Bacon. The conviviality of the evening was kept up till a late hour; and after the usual loyal toasts, followed by some good speaking from Mr. Dobson, Dr. Crucefix, and other gentlemen, the party, which amounted to upwards of fifty, separated, mutually well pleased with the proceedings of the day.—*Times*, March 7, 1849.

Extract from Report.—"The Directors have only to request the continued co-operation of the members in diffusing the knowledge of the society, that the following problem may receive a satisfactory solution for their next annual report. If an association of *twenty* persons, acting zealously upon the purest principles of Life Assurance, and promulgating widely its inestimable benefits, have obtained, in less than seven months, so large an accession to their numbers, what amount of business can be produced by the combined exertions of more than *three hundred* members?"

MERCHANT'S AND TRADESMAN'S MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, March 14.—The first annual meeting of this society was held at the offices, Chatham-place, Blackfriars, John Macgregor, Esq., M. P., in the chair. From the report, it appeared that the amount assured by the society up to January 31, 1849, is 61,030*l.*; number of policies issued, one hundred and eighty-three; and the amount of premiums received is 1,878*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* Since January 31, fifty-six proposals have been passed, amounting to 16,000*l.*, the premiums on which are 480*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*; and there are before the board twenty-six proposals for 7,500*l.*, the premiums on which are 205*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, making total number of policies two hundred and sixty-five; amount assured 84,530*l.*; annual income 2,564*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* The report also stated that the Directors had received no remuneration for past services, that little has been expended in advertising, but that they have chiefly depended on their own exertions, and those of the agents and others connected with the society. From the position of the society, no further call is thought necessary; but a guarantee fund is available to any extent required.

THE BRITISH BANK.

SOME correspondents have called our attention to the peculiar features attending a proposed novelty in commercial enterprise—a novelty, at least, to London, although the system has worked well in Scotland.

It is observed that every department of banking business, if conducted on the Scotch system, would succeed in the metropolis; and this opinion has been supported by a portion of the public press, more especially by the "Morning Herald" in the city article of the 24th February, which

especially notices that there is a class of securities not usually taken by London bankers, to which this bank will direct attention. Notwithstanding that the joint stock banks have supplied desiderata long wanting, yet there is doubtless an enormous amount of capital locked up in various ways, and which is not even marketable as securities. This prevents many highly respectable firms from profiting by advances in aid of spirit and enterprise, and which capital would become available by a banking account on the Scotch system. To the industrious tradesman of limited capital, the proposed plan of cash credit accounts upon unexceptionable security, presents so obvious an advantage, that it may not be hazarding too much to say, that if the system be carried out, we may anticipate that the forcing of sales, and the fraudulent transfer of small stocks into the hands of grasping monopolists, will altogether cease. There are other manifest improvements offered in the prospectus, which details a very rational statement of the result of the operation in Scotland; and the declaration that if the bank be not incorporated, the deposits will be returned in FULL to the subscribers, will not be without its effect on public confidence. It looks well.

LITERARY NOTICES.

The Symbol of Glory.

The prospectus of the crowning labour of the Rev. Bro. Dr. Oliver is now in circulation; it shadows forth in the meaning of truth the advent of a magnificent combination, and is, we believe, intended to be, in the author's view of the subject, the very cape-stone of exemplification of the practice of Masonry, with the great theory of the future. Dr. Oliver's quotation from Walter Scott is telling—"Old men may be permitted to speak long, because in the common course of nature, they cannot have long to speak."

The Golden Remains.

The fourth volume of this extraordinary compilation from the works of masonic worthies is now in the press; and on its completion, which will be very shortly announced (according to the advertisement), the fifth volume, which is considerably advanced, will be immediately put into the printer's hands.

The Circular of the Grand Lodge of England. Edited by the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland. Published by W. H. White.

"Honour to whom honour is due," is admitted to be but fair, and as the Earl of Zetland acknowledges himself to be the responsible editor of the "Circular," he is entitled to all the merit thereof, no one ought to share with him the slightest portion, not even Bro. Denison, the Grand Reporter, because when he delivers in his report, the matter is settled, as far as he is concerned it is in *un fait accompli*.

The next point is to condense, suppress, and dovetail, within a sheet of *foolscap*, the transactions of the Grand Lodge of England for a period of three months. This to many may seem easy; but that it is not easy is proved by the evidence of labour, toil, reflection, consideration, and study, that is so clearly brought into view. It can then scarcely be wondered

at, that the transactions of December 6, 1848, were actually published on the 4th March, 1849, by the most worshipful editor, *visum teneatis!* But seriously speaking, is it honourable, creditable, manly, to say nothing as to its being masonic, that in the case of a brother, who for three quarterly meetings of the Grand Lodge has been needlessly foisted on public attention, the *bane* has been published, the *antidote* suppressed. Shame—we have no other term to express our regret. A correspondent writes thus—“ I find the report of the Quarterly Communication of December was published three days before the March meeting, and I have had a look at it, but it is neither full, fair, nor impartial, neither is it in reality a report at all, beyond its being a sort of check or voucher of the correctness of your report—what then is the use of it?”

Proceedings of Provincial Grand Lodges.

Montreal, Canada.—This youthful scion of masonic record takes a foremost rank; it is an evidence of great zeal and industry; the report is clear and straightforward.

West Yorkshire.—The by-laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge are before us. The master-mind of the Deputy Grand Master is perceptible throughout; they are signed by the P. G. M., and approved by the Grand Master.

Warwickshire.—This province has also promulgated its code of by-laws; among much that is excellent, we cannot refrain from extracting the following:—“ This Provincial Grand Lodge shall annually contribute, and the Treasurer shall pay to the masonic charities, from the lodge funds, as follows, namely, to the Girls' School, Boys' School, Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons, Benevolent Annuity Fund, and to the Benevolent Association for Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Leicestershire, and Worcestershire, two guineas each: and the privileges appertaining to these contributions shall be exercised by the R. W. Prov. Grand Master.”

How prayerfully do we say to all, “ go thou and do likewise.” There are eight hundred and forty lodges, and three hundred arch chapters, under the constitution of England, say that each gave only one guinea to the four charities, the amount would for each be 1140 guineas, making a total of 4560 guineas! Would this be felt?—try it, and if even it be felt, contrast the burden with the blessing it carries!

The Bible our greatest Treasure. A Sermon by the Rev. John Travers Robinson, M. A. R. Spencer.

The title is too truthful to admit of hesitation, and the text from whence the argument is drawn—“ The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver”—is a moral direction to “ search the Scriptures.” The reverend author, we are delighted to hope, has in a great measure departed from a course of preaching somewhat startling to those whose fears more than their judgment might be influenced by a stern construction of the laws of a merciful God. In the present discourse he argues with temperance, and develops his points with a conscientious regard to the spiritual objects of the christian doctrine.

Digest of Evidence on Agricultural Customs in respect to Tenant-right. By William Shaw and Henry Corbet. Ridgway.

This volume of evidence before the Committee of the House of

Commons appointed to enquire into the Agricultural Customs of England and Wales in respect to Tenant-right, appears most opportunely. It is compiled and arranged by two gentlemen of the highest reputation for agricultural knowledge. The classification of each subject is distinct and clear, and the prefatory observations to all are marked by the soundest discretion. There is an avoidance of any tendency to press the tenant's right against the landlord's interest, while the obvious spirit of cultivating mutual prosperity is most truthfully portrayed. The farmer of the present age is a man of practical and scientific views; for agriculture is a science, and has advanced slowly, it may be, but surely; and chemistry has shed its influence over the land, and given such hostages of fertility, that to disregard its wondrous power is almost to doubt the effects of a natural agency. But can the farmer, in his position, can he prosecute his labours with advantage, when his energies are paralyzed by a want of confidence? Again, as to the landowner, it would seem that if the custom that has for upwards of twenty years existed in Lincolnshire, of adopting the tenant-right in the agreements, were followed by all landowners, the problem would be solved, and the advantage would be general, for that county is highly cultivated, and the tenants prosperous and contented; the evidence on these points is conclusive. There may arise some misapprehension as to the tenant-right of England and that of Ireland; but such misapprehension is dispelled by the fact, that the English farmer by tenant-right would have no permanent interest in the land; he would merely look to the fair value of what he may have actually expended on the land. Tenant-right, then, would save him from ruin in the event of sudden termination of tenancy. Tenant-right to the English farmer has reference simply to acts of husbandry, and to none other. What say the committee themselves?—"That the improvements above-mentioned, which are very generally required throughout the country, in order to develop the full powers of the soil, are greatly promoted by this system of compensation, and therefore it is highly important that all difficulties should be removed which stand in the way of its extension, by the voluntary act of landlord and tenants."

As the law of entail interfered with the expansive view of the committee, they made very important suggestions on this subject,† and even went so far as to recommend that an act of parliament should pass, to give such powers in all cases where the vested interest was limited in extent.

To the agriculturist this digest is a boon of no common value, he will read the evidence of practical men from the breadth and length of the land, and given before a committee of the House of Commons, selected for their practical knowledge of the duties of the trust; and in the digest itself the agriculturist will perceive the careful attention bestowed upon this engrossing subject by gentlemen of high standing, the one well known as the editor of the "Mark Lane Express," and the "Farmer's Magazine," the other as the secretary of the London Farmers' Club, and author of the "Prize Essay on Tenant-right." Their names are a guarantee for the integrity of the evidence as taken, and their estimation among their "fellows" is no less so for their sound moral views in promulgating their own observations.

* *Vide* page 57.

† *Vide* page 165.

The Diamond Rock, and other Poems. By Henry H. Breen. Pickering.

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