

THE
MASONIC MIRROR:

FOR

JANUARY, 1855.

THE GRAND LODGE AND THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

It is with feelings of extreme gratification that we refer our brethren to the report of the proceedings at the last quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge, which appears in another part of the *Masonic Mirror*. It will there be seen that the M. W. G. M. has taken the initiative in giving notice of his intention at the next quarterly communication, to move that One Thousand Guineas be voted from the Funds of the Grand Lodge in aid of the Patriotic Fund established for the support and assistance of such of our brave soldiers and sailors now fighting the cause of England and of freedom in the East, as may be wounded or disabled, and of the families of those who may unfortunately fall in the contest. This is a munificent offering from our body, but not more than the respectability and the importance of the craft demand, and sure we are that when the resolution is regularly brought before the Grand Lodge, it will be carried without a dissentient voice. The speech of the M. W. G. M. to the Lodge in announcing his intention, was manly, straightforward, and dignified—and though he advocated with true charitable feelings the departing somewhat from precedent in making this grant for other than truly Masonic purposes, he never lost sight of the fact, nor endeavoured to conceal from the craft, that the war may, and most likely will, add to the claims upon our Masonic funds, to aid distressed brethren now serving in the army and navy, or those they may leave behind them, to look to their brethren in Freemasonry for assistance. We are sure, whatever, and whenever, such claims may come upon them, they will be cheerfully responded to by the brethren, and we almost feel we have done wrong in speaking of the proposed vote as for other than Masonic purposes. It cannot be so. The essence of our Order is charity, and in the hour of

their distress the Freemason regards all men as brothers whom it is his bounden duty to comfort and assist to the best of his ability. In giving notice of his motion, the M. W. G. M. made an eloquent appeal to the brethren to assist, by subscriptions from their private Lodges, the good cause, so that the grand total received from the Order of Freemasons may shew to the world that we not only preach, but practice charity. The appeal has been already most liberally responded to by various Lodges, not only in the metropolis, but throughout the country—indeed, in some it was anticipated—and sure we are that the Thousand Guineas from the Grand Lodge, though handsome in itself, will be but a mere per centage on the full amount contributed by the craft.

It would be presumption in us to suppose that our humble efforts have tended much towards this great end; but as we took the liberty in our last number to advocate the movement, and of a liberal donation being made from the Grand Lodge, to head the subscription and give it a proper standing in the craft, before we had the possibility of knowing what were the views and intentions of the M. W. G. M., we may be allowed to tender our congratulations to the brethren, that the head of our Order has come forward with such a motion, and so eloquently brought it under the consideration of the brethren—for from no other brother could it have more appropriately emanated than the noble lord who so worthily fills the distinguished position of G. M. of the Freemasons in England, and who, throughout his life, has set so bright an example to the brethren of the manner in which they are called upon to exercise their Masonic duties.

THE WIDOWS ANNUITY FUND.

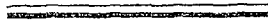
At the same meeting of the Grand Lodge, to which we have alluded above, it was also resolved to increase the annual subscription from Grand Lodge to the Widows Annuity Fund, from £100 to £200 per annum. This also is most gratifying to us, for from the first moment we came before the brethren as journalists—and in our capacity as private members of the Order, we have been endeavouring to get some steps taken which should put this Fund on a footing more worthy of the Order than it now enjoys. True it is, that the Fund is a comparatively new charity amongst us; but Masons ought not to allow the widows of their brethren to come before them three, four, or more times to seek for votes to enable them to obtain that aid which we ought to be in a position to accord them at once, if they are found worthy of our assistance. The additional vote from Grand Lodge will do something towards putting us in that position, and it is most pleasing to us to know that, acting upon the hint which we gave in our article on “the Craft and the War,” in our last month’s publication, a number of the brethren are forming themselves into a committee, with the view of calling a meeting of the craft, at no distant day, to devise means for so increasing the Fund, that no deserving widow will hereafter have to appeal for our assistance without the certainty of receiving it. The brethren who have honoured us by acting upon our hint have claimed our aid in carrying out their charitable intentions, and they may rely upon it that any exertions on our part which can possibly tend

to the success of the design, will be most willingly and cheerfully accorded. In the meantime, should other brethren, either in the metropolis or the provinces, be desirous of assisting in the holy task, the provisional committee—for as such only will they come before the craft—have set themselves, we shall be most happy to become the medium of communication for bringing the various parties together.



PROSPERITY OF FREEMASONRY.

NEVER since the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England, has Freemasonry been in a more prosperous state, or more highly honored than during the past year—the number of craft certificates issued being, as nearly as possible, 3000, and of arch certificates 550. These numbers are at least ten per cent higher than have been shown upon the register in any previous year, which, coupled with the fact, that the year 1853 was peculiarly prosperous, evinces how well the excellent and charitable principles upon which our Order is founded, are becoming appreciated—not only in the mother country, but in the colonies, from whence a large number of the applications for certificates are received.



THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES.

THE emblems these, of Virtues rare,
 And Lights that mystic lustre show:
 What mean the compasses and square?
 Ah! that, the Masons only know.

These are their famous working Tools:
 They're free for every one to use—
 Not guided by Masonic rules,
 We must their greatest uses lose!

What skill profound, these tools impart,
 To those who wield them at command!
 What Trophies of the noblest art,
 Spring from the learned Masons hand.

True masons, hail with latest breath,
 The triple Light of gentle ray:
 The Light, that turns the Night of Death,
 And all its glooms, to joyful day!

PHÆDO, P. M., Lodge 53.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 54.

William the Conqueror having established himself on the throne of England, appointed Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester, and Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury and Arundel, to be at the head of the fellow-crafts. They were employed first, in civil and military architecture, in building the tower of London, and the castles of Dover, Exeter, Winchester, Warwick, Hereford, Stafford, York, Durham, Rochester, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne; then in sacred architecture, in building Battle Abbey, near Hastings, St. Saviour's, Southwark, and nine more religious houses, while others built forty-two monasteries and five cathedrals. The King brought many expert Masons from France, and died in Normandy A.D. 1087.

William Rufus succeeded his father, and employed his architects and craftsmen in building a new wall round the tower, and in rebuilding London Bridge of wood. By the advice of his Grand Lodge of Masters he built the great palace of Westminster, and four religious houses, while other parties founded twenty-eight more. He died A.D. 1100.

Henry I., his brother, succeeded to the throne, and built the great palace at Woodstock, and a little one at Oxford to converse with the learned, and fourteen religious houses; whilst others built about a hundred such beside, and many fine mansions.

"In this reign (as we are told by the author of a Saxon Chronicle) every one who was able built a castle, so that the poor people were worn out with the toil of these buildings, and the whole kingdom was covered with castles:" and as these castles were for residence as well as defence, a description will serve to shew the state of architecture in those times. They were mostly situated on an eminence, or near a river—a situation for several reasons eligible. The whole site of the castle (which was frequently of great extent and irregular figure), was surrounded by a deep and broad ditch, sometimes filled with water, and sometimes dry, called the fosse. Before the great gate was an outwork called a barbican, or antemural, which was a strong and high wall, with turrets upon it, designed for the defence of the gate and drawbridge. On the inside of the ditch stood the wall of the castle, about eight or ten feet thick, and between twenty and thirty feet high, with a parapet and a kind of embrasures, called crennels, on the top. On this wall, at proper distances, square towers of two or three stories were built, which served for lodging some of the principal officers of the proprietor of the castle, and for other purposes; and on the inside were erected lodgings for the common servants and retainers, granaries, storehouses, and other necessary offices. On the top of this wall, and on the flat roofs of these buildings stood the defenders of the castle when it was besieged, and from thence discharged arrows, darts, and stones, on the besiegers. The great gate of the castle stood in the course of this wall, and was strongly fortified with a tower on each side, and rooms over the passage, which was closed with thick folding doors

of oak, often plated with iron, and with an iron portcullis or grate let down from above. Within this wall was a large outer space or court, called, in the largest and most perfect castles—the outer bayle or ballium, in which stood commonly a church or chapel. On the inside of this outer bayle was another ditch, wall-gate, and towers, inclosing the inner bayle or court within which the chief tower or keep was built. This was a very large square fabric, four or five stories high, having small windows in prodigious thick walls, which rendered the apartments within it, dark and gloomy. This great tower was the palace of the prince, prelate, or baron to whom the castle belonged, and the residence of the constable or governor. Under ground, were dismal vaults for the confinement of prisoners, which made it sometimes called the dungeon. In this building also was the great hall, in which the owner displayed his hospitality, by entertaining his numerous friends and followers. At one end of the great halls of castles, palaces, and monasteries, there was a place raised a little above the rest of the floor, called the dais, where the chief table stood, at which, persons of the highest rank dined. Though there were great variations of construction at this period, the most magnificent were nearly all on the above plan. The roofs of the best buildings were generally covered with lead, and the windows glazed. These structures must have been a work of prodigious expense and labour. And the master masons and craftsmen by which the work was planned and executed, had evidently attained considerable dexterity in the work, as it is impossible to view the remains of many magnificent fabrics, both sacred and civil, erected at this period, without admiring the genius of those who planned, and the dexterity of those by whom they were executed.

Stephen, his nephew, succeeded A.D. 1135. During the civil wars in this reign, the nobles and gentry laid hold of the occasion to build about 1100 castles. At this period, Masons were as much employed as soldiers, under their Grand Master, Gilbert de Clare, Marquis of Pembroke, through whom the King built four abbies and two nunneries, with St. Stephen's Chapel in the palace of Westminster, whilst others built about ninety religious houses. He died A.D. 1154.

Henry II., succeeded. This King fortified some castles against the Welsh and Scots, built some little palaces and ten religious houses, while others built about 100 such. The Grand Master of the Knights Templars, a military Order, then lately instituted at Jerusalem for the protection of the Holy Sepulchre and of the pilgrims who flocked to it; and who derived their name from stationing themselves on a spot where King Solomon's Temple stood, and who soon spread themselves over Europe; built their Temple in Fleet Street, London. This King was succeeded by his son, Richard I., A.D. 1189. In his reign about twenty religious houses were built.

John, his brother succeeded A. D. 1199, and employed his chaplain Peter de Cole Church, Grand Master of the Masons, in rebuilding London Bridge of stone. This was finished by the next Master, William Almain. The continual expense of repairing a wooden bridge being burdensome to the citizens

was the motive to this undertaking, the durability of which, in a situation so much exposed to the occasional attacks of two powerful enemies, air and water, and loaded as it was for many centuries with a line of houses on each side of the passage over it, is the best evidence that can be produced of the skill of the architects who constructed so vast a work. A drawbridge was contrived to give passage for vessels with provisions to Queehithe, at the north end of which stood a tower to resist the attempts of an enemy; this tower was begun to be built in 1426, but the other buildings increased very slowly. However, in Stowe's days, both sides were built up, so that the whole had the appearance of a large well-built street, there being only left three openings with stone breast walls and iron rails over them on each side, for prospect. The width of the river at the bridge is 915 feet, which was the length of the bridge; the height thereof was 43 feet seven inches. The width of the street was 20 feet, and the depth of the houses on both sides, 53 feet; together 73 feet. It consisted of twenty unequal arches, but by the great number of piers and extension of the starlings, the passage of the water was obstructed, the rapidity of the stream increased, and the charge of repairs enhanced. We are told that the Master Mason not only erected the chapel on the starling of the ninth pier from the north end, but likewise endowed the same for two priests, four clerks, &c. This was the first building on London Bridge. It was afterward augmented with so many chanteries, so that there were four chaplains belonging to it in the 23rd Henry VI. This chapel was not destroyed till the houses were taken down in the year 1758. It has been a vulgar notion, that the foundation of this bridge was laid upon woolpacks, an error which might owe its origin to a tax laid upon wool to raise a fund towards its erection. Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester, was next Grand Master, and under him Geoffrey Fitz Peter was chief surveyor, or deputy Grand Master. He built much for the King, while others built about forty religious houses.

Henry III., a minor of nine years, succeeded A.D. 1216, when Peter de Rupibus, the old Grand Master, came to be the King's guardian. He levelled the foot-stone of Westminster Abbey in that part called Solomon's porch, but this King, though he reigned long did not live to complete the work. Peter Count of Savoy, brother of the Queen's mother, built the palace of Savoy, in the Strand, London; and John Baliol, Lord of Bernard Castle, in the county of Durham, father of John, King of Scotland, founded Baliol college at Oxford. The Templars built their Domus Dei at Dover.

In this reign, one hundred and fifty seven abbeys, priories, and other religious houses were founded in England. Many of the cathedral and conventual churches were very large, lofty, and magnificent fabrics, which were raised at a very great expense of labour, time, and money. Of this the cathedrals of York, Salisbury, Litchfield, Worcester, Gloucester, Ely, Winchester, and several others which were built in this period, afford the most satisfactory proof, and at the same time give the clearest idea of the style of sacred architecture which then prevailed. In this century the fashionable pillars in churches were of Purbic marble, very slender and round, encompassed with marble shafts a little detached, having each capitol adorned with foliage, which, joined, formed one elegant capitol for the whole pillar. The

windows were long and narrow, with pointed arches and painted glass, which was introduced about that time, or at least became more common.

The opulence of the clergy and zeal of the laity furnished ample funds for building these magnificent structures, and it was with great difficulty that workmen could be procured to execute such extensive works. The Popes granted many indulgencies by their bulls, to the Society of Masons, in order to increase their numbers. These indulgencies produced their full effect, and the Society became very numerous. "For (as we are told by one who was well acquainted with their constitution) the Italians, with some Greek refugees, and with them French, Germans, and Flemings, joined into a fraternity of architects, procuring papal bulls for their encouragement and particular privileges; they styled themselves Free Masons and ranged from one nation to another as they found churches to be built; their government was regular, and where they fixed near the building in hand they made a camp of huts. A surveyor governed in chief; every tenth man was called a warden, and overlooked each nine. The gentlemen in the neighbourhood, either out of charity or commutation of penance, gave the materials and carriages. Those who have seen the accounts in records of the charge of the fabrics of some of our cathedrals, near four hundred years old, cannot but have a great esteem for their economy, and admire how soon they erected such lofty structures."

Edward I. succeeded, A. D. 1272, and being engaged in wars, left the craft to the care of successive Grand Masters, as Walter Gifford, Archbishop of York, Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and Ralf, Lord of Mount Hermer, the progenitor of the Montagues, and by these the King fortified many castles, especially against the Welsh, till they submitted to him; when Edward, the King's son and heir was born at Caermarthen, A. D. 1284, and was the first English Prince of Wales. This King celebrated the fixing of the cape stone of Westminster Abbey, A. D. 1286, sixty-five years after the laying of the foundation stone:—this is the present pile. No sooner was it erected, than the wealth of the kingdom flowed to it from all quarters; the principal donors were, Queen Eleanor, wife of Henry III., and Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The abbey church (which was stripped of many of its decorations by Henry VIII., and was much damaged within and without during the unhappy civil commotions under Charles I., that defaced the ancient beauty of most of the religious houses in this kingdom,) had continued from the death of Henry VII. without any considerable repairs, and was gradually falling into ruins, till parliament interposed and ordered a thorough reparation at the national expense. In this reign, Merton College, Oxford, the cathedral of Norwich, and about twenty more religious houses were founded.

Edward II. made Walter Stapleson, Bishop of Exeter, Grand Master, A. D. 1307. He built Exeter and Oriel Colleges, at Oxford, while others built Clarehall, at Cambridge, and eight religious houses.

(To be continued.)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

BY ALEX. HENRY GIRVEN, AUTHOR OF "REGINALD SELWYN," &c.

(Continued from p. 65.)

CHAPTER VI.—SEPARATION.

With feeble steps, and a mind bewildered by what she had heard and witnessed, Ida at length reached her home. Mrs. St. Claire at once perceived that something had occurred and began to question her, but without eliciting any information, for Ida evaded giving a direct answer to her inquiries.

The good lady was so anxious to give vent to her feelings respecting Simon, that she commenced on that subject almost immediately, but at the mention of his name, Ida became so agitated that she was compelled to desist, resolving, however, to introduce it at the earliest opportunity.

Ida had received a severe shock by the outbreak of frenzy on the part of Simon, for which, notwithstanding occasional revelations of his temper, she was altogether unprepared. His conduct appalled her, and a suspicion that his violence was ungovernable, suggested itself to her mind. She shuddered at the thought, for it blighted the hope she had so fondly entertained of reforming his character. Her sentiments of benevolence, the christian tuition she had received from her deceased parent, and whose fruits were universal love for humanity, forbearance, and forgiveness, made her regard with more than ordinary horror the act which her lover committed, and she began to contemplate with fear, the idea of being allied to one whose temper would lead him to outrage her feelings daily, and interpose a shadow between her and her Maker.

It was in vain that she reverted to those incidents in her intercourse with Simon, on which she had founded her expectation of softening his character, and a withering distrust of her own judgment in this matter flashed across her thoughts. She began to suspect that the grounds of her confidence were rather the suggestions of her affection than the dictates of her reason, and, as she began to analyse her sentiments and to investigate all the circumstances of her intercourse with Simon, her doubt deepened into conviction.

Those who have had to disentwine from their feelings some cherished illusion which had "grown with their growth" and shed happiness on their existence, can well understand the painfulness of that mental process by which the young girl arrived, reluctantly, at a conclusion which laid waste the hope of years, and extinguished the "one bright particular star" of her young heart. The result fell crushingly on her spirit, and it was not till some days afterwards that she became sufficiently calm to resort to her usual source of consolation, that unerring *spring of comfort* for the Christian, the words of sacred writ.

There she found that peace which the world had denied her; and as she perused the inspired pages which speak of the vanity of human hopes, and the precepts that raise the heart from this world to another region,

where the weary are at rest, and the spirit tastes imperishable and unchanging felicity; she gradually became reconciled to her affliction, and the transitory sorrow of this life was forgotten in the contemplation of that permanent happiness which the words of a Creator have promised.

In an age where there is so much infidelity abroad, and where the sceptic is endeavouring to infuse the "leprous distilment" of his doctrines into the minds of the community, when the revelations of science are enlisted in this unhallowed crusade, and that literature, whose mission is to refine and elevate, is made the medium of polluting the imagination and desecrating the soul, how refreshing are such instances as that of the piety of this young maiden! And, if the tree is known by its fruits, can the Atheist, with his negation of scripture and his derision of mysteries, which we can feel if not comprehend, supply a more efficient lenitive for human affliction than is afforded to the true believer when he rises from this vale of tears to the promised land where sin, and sorrow, and death, are unknown?

When Ida came to the determination of relinquishing all hope of being united to Simon, she thought it would be unjust to him if she concealed the state of her sentiments longer than was necessary; she therefore addressed him a letter.

She commenced by adverting to the many years of their acquaintance, and to the feelings of affection with which she had regarded him from childhood. She then spoke of the love he had expressed, and which she did not deny that she reciprocated, though she had hesitated to avow it, from considerations which were subsequently found to be judicious. She spoke of the sentiments of christian benevolence which she herself felt, and the grief that the exhibition of his unforgiving and vengeful temper occasioned her, and which she felt satisfied it would not be in her power to alter. She then earnestly besought him to endeavour to eradicate his evil propensities, and she alluded to the death bed of her father, who, with almost his last breath, prayed for the false friend, and those persecutors who had brought him to an untimely grave. She then informed him of her resolution, which she stated it would be useless for him to attempt to change, and mentioned that she had accepted an invitation to a distant part of the country for which she was about immediately to depart. She concluded by expressing an earnest wish for his happiness and reformation, recommending strongly to his attention the mandate of his Saviour, that we should love one another. She accompanied the letter with a testament, where the passage alluded to was marked down. When the letter was concluded it was dispatched with her gift to Simon, and she felt for some time relieved by the consciousness of having done her duty.

But Ida's womanly feelings and her affection for Simon, still left that lingering, dull, corroding pain which remains after the first violence of grief has past away. Her determination to leave for a time the place where everything around could not fail to remind her of her lover was wise, and she resolved to carry it out as quickly as possible. But in making the arrangement for her departure, she had a further trial to

sustain. In her own room she encountered several presents from Simon, at various periods of their acquaintance from childhood to maturity. Some were the simple gifts of his earlier years, but more precious in her eyes than the costliest gems, for they were the tributes of affection, on which love in its dawn was legibly traced, and sanctified the childish relics. There, too, was one withered flower around which a host of tender memories clustered. It was the first sensible avowal of the love that was growing in his young heart, and which his reading had told him in the language of flowers was a declaration of passion. She had carefully preserved it, and now her tears fell fast on its sear and scentless petals.

There were also memorials, the gifts of his later years; and in these were indications of a taste and refinement which love was developing and fostering, and which seemed like some mountain shrub to contrast strongly with the rugged material amid which they grew. Some little classic piece of sculpture, selected from subjects with which few would have deemed him familiar; some exquisitely wrought bijouerie, or some chaste ornament for the toilet or the work-table, in which it was evident that the rude donor either studied the taste and gentle character of his mistress, or endeavoured, by associating her image in his mind with what was beautiful in art, to wean her from the contemplation of his personal deformity, were scattered about in a profusion that told of love as prodigal in its sensible expression as it was intense in its nature.

On these Ida had to gaze, and they revived in all their bitterness the emotions which preceded the renunciation of Simon. But we must not linger in the description of feelings with which, no doubt many of our readers have been familiar at some period of their lives, or which, at all events, those who are gifted with sensibility can easily imagine.

On the day which Ida had fixed for her departure, the morning broke brightly through the grey mists. The stars were growing dim in the dawn, and the occasional chirps from the boughs proclaimed that the feathered tribe was waking into sensible existence. The faint violet shades were brightening along the horizon's verge, and were beginning to assume clearer tints, while the outline of the spires and other pinnacles of the town were becoming clearly defined. The sun rose and revealed the whole landscape, and more frequent became the music from the trees, until it swelled into one anthem of matin minstrelsy. The river was flashing in its crystal, and the flowers were breathing forth their rich perfume.

The mists curled up the mountains' sides and disclosed the trees that clothed them, glistening with dew. The rudest object looked lovely and etherealised in that reviving light. All visible was nature, in her fairest form, and only one object proclaimed the presence of humanity. It was the figure of a man who stood at the brow of a hill, immediately facing the town, in the direction of Ida's dwelling, and commanding a view of the road which led from it.

His hair and clothes were wet with the dew, and he remained leaning against a tree on the summit of the hill, as immovable as if he had been some granite monument erected on the spot. His features were pale and rigid as marble. The birds who had ventured from their nests, clustered

around his feet or perched on his shoulders, as if he had been some lifeless column, and no movement betrayed that he was conscious of their presence. His figure looked colossal, and fancy might have deemed him some emanation from the surrounding mountains which had assumed a human form.

A carriage issued from Mrs. St. Claire's, it approached, and he sprang forward, startling a flock of birds scattered around, strained his gaze at it while it approached, and when it disappeared in the distance, covering his face with his hands, and with a groan, he sank at the bottom of the tree.

It was Simon Le Trouve, and the carriage contained Ida St. Claire.

(To be continued.)

THE HEIR OF BENDERSLEIGH;

OR,

THE FREEMASON'S PROMISE.

(A Tale for a Summer's Day or a Winter's Night).

BY BROTHER C. J. COLLINS.

PART THE THIRD.

CHAPTER I.—PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING CEREMONY.

THREE weeks had elapsed since the events narrated in the last part of this history, and Harriet Marshall had become resigned to her fate. She had striven hard to forget Henry Elliotson, and in the struggle, she had endured many bitter moments of anguish and distress. But her grief had gradually subsided into a general melancholy, and she had come to look upon Henry, as upon a dear relative that had suddenly been snatched from them, by that hand whose power is infinite, and against whose decree there is no appeal. As the hour of her nuptials—for they had been fixed—drew near, she displayed a calmness which surprised those about her, and made them feel more reconciled to the coming sacrifice—for so they all looked upon it—and strengthened them for the approaching trial. The current of the happiness of the little cottage on the great river's bank, seemed to have been suddenly turned away, and where unalloyed joyful happiness so lately reigned, a settled cloud seemed suddenly to have spread its darkening influence upon that little family.

The settlement for the marriage, had of course been prepared in Mr. Grainger's office, under the immediate care of old Gabriel Hunter, who, from such a sudden influx of weighty business, felt that it was his bounden duty to remain at the office very late every night, and not leave it until all the haunts of business in his busy neighbourhood were quiet and closed up. By his advice, abstracts had been made of

all the musty deeds that lay treasured up in the tin boxes, relating to the Bendersleigh Estates, and the preparation of those abstracts he had taken upon himself. It was curious to see him, having just prepared the draft of an abstract of a deed, how he read it carefully over late at night, when all was quiet, with as much attention, and more interest than if it had been a rare literary production, on which great powers of genius had been brought to bear. And then, having carefully read the rough draft, how he transcribed it all himself upon the sheets of paper used for the purpose; and having completed his task, how he handled it as if it were an infant, or a great treasure, which too roughly inspected might be impaired in value. It was, indeed, a proud day for old Gabriel, when having completed his great task, he looked upon the product of his labors as they were piled up before him, ready to be transmitted to Bendersleigh House. No Merchant could look upon a freight about to be embarked for a distant port, with more anxiety than did old Gabriel Hunter, upon the thick piles of thickly written paper which lay before him on the morning of which we speak. He stood with his hands behind his coat, and with his spectacles on his nose, and gazed at them with growing satisfaction, and as he did so, he fell into his old custom of musing and of communing with himself. He did not, however, muse long, for the tinkling sound of a little bell, which was just perceptible inside Mr. Grainger's office, summoned him to that gentleman's presence.

"Well, Hunter, you will be ready with all the documents for to-morrow, will you?" enquired Mr. Grainger, reading over some labelled letters, and without looking up as he spoke.

"Everything, Mr. Grainger, is prepared;" replied Gabriel, rubbing his hands with evident satisfaction.

"Have you had the Settlement fair copied?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"I have, Sir, and it is lying on the top of the Abstracts now, Sir," replied Gabriel.

"Ah! the abstracts!" said Mr. Grainger, "I think you have taken more trouble with them, than they were worth."

"Trouble, Sir!" exclaimed Gabriel, in a tone which seemed to imply that he was being joked with. "Trouble, Sir, in such a matter ought not to be considered, Sir. It is an old, but true adage with us, Sir—'Safe bind, safe find.'"

"You have the heart of a conveyancer," replied Mr. Grainger, smiling, "but if you succeed in getting Augustus Raker to go through those abstracts with you, you will exhibit more powers of persuasion than I give you credit for. By the bye, I suppose you know that he is coming here this morning, don't you?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"I hope he is, Sir," replied Gabriel.

"He is coming to arrange about to-morrow," continued Mr. Grainger, "and we shall—"

He was here interrupted by the entrance of Henry Elliotson, who advanced to his usual place, and silently took his seat.

Mr. Grainger motioned Gabriel Hunter to withdraw, and the old clerk immediately left the room.

As soon as Henry Elliotson was seated, he busied himself with some papers before him, and seemed absorbed in their contemplation, while Mr. Grainger exhibited a restlessness in his manner, for he was evidently ill at ease. He rose from his seat, and going to a cabinet, opened it, but he seemed to find no satisfaction there and so he returned to his seat. At length, he addressed the young man near him.

"Henry," he said.

"Sir," was the short reply of the young clerk.

"This marriage, as you are aware, takes place to-morrow;" said Mr. Grainger.

"I know it too well, Sir," replied Henry Elliotson, in a melancholy tone.

"Doubtless, Henry," commenced Mr. Grainger, in a hesitating tone, "you consider this a severe trial—a trial I know it is—but it is said that trials such as these are sent but to chasten us. By a strange infatuation, we all seem to think that our own individual troubles are the greatest, but you will find, Henry, that many of the world's troubles are only those of self creation, and have their roots in our own passions and inclinations. It is true, that even the troubles that we create ourselves cannot be wholly avoided by any one, but the experience of a long life will teach that all troubles may be subdued, or softened by submission. I do not allude to a blind recklessness of consequences, but to that control of the passions which leads us to look upon the cares of life, as being for a far higher purpose than to inflict pain upon those who may endure them. There is a moral in every care—there is a wise purpose in every check that is offered us, in what we call our happiness, but which too often is the desire which our passions may create. Do you hear me, Henry?"

"I do, Sir," replied Henry, who, with his elbows on the desk had his face buried in his hands.

"Even in this marriage," continued Mr. Grainger, "you may learn a salutary lesson, and from it come to think as I do. No doubt you will think, as most people will do, that I have been what is called hardened by my intercourse with the world. Rather, have I learnt experience—learnt to know that a bridle on our passions is the surest instrument by which to ensure enduring happiness. Henry, you will accompany me to this ceremony to-morrow?" said Mr. Grainger, abruptly, alluding to the marriage of Harriet and Mr. Raker.

"Never! Sir!" exclaimed Henry, rising and standing before Mr. Grainger, boldly.

"Yes," returned Mr. Grainger, "you will, Henry."

"I cannot, Sir;" continued Henry. "In the philosophy you would inculcate in the cold and unimpassioned school of which you would have me be a member, no doubt it would be urged, that such a step would show a triumph over the passions of the heart, and be applauded. But I cannot, Sir, my heart in its rebellious energy to such a lesson as you teach, prompts me to feel, that that which you term calmness and submission, is but hypocrisy, or discontent wrapt in disguise. It may be that this is a

lesson for my future good—it may be that this trouble is but to chasten me, but while I concede the possibility of that, I cannot but feel the anguish of the wound which has been inflicted to produce the lesson.”

“All’s for the best, Henry,” said Mr. Grainger.

“A doubtful creed, Sir,” replied Henry, pacing the room.

“You will not think so as your life advances. I can understand full well the passion that is consuming you—I can understand the anguish of the wound you speak of, and I can see the possibility of how soon it may be healed by the course indicated.”

“Alas, Sir, cold philosophy and a young heart’s hope, are ill-assorted for communion,” said Henry, sadly.

“Not so,” replied Mr. Grainger. “The victories we achieve upon ourselves are the consolidation of our own happiness.”

“I cannot argue with you, Sir, upon such a subject;” said Henry, in a melancholy tone.

“You will go with me to-morrow, then?” replied Mr. Grainger, in an enquiring tone.

“Why! oh, why can you wish me to do so?” replied Henry, stopping before the old man and looking him full in his face.

“Because your presence will support Harriet, in the trial which I admit it is that she has to go through,” replied Mr. Grainger.

“Harriet!” exclaimed Henry Elliotson, in a tone of sorrowful astonishment, “you surely cannot mean what you say?”

“I seldom say what I do not mean, Henry,” replied Mr. Grainger, “and I say again, that on Harriet’s account I wish you to be present to-morrow.”

CHAPTER II.—HOW MR. AUGUSTUS BAKER MADE PREPARATION FOR HIS HAPPINESS.

GABRIEL Hunter stopped the discussion narrated in the last Chapter, by putting his head into the office and announcing that a young woman wished to have audience with Mr. Grainger; and before that gentleman had time to consider whether the application should be granted or not, the lady unceremoniously forced herself past Gabriel, into the presence of Mr. Grainger, notwithstanding the strenuous and rather ungallant attempt of the old clerk, to keep her back.

“Why, Rachel!” exclaimed Mr. Grainger, in a tone of merry surprise, “what brings you here?”

“Oh, Mr. Grainger—Oh, Mr. Henry, excuse the liberty, but I have been in town about to-morrow’s business, and being in this neighbourhood I made so bold as to come in here, Sir,” turning to Mr. Grainger, “to let you know how the young missis takes on, Sir, about the marriage to-morrow.”

Henry Elliotson, rather abruptly went towards the door, to leave the room, and Mr. Grainger observing him, said,

“I shall see you again this afternoon, Henry?”

“Yes, Sir;” was Henry’s short reply, and he went out of the office, leaving Rachel and Mr. Grainger together.

"Yes, Sir," continued Rachel, who had taken a seat, "yes, Sir, she takes on so, that I thought last night she would have been participated into a fit of *Delirium Tremours*."

"Indeed!" said Mr. Grainger, "I thought she had fully made up her mind to the change. But it is a natural anxiety, no doubt."

"Oh, it isn't afore her mother and her sister that she takes on so. Lord bless you, Sir, to see her before them, although she is as pale as a statute, yet she never afore them gives way. No, Sir, it is in the secret privacy of her seclusion that she is so wound upon," said Rachel, who, as we have before observed, was fond of the redundant mode of expressing herself.

"But why should she exhibit so much uneasiness?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"Bless your soul, Sir, when I told her as the carriages was ordered at twelve, she looked as though a heavy blow had stagnated her." By which rather eccentric phrase it must be understood, that Rachel meant staggered.

"Ah, well, it is but natural," said Mr. Grainger, "the prospect of her happiness works upon her imagination."

"Happiness!" exclaimed Rachel, "I should think it did; Oh, Sir, Mr. Grainger, can't you break this horrid match asunder, Sir? Oh, do, Sir."

"Why are you so earnest in the matter, Rachel?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"Oh, Sir, if you could be as I am, Sir," replied she loftily, "and feel what I feel, you would then feel what other people's feelings is," and believing that she had said something which ought to penetrate Mr. Grainger's heart, she drew herself very tightly up.

Mr. Grainger smiled.

"I would give up anything, Sir, I would go to the Injies and work among the blacks—I'd lie down and put my head upon the block, and call upon the executioner to excommunicate me there. I would—I would," exclaimed she, passionately, but hesitatingly, "go down upon my bended knees upon two spikes, if I could see Miss Harriet as happy as she used to be, Sir, before that—" and here she sunk the would be martyr in the woman, "before that nasty spotted Mr. Raker, which is as the scriptures says, the snake among the herbs—"

"You wrong the gentleman, I fear, Rachel," said Mr. Grainger, who could scarcely refrain from smiling.

"You cannot wrong the man, that wrongs a woman, Sir," replied Rachel, with determination.

"Without expressing any opinion upon your doctrine, I may say that in the matter which you are alluding to, no wrong is intended to any one."

"Oh, Sir, you can know very little about the young lady's heart—you know very little about a young lady's happiness, if you can talk in that way; I'd sooner cut both my hands off myself," a difficult operation by the way, "than I'd see that Mr. Raker—"

Rachel would have gone on at some length in her onslaught upon the character of Mr. Raker, if that gentleman himself had not thrown open the door at that very moment, exclaiming as he entered the office, "come along

Joe." This request was addressed to a person who was behind him, and who immediately afterwards made his appearance in Mr. Grainger's office, by the side of Mr. Raker. This individual might very reasonably have been taken for either an omnibus cad—a sporting nobleman—a prize fighter, or a blackleg. He had anything but an attractive countenance, in which, moreover, there was a permanent expression of impudent confidence and self possession, and about whose general bearing there was an offensive swagger, which, as far as outward appearances were concerned, consisted almost exclusively of a loose drab great coat, with buttons upon it as large as dessert plates. Below this article of his dress was just perceptible a pair of trowsers, the pattern of which was enormously large in keeping with the great coat, which covered them.

"Sit down, Joe," said Mr. Raker, with the air of one who was perfectly at home. Joe needed no second invitation, so down he sat, and having done so, stared at Rachel until she was quite confused, and then he whistled at his triumph.

"How are you? Grainger?" exclaimed Mr. Raker, in gleeful tone.

"Good morning, Mr. Raker," replied Mr. Grainger.

"Hallo!" exclaimed Mr. Raker, "what brings you here, Rachel?"

"Oh, Mr. Raker, I was in town, and I merely made so bold as to call upon Mr. Grainger," said Rachel, rising, and exhibiting considerable embarrassment. "To think that he should have come in at this moment," thought Rachel to herself, "I could scratch his face, but my sex withholds me." Although this was secret it was very novel reasoning, inasmuch as scratching and the sex are not uncommonly associated.

"Well, Rachel," cried Mr. Raker, in a bantering tone, "lots of fun and bustle to-morrow, eh, over the water."

"Ah!" sighed Rachel.

"Why, you seem in the dumps, Rachel; now I'll be bound I can tell the reason. I suppose you'd rather see your friend Mr. Henry Elliotson walk off with Harriet! I've got the prize though!" and he laughed coaxingly in Rachel's face, and turned and winked upon his friend Joe, who went through a similar performance, ejaculating in a subdued tone, the word "prime," thereby intimating that he was amused amazingly by the scene before him.

"Come, now, Rachel, confess you'd rather see Harriet married to this Elliotson;" and he glanced over to Mr. Grainger.

"Comparisons is impious," replied Rachel, promptly.

"So they is;" said Joe, mimicking Rachel's tone and manner.

"No sneers, Joe;" cried Mr. Raker, in high glee. "He is such a chap for sneering, Rachel," continued he, turning to Rachel.

"Gammon," cried Mr. Joe, in a subdued tone, as before.

"Though I am but a poor servant, Mr. Raker, I have my feelings if other people has none," said she, fiercely; "I have my feelings, and so I'll take my leave. Good morning, Sir;" and she hastily quitted the office.

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed Mr. Raker, "there's a joke, Joe."

"Prime," replied Joe, who appeared actuated on that occasion with

a desire to compress his observations into the smallest possible compass.

It was strange that Mr. Grainger did not seem at all desirous of interrupting the merriment, which the two friends apparently were enjoying; while they amused themselves at the expense of Rachel, he threw himself back in his chair, and though the exhibition was an unusual and an unseemly one in his office, yet he did not attempt to curb, or in any way interfere with the proceedings of his client. He seemed by his bearing, to think that the connection existing between himself and Mr. Raker, was such as to give the latter a presumptive right to conduct himself as he pleased there. In fact, the bearing of the two towards each other, had all the appearance of that which exists between patrons and dependants, and on Mr. Raker's part, the resemblance was effectively kept up.

"Well, Grainger, my boy," said Mr. Raker, as soon as Rachel had left the room, and that gentleman and his friend had fully enjoyed the joke they had created, "Well, Grainger, I suppose everything is ready for to-morrow?"

"I believe nothing now remains but the ceremony, Mr. Raker;" replied Mr. Grainger, "but I will take the last opportunity of appealing to you in the matter."

"Now, I want no more preaching, Grainger. Damn it," said he, "I never come into this infernal office, but you commence some long winded oration about a person's feelings, and something being outraged; I'm sick of it;" continued he, confirming the declaration with an oath.

"I have only your welfare at heart, Mr. Raker; and I would appeal to you to forego this marriage, if you would wish for happiness;" said Mr. Grainger.

"Why you don't take me for such a precious flat, do you Grainger?" inquired Mr. Raker, "as to suppose that I would give up the game now it's all in my own hands;" and he laughed scornfully at the idea.

"It does not follow that, because possession seems so very near, it must necessarily be certain," replied Mr. Grainger,

"Why, what the devil do you mean?" asked Mr. Raker, "What the devil can prevent my having her?"

"Her own will, if strained too much," said Mr. Grainger. "It is true that she has yielded to you on account of the power which you have over her family; but the great test of her submission is yet to come, she may refuse you, even at the last hour, and then your mortification would scarcely be revenged, even if you exercised the power which you possess upon her mother's property; consider of this, Mr. Raker."

"Did you ever hear of such croaking?" inquired Mr. Raker, of his friend, who was beginning to exhibit signs of impatience.

The gentleman appealed to, intimated that the old buffer was a rum un, and the sooner he cut the matter short, the better.

"Come, come, Grainger," said Mr. Raker, in rather an authoritative tone, which evidently chafed Mr. Grainger; "Come, no more of this nonsense; let's see what has been done for to-morrow."

"I tell you," said Mr. Grainger, rising from his chair and speaking with much greater warmth than he had hitherto exhibited, "I tell you, if this marriage be proceeded with, your conduct will be selfish, pitiful, tyrannical, and mean; you will be the scorn of your own sex and the contempt of the other. I tell you that; but that I know I have done my duty and that good may come of all this, I should have hated myself promoting your views," continued Mr. Grainger, with much agitation and trembling as he spoke.

Mr. Raker stood transfixed, at what he looked upon as the temerity of the old man, in thus addressing his best client. At length, being encouraged by a laugh from his friend Joe, he said:

"Go on, Grainger; go on my old cock. I dare say this will do you good in the end. It'll improve your prospects, old as you are, no doubt;" and here he winked at Joe, for approval, at which that gentleman nodded his head in an oracular manner, as much as to say, "you hit the old boy there—follow it up."

"Your insinuated threat, Mr. Raker, passes harmlessly by me," replied Mr. Grainger, "but direful as I look upon this impending calamity, direful as I believe, if it occurs, it will prove to both the parties most interested, I yet believe that the Heir of Bendersleigh will not so conduct himself as to make his name a bye-word of scorn to all who know him."

"Oh, indeed; you know that I can't very well do without you to-morrow; you know you have gone so far in this matter that I must have your assistance further," cried Mr. Raker, *fiercely*, "or else I'd have cut this matter short enough before this. But I perhaps may teach you a lesson, Master Grainger, that old as you are, and cunning as you are, and straight laced as you seem to be, you won't forget in a hurry;" said he, pacing the room.

"I know you cannot do without me at this marriage; you have forced me along with you in your headlong progress with respect to it, but I believe that the lesson you speak of will not be for me to learn. I believe, that in the ceremony of this marriage to-morrow, you will taste the first drop of a bitter draught of which you little dream. I believe, that in attempting to compass the unhappiness of one who never wronged you, you will consummate your own. I would have saved you from it, but you have rushed upon your own destruction."

"By—I am surprised that you are not afraid of what you say. But I suppose you think you have fleeced perhaps enough, do you?" cried Raker, in an insulting tone.

"The miserable suspicion that you express is worthy of you, it is of a piece with all your proceedings since I have known you," replied Mr. Grainger, *quietly*.

"What do you think, Joe?" turning to his friend and speaking in a tone of choking passion; "this old lawyer—this chap that has had the picking that you know out of us for the last twenty years, sticks up against me in this way; thwarts me wherever I go, all for a paltry, miserable, snobbish clerk that he's got in this hole of his that he calls his office. Isn't it enough to make a fellow lose his temper?" inquired he of his friend.

"Cut him:" replied that Gentleman, in the same laconic manner as before.

"Mrs. Puffler Smirke, wished me to say she has called, Sir;" said Gabriel Hunter, putting his head in at the door.

"Mrs. Puffler Smirke!" exclaimed Mr. Raker, in gratified astonishment, "show her in;" said he, with as much authority as if he had been in his own house, which Mr. Grainger, however, did not seem disposed to check.

"What an extraordinary coincidence!" exclaimed Mrs. Puffler Smirke, as she tripped into the office, "to think that I should meet you here, Mr. Raker," said she, smiling; "Good morning, Mr. Grainger. Good morning, Sir," said she, curtesying low to Mr. Raker's friend.

"Oh! Mrs. Puffler Smirke, you have, I think, never seen my friend Mr. Joseph Smith. Mrs. Puffler Smirke—Mr. Joseph Smith."

Mrs Puffler Smirke of course bowed low to the intimate friend of Mr. Raker, while that individual in return bobbed in some embarrassment to the lady.

"Well, then, let me congratulate you in anticipation," said Mrs. Puffler Smirke, extending both her hands to Mr. Raker; "I received my cards of invitation yesterday," said she, "and as I read them I could not help ejaculating to myself, and this has come out of our fancy pic-nic on the hill."

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The last quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of England for the year 1854, took place in the Temple, on Wednesday, the 6th December. There were present, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., on the throne.

R.W. Thos. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire, as D.G.M.

R.W. Brs. Bonamy Dobree, S.G.W; Edwd. Baldwin, J.G.W; Samuel Rawson, P.G.M. for China; Col. W. Burlton, P.G.M. for Bengal; C. P. Cooper, Q.C., P.G.M; for Kent; B. Bond Cabbell, M.P., P.G.M. for Norfolk; F. W. Beadon, P.S.G.W. F. Pattison, P.S.G.W; W. H. White, G. Sec.

Rev. J. E. Cox, and E. Moore, G. Chaplains.

W. Brs. John Hervey, S.G.D; Henry Faudel, J.G.D; P. Hardwick, G. Sup. of Works; R. W. Jennings, G. Dr. of Ceremon.; Th. Chapman, Assist. D. of Ceremon.; G. Biggs, G. Sword Bearer; W. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; H. S. Crohn, G. Sec. for Foreign Correspondence; G. G. Elkington, G. Pursuivant.

W. Brs. Havers, Dr. Rowe, Nelson, Parkinson, Baumer, King, Leech, Hodgkinson, Norris, &c., P. G. Deacons; Spiers, Patten, Masson, P. G. S. Brs.; Hebelar, Rep. from G. Lo. of Prussia; Carver, Rep. from G. Lo. of Massachusetts, &c., &c., &c.

The Lodge having been opened in due form, a ballot was taken for twelve P.M's., from a list of 18 candidates, to fill the vacancies at the Board of Benevolence, which at a later period of the evening, was declared to be in favour of Brs. W. H. Absolon, No. 40; F. Adlard, 7; M. Attwood, 212; J. Barnes, 30; G. Barrett, 188; W. M. Bywater, 19; J. W. Long, 257; H. Prince, 15; C. Robinson, 8; D. Samuel, 264; W. H. Varden, 57; W. Young, 11.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes of the last quarterly communication, in which a reference was made to the improvement and lighting of the large hall.

The M.W.G.M., enquired of the G. Sup. of Works, if any progress had been made in the improvement.

Br. Hardwick replied, that the alterations in the lighting were completed, but the hall, he was happy to say, had been so fully engaged by public and private parties, that the operations of the workmen, with regard to the ventilation, had been somewhat impeded; nevertheless, it was making very satisfactory progress.

The M.W.G.M. having described a very simple method of ventilation (consisting of a shaft separated into two, by a division up the centre, the hot air being carried off by one half of the shaft and cold air admitted by the other,) which he had seen in operation in Yorkshire, and which he stated answered most perfectly, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

On the motion of Br. Joseph Smith, seconded by Br. Dr. Jones, the right honourable Br. the Earl of Zetland, M.G.W.M., was put in nomination as G.M. for the ensuing year, without opposition, no other brother being proposed.

The minutes and accounts of the Lodge of Benevolence, and Board of General purposes, were then read and approved.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

The M.W.G.M. next rose and said, he had to express to the brethren who had put him in nomination for re-election as G.M., his high sense of the honour conferred upon him, and to assure the craft, that should he be re-elected, he would use his best exertions to promote the interests of the Order. He had now to propose to them a resolution, which it was not without great hesitation and mature consideration he had determined to bring forward, it being, that the Grand Lodge should take part in that great national object, the raising of the Patriotic Fund—(Cheers). His hesitation had arisen from feeling that, properly, the funds of the Grand Lodge were not applicable for anything but purely Masonic purposes. This, however, was no ordinary occasion, and he felt sure, that the Grand Lodge, for the honour of the craft, would feel that they ought to do something, not only for the brethren of the Order, but for those soldiers, sailors, and marines, who were now fighting for the honour of their country, and especially for the widows and orphans of those who might fall in the discharge of their duty—(Cheers). At the same time, he thought it most desirable that they should take every precaution to prevent such a vote being drawn into a precedent, in cases of future appeals to public charity. When, however, they saw all classes of their fellow subjects pressing forward with energy and zeal to support the fund established for the relief of the widows and orphans of those who might be removed from this world whilst fighting in a just and good cause, he thought that every good Mason would agree with him, that the Masonic body ought not to be behind hand, in evincing their sympathy with the movement—(Cheers). Therefore, after the deepest consideration, he had come to the conclusion, that this was such an exceptional case that the Grand Lodge might, with propriety, subscribe to the fund—(Cheers). That they would have additional claims upon their own charities for aid to the widows and orphans of brethren who might perish in the conflict, there could be no doubt. That, however, he considered would be no reason, seeing the general feeling which existed on the subject, why they should not subscribe to the general fund. The result of their doing so must be, to raise the craft in the estimation of the public. Some of the private Lodges, he was pleased to see, had not been backward with their subscriptions, and he felt assured that if the Grand Lodge headed the list, the example would be liberally followed by the private Lodges, in all parts of the country. There were Lodges in which, perhaps, there might be no available funds for the purpose, but to those which were in the habit of having banquets, when they met, he might suggest, that the giving up one banquet would at once produce sufficient to evince their feeling with the movement. It was not, he thought, going too far, to express his belief that every Lodge would contribute something, and though the amount from each might appear comparatively small, yet, when added together, it would be something considerable. He would, therefore, at the next quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge, move, that viewing with approbation the fund now raising under the denomination of the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of

the families of the soldiers, sailors, and marines, engaged in the service of their country, and seeing with satisfaction, the sympathy evinced in every part of the country in support of that fund, the proper application of which had been guaranteed by a Royal Commission, the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England desire not to be behind their fellow subjects in the expression of their sympathy, and, therefore, order that one thousand guineas be paid to such Commission, out of the fund for general purposes—(Loud Cheers). He had made inquiries into the state of their funds, and though it behoved them to be cautious in their disposal, he felt assured they could afford to make the vote without detriment to the objects for which that fund was established—(Cheers). He only regretted that the rules of the Grand Lodge would not allow the vote to be come to at once. That, however, could not be the case, and he regretted it the less, because, when it became known through that great organ, the public press, that a thousand guineas was to be voted to the Patriotic Fund, from the Grand Lodge of England, it would have a great moral weight, and it would be a matter of little consequence, whether the money was paid at once, or six months hence—(Hear hear). He trusted that the proposition would have the unanimous approbation of the Grand Lodge—(Loud cheers). Indeed, from the way in which his observations had been received he felt it would be so—(Cheers). And if their sentiments were now in favour of the vote, they would not be less so when they next met in Grand Lodge—(Cheers). There was another subject to which he wished briefly to allude. Since last he had the pleasure of meeting the brethren in Grand Lodge, they had been deprived by the hand of death, of two of their Past Grand Officers. The name of one of those brethren, the late Lord Dudley Stuart, was associated with every act of charity, and every noble and patriotic feeling which could dignify mankind; and even when he could not himself be present, his heart and feelings were always with the brethren in their works of charity and in good wishes for the welfare of the Order—(Hear, hear). Br. Henry Stuart, M.P., had only recently passed through office in the Grand Lodge, and, though not perhaps so well known as Br. Lord Dudley Stuart, he was alike distinguished for his charitable disposition and masonic feelings; and he could not but express the great regret which, in common he was sure with the other brethren felt at the loss they had sustained—(Hear, hear).

Br. Chas. Purton Cooper, P.I.G.M., for Kent, could not, in justice to the high position which the M.W.G.M. had been pleased to bestow upon him, sit in his place without giving vent to his feelings in reference to the subjects so ably brought before them by the M.W.G.M. The M.W.G.M. had alluded to the loss which they had sustained by the death of two most excellent brethren. In doing so, he was sorry to say that the noble Earl had only singled out two brethren as specimens and types of others whom they had also lost, and if their names had not also been mentioned, it was only because they were not so well known, though their memory would not be the less honoured and respected. They all knew the merits and the claims which the late Br. Lord Dudley Stuart had upon their respect, and he was sure his loss would be deeply mourned by the Masonic body. With Br. Henry Stuart, he was not so well acquainted as with Lord Dudley, but he sincerely regretted his loss, as he did also of other brethren, and he hoped it would be long before so melancholy a duty as that of calling attention to losses amongst their ranks, would again have to be performed. The other subject to which the M.W.G.M. had alluded, was one of overwhelming magnitude and importance, and he was sure the Masonic brethren would expect that they should do justice to it. Though there was no precedent for such a vote, he was proud to think, that in 1855 the Grand Lodge of England were about to set an example, which he trusted would be followed by all private Lodges. It was not their duty as Masons to engage in war or to shed blood, but when blood had once been shed—

Several brethren here rose and called the attention of the G.M. to the fact, that there was no motion before the chair, and the M.W.G.M. ruled that the discussion could not be proceeded with.

In reply to a question, the M.W.M.G. said, that their course with respect to the last Patriotic Fund could form no precedent as regarded their present proceedings that fund not having been raised under the guarantee of a Royal Commission.

GLOBE LODGE, (No. 23).—This Lodge, which has been so long distinguished for the excellent working of its members, and to which our late Br. Gilkes belonged, met on Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Freemason's Tavern. The W.M. Br. Hewlett, in a most able manner, raised two brethren to the sublime degree as Master Masons, and passed one to the degree of a Fellow craft. The brethren next proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, when Br. Humphrey, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., and Br. Watson, Treasurer. The Tyler was then unanimously elected, and afterwards invested with the Jewel of his office by the W.M., in a neat and impressive manner. The brethren afterwards sat down to a capital supper, and spent the evening in the greatest harmony, which was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Miss Taylor, accompanied by Br. Taylor. Amongst the visitors were Br. Bohn, and Br. W. Lea.

ROBERT BURNS' LODGE (No. 25).—The last meeting for the year of this very numerous Lodge, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, December the 4th, under the presidency of Br. Paterson, W.M. Two gentlemen were initiated into the Order, and four brethren raised to the third degree, amongst whom was the brother who took his second step in Freemasonry at the last meeting, after so long a sojourn abroad. Br. Dyte, S.W., was afterwards elected W.M. for the ensuing year. All business being ended, about fifty of the brethren supped together and spent a very pleasant evening.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 29).—On Thursday, the 7th December, this Lodge met for the dispatch of Masonic business, at the George and Blue Boar Tavern, Holborn, when Br. Monro, of Boston, Lincolnshire, was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., the ceremony being performed at the request of Br. Roughton, W.M., by Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M., 201, a visitor to the Lodge. During the evening, Br. Fernandez, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Br. Todd, re-elected Treasurer. A gentleman was then proposed for initiation, and all business being ended the Lodge closed in harmony.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday, December 27, one brother was passed, and another raised to their respective degrees. Br. Luis Artus, J.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, Br. Ashdown, the S.W., having declined to serve the office at present, in consequence of the pressure of his private avocations.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at Br. Ireland's Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, on Thursday the 7th Dec., when Br. P. M. Connelly (in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Br. Axtell), initiated two gentlemen into the ancient Order, and passed one Br. and raised another to their respective degrees. This being election night, the ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, and unanimously fell upon Br. Turner, the present S.W. Br. Moss was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, having held that responsible office for several years, to the great satisfaction of the members of the Lodge. The brethren, at the conclusion of business, retired to refreshment, and separated at a comparatively early hour.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—The anniversary meeting of this most excellent and highly respectable Lodge, was held at the Bridge House Hotel, on Thursday, December 21, when Br. Aspinwell, W.M., most ably passed a brother to the second degree. Br. G. England, P. Prov. G.W. for Surrey, was then duly installed into the chair by Br. P.M. Varden, assisted by P.M.'s Aspinwell and Monnery, and a numerous board of P.M.'s. The New Master invested Br. F. Willmott, as S.W.; Br. Sowden, J.W.; Br. P.M. Dray, Treasurer; and Br. P.M. Edmonds, Secretary, with their jewels of office. The other officers having been appointed, the new W.M. proceeded to raise a brother to the degree of a M.M. and performed the ceremony with great care and precision. At the conclusion of the Masonic business about 60 of the brethren, amongst whom were several visitors, including nearly every Prov. Grand officer for Surrey, sat down to a most recherché banquet, and the evening was spent in a most agreeable and harmonious manner. Br. Dobic, G. Registrar of England, was expected to have been present, but was prevented attending, owing to an accident he met with a short time since in Switzerland, by which his leg was broken, from the effects of which he has not yet completely recovered.

LODGE OF FELICITY (No. 66).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the London Tavern, on Monday, Dec. 18, Br. Wm. Smith, W.M., presiding, who, in a most masterly manner, initiated a gentleman into the Order.

ROYAL NAVAL LODGE (No. 70).—This highly respectable Lodge, which has been making great progress in the estimation of the Craft, and in numbers during the past four years, met on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Freemasons Tavern, to which house it has recently removed from Radley's Hotel, as more generally convenient to the members. Br. Rogers, W.M., who presided, initiated two gentleman into the Order, and passed and raised two duly qualified Brs. to their respective degrees. A ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, which was declared to be unanimously in favor of Br. Burden.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 164).—At the monthly meeting of this respectable and rising Lodge, held at the Yacht Tavern Greenwich, on Wednesday, December 20, Br. Booth, the S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. elect, expressed his gratitude for the high honour conferred upon him, and sincerely hoped he might be found as efficient in the office as his predecessor—Br. Moor, to whom a vote of thanks was unanimously given by the brethren, for the able manner in which he presided over the Lodge during the past year.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE, (No. 168).—A numerous meeting of this Lodge assembled on the 4th Dec. at the Builders' Arms, Chelsea. The W.M. Br. Handover, ably passed a Br. to the degree of a F.C., and Br. Killick, P.M. afterwards explained the tracing board with his usual ability, in a most distinct and impressive manner. Some private Lodge business having been transacted the Lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a banquet liberally supplied for the occasion, and the evening was spent in truly Masonic enjoyment. Several visitors were present.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 172).—This Lodge met on Wednesday the 13th Dec., at Br. Hall's, the Royal Albert, New-cross-road, Deptford, when a gentleman was initiated into Freemasonry, and a brother raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Br. Davis was then installed W.M. for the ensuing year by Br. Crouch, P.M. Br. Bolton was appointed S.W., and Br. G. Hall, J.W. At the close of the Masonic business, the brethren sat down to a splendid banquet, and spent a very pleasant evening.

CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).—At the last monthly meeting of this Lodge, on Tuesday, December 19, the W.M., Br. Capt. Malkin, very impressively passed a brother to the second degree.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 195).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the London Tavern, on Friday, December 8, under the presidency of Br. Duff, W.M., when Br. Chas. Hill, the S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, December the 5th, under the presidency of our worthy Br. Kennedy, W.M., who brought his year of office to a most successful termination by the initiation of two gentlemen into the Order, and the passing of three brothers to the F.C. degree. On a ballot being taken, Br. Gurton was unanimously elected as W.M. for the year just commencing.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—The brethren of this now flourishing Lodge, met for the second time this season, on the 9th December, Br. Webber, W.M., presiding when one brother was passed to the second degree, and two raised to the third. Br. Brooke, who was nominated J.W. at the installation, in May, having declined to act, Br. Burton was invested with the collar of the office, and Br. Barton, Sec., appointed S.D. At the close of the Masonic business the brethren retired to refreshment, the toasts of the evening being interspersed with some excellent singing, for which the brethren were mainly indebted to Br. Genge, Br. Farquharson, who presided at the piano, and Br. Ford—certainly the best comic singer, altogether free from vulgarity,—of the day. The Lodge stands adjourned until February.

DOMATIC LODGE (No 206).—On Monday evening, 11th December, a large muster of the brethren took place at the Masonic Hall, Fetter Lane, to instal Br. Thomas A. Adams, as W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being ably performed by Br. Joseph Smith, P.M., assisted by a numerous board of P.M.'s. The new W.M. then

initiated three gentlemen into the mysteries of the order, and displayed his usual abilities in the proceeding. Among the visitors we noticed:—Br. Winton, P.G.S.W., Sussex; Br. Adlard, P.M. (7); Br. Rackstraw, P.M. (9); Br. Lee, P.M. (9); Br. Henry Potter, P.M. (11); Br. Prince, P.M. (15); Br. Whitehouse, P.M. (15) Br. Mortimer, P.P.S.G.D., Surrey; Br. T. Anslow, P.M. (165); Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M. (201); Br. Thompson, W.M. (196); Br. Heywood, J.W. (752); Br. Hurry, (33); &c.

At the conclusion of Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to an elegant repast, provided by Br. Ireland, with his accustomed care. Br. Carpenter, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said he felt considerable embarrassment in the performance of the duty he had taken, inasmuch as he found a younger Mason than himself, arriving, by industry and perseverance, to a much higher position and to a larger participation of the honours in the craft, than he himself had attained; still he hoped that the example set by the W.M., would act as an inducement to younger brethren to exert themselves in the Masonic race, as he assured them, that similar honours could be obtained by a strict adherence to a like zeal and assiduity that Br. Adams was so preëminently admired for. He proposed the W.M.'s health, with much pleasure and satisfaction, and he was sure that, under his able guidance the Lodge must continue to prosper. The W.M., in a very neat address returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and assured the brethren that nothing should be wanting on his part, to increase the prosperity of the Lodge and the comforts of the brethren. Several other toasts were then proposed, that of the visitors being responded to by Br. Rackstraw, P.M. (9); and the brethren separated shortly before 12 o'clock, highly gratified with the proceedings of the evening. We may add, that 5*l.* was voted during the evening to the Widows Fund, and 5*l.* to the Patriotic Fund, thus carrying out the excellent recommendation of the M.W.G.M., at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge.

UNIVERSAL LODGE (No. 212).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, December the 22nd, Br. Patrick, W.M., presiding. The business consisted of a raising, passing, and two initiations, the whole of which ceremonies were extremely well performed by the W.M., assisted by Br. P.M. Beale. Br. Law, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Br. P.M. Algernon Attwood, was re-elected Treasurer. A proposition being made that twenty guineas should be voted to the Patriotic Fund, it was seconded, put, and carried, without a dissentient voice. It was also resolved to vote one guinea towards a fund for supplying the inmates of the Royal Freemasons' Asylum for aged Freemasons and their widows, at Croydon, with a Christmas dinner, worthy of the craft and the season. About thirty of the brethren afterwards partook of a sumptuous banquet, and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the excellent singing of Mrs. Banks, Coggin, &c.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—The brethren of this extremely numerous Lodge met together at the White Hart Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on Monday, December the 4th, Br. A. J. Jones W.M. presiding. Three gentlemen were initiated into the order, and various brethren passed to the second, and received into the third degrees, the whole of the ceremonies being most efficiently performed. A brother from Lodge 247 (Israel), was admitted as a joining member. Br. Henry Lyons was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The Treasurer was re-elected for the forty-fifth time, and the Tyler for the thirty-sixth time. In accordance with the bye-laws, the annual election of the Committee and Trustees of the benevolent fund of the Lodge, was then proceeded with; after which, various modifications and alterations in the bye-laws relative to the fees, &c., were confirmed. The whole of the business being ended, nearly 100 of the brethren sat down to an excellent supper, and passed the evening in the utmost harmony. We would suggest that a little more attention to the Master's gavel, especially in so numerous a Lodge, would considerably add to the comfort of the brethren.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—At the annual meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday, December 6, Br. L. Crombie, W.M. elect, was most impressively installed into the chair, as W.M. for the next twelve months. The other business having been disposed of, the brethren, to the number of 25, dined

together, and the harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the singing of Br. P.M. Crow, the indefatigable secretary of the Freemasons Girls School.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The last meeting of this Lodge, for the present year, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Friday, December 15. Br. Spooner, W.M., presided, and after having initiated a gentleman into the Order, passed two brethren to the second degree. Br. Stewart, S.W., was then elected W.M. for 1855. Br. Scambler, was re-elected Treasurer, and Br. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B., Secretary. Amongst the visitors on this occasion were Br. Dr. King, P.M., 196, and Br. F. Crew P.M., 1; and, as usual, the latter worthy brother contributed, by his vocal abilities much to the pleasures of that portion of the evening devoted to refreshment.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, the 12th December when the election for W.M. for the ensuing year fell upon Br. P.M. Cooper. After the business of the Lodge, the brethren adjourned to a banquet served in Br. Rackstraw's usual liberal manner. Amongst the visitors were Brs. Newton, P.M., No. 23 and 25; J. W. Adams, No. 169; Br. Caldwell, No. 25, &c. In the course of the evening the retiring W.M.'s (Alfred Tilt) health was drunk with sincerity and enthusiasm which evinced how well his efforts for the benefit of the Lodge are appreciated by the brethren; and we trust his successor, as we have no doubt he will, may be fortunate enough to maintain for the Lodge that reputation for excellent workmanship and good fellowship which it has so long enjoyed.

St. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting, at the Freemason's Tavern, on Thursday, the 7th December, when Br. Mills, W.M., very ably initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of the craft. The brethren then retired to refreshment, and the evening was spent in perfect harmony.

LODGE OF NINE MUSES (No. 286).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, December 12, when Br. Chapman, W.M., very ably initiated a gentleman into our ancient order. This being election night a ballot was taken for W.M., for the ensuing year, and declared to have unanimously fallen on Br. Warner, S.W. There were several visitors present, including Brs. Crew, Coghlan, &c., &c.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, December 4, two gentlemen were duly initiated into Freemasonry, by P.M. John Hervey, with his accustomed ability.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—At the meeting of this Lodge, at the Horus Tavern, Kennington, on Wednesday, Dec. 27, Br. Stroud, W.M. most admirably initiated a gentleman into the Order, and raised a Br. to the third degree.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Thursday, December 17, when the brethren appeared in Masonic mourning, as a mark of respect to their late distinguished brother and member of the Lodge, P.M. Lord Dudley Stuart. In the absence of the W.M. from indisposition, Br. Lemanski, P.M., presided, and initiated two gentlemen into the Order, in addition to passing two brethren to the F.C. degree. Br. Goodison, of No. 201, was elected a joining member. At the conclusion of the business nearly forty of the brethren supped together, and before proceeding with the customary toasts, Br. Lemanski proposed the "pious memory of Br. Lord Dudley Stuart, P.M. of the Polish National Lodge." In doing so, he stated, he felt a great weight upon his heart, for not only that Lodge, but Poland had lost a dear and devoted friend. The heart of the noble lord was ever ready to respond to the cry of the distressed, and the fervency with which their departed brother had even advocated the cause of Poland, had endeared him to every friend of liberty and every true son of that unfortunate nation. He felt they had indeed cause to grieve at the untimely loss of their dear friend and brother, as it would be very long before Poland could hope to see his place worthily filled amongst the advocates of their rights. The toast was drunk in solemn silence, every brother appearing deeply impressed by the loss which the Lodge has sustained. The customary toasts followed, and Br. Massey Dawson, W.M. of No. 8, in returning thanks for the visitors (himself, Br. Tiley, S.W. 992, and Br. Carter, 23), also took occasion to bear testimony to the great worth and charit-

able feelings of their deceased Br. Lord D. Stuart. The brethren separated at an early hour.

LODGE LA TOLERANCE (No. 784).—This, the only French Lodge in London, held its last meeting for the year, on Tuesday, December 5, when Br. Boura, the W.M., initiated a gentleman into the Order, the ceremony being that in practice in France, which somewhat differs from the English, although the Lodge is held under a charter from the Grand Lodge of England. The S.W. was elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 895).—The brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, December 12, when a brother was passed to the second degree, and two others raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The brethren then went to the ballot for W.M. for the ensuing year, which was unanimous in favour of Br. Ireland, of the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane; as it was also for Br. Hay, of the Lord Duncan, Deptford, as Treasurer. At the conclusion of the business the brethren spent a pleasant evening in perfect harmony.

BEADON LODGE (No. 902).—On Friday, 22nd December, this Lodge met at Br. J. W. Adams', Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, to raise two of the brethren, and initiate a gentlemen, who resides in the neighbourhood, into the Order. This being a Lodge of emergency, there were only 15 members present, Br. Watson, W.M., officiating with his usual ability. After the Lodge, the brethren partook of a very excellent supper provided by Br. Adams, who never fails to give satisfaction. The majority of the members returned to town by train, wishing each other at parting "the compliments of the season."

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting of this board, on Wednesday, Dec. 27, there were eight petitions for consideration. Four only of the petitioners however attended, and these were relieved by grants amounting in the aggregate to 22*l*.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPTER (No. 2).—The quarterly convocation of this Chapter was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Thursday, Dec. 7, under the presidency of Comp. Henderson, M.E.Z. but the business transacted was not of sufficient interest to require special notice. The pleasures of the after part of the evening were considerably increased by the excellent singing of Comp. F. Crew.

ROYAL YORK CHAPTER OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—The members of this Chapter, held an emergency meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, Dec. 12, when a duly qualified Br. was most impressively exalted into the Royal Arch, by the M.E.Z. Comp. John Hervey, G. Standard Bearer of England.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This ancient and distinguished Chapter, met on Friday, Dec 1, at the Freemasons Tavern. After the usual business had been performed, the Companions sat down to an excellent dinner, and enjoyed a pleasant and rational evening.

MOUNT MORIAH CHAPTER (No. 9).—At the quarterly meeting of this Chapter on Thursday, Dec. 7, Comp. Roberts, M.E.Z. presiding, Comp. Benham, was elected Z., and the other officers appointed for the ensuing year.

ENOCH CHAPTER (No. 11).—This excellent Chapter met at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, Dec. 19. After the usual business, the Companions sat down to partake of a dinner provided in the usual tasteful and recherche style, for which the proprietors of this Tavern are so much distinguished.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—The Comps. of this Chapter held their monthly convocation at the George and Vulture Tavern, on Tuesday, Dec. 12, when the candidate for exaltation being unable to attend, Comp. Brightling, at the request of the Comps. present, gave the two first lectures in a manner which proved highly gratifying to those who had the pleasure to hear him. The Comps. then retired to supper, and after spending a very pleasant evening, adjourned at an early hour.

INSTRUCTION.

EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.

The Annual meeting of this excellent Lodge of Instruction for Master Masons only, held under the warrant of the Lodge of Unions, No. 318, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 30th ult.—as stated by us in No. 2 of the "*Masonic Mirror*."

Br. W. F. Beadon, P. G. W., occupied the chair as W. M., supported by nearly 200 brethren—including Br. Gooch, D. Pr. G. M., for Wiltshire; Br. Rev. J. Campbell, Pr. G. C., Do.; Br. Stephen Barton Wilson, P. G. W., for Essex; Br. Hervey, G. S. D.; Br. Le Veau, P. G. S. B.; Br. Tomkins, W. M. G. S. Lodge, &c., &c.

The Lodge having been duly opened, the second and third lectures were most ably worked in sections, Br. Stephen Barton Wilson putting the questions. The second lecture was worked by Brs. Artus; Absolon; Rixon; Hervey; and Simmonds: and the third by Brs. Palmer; Oram; and S. B. Wilson, Junr.

The Masonic business having concluded, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to supper.

At the conclusion of the repast, which was very elegantly served, the memory of Br. Peter Gilkes, was drunk in solemn silence.

The W. M. next rose to propose the Queen—a toast which Masons always received with the utmost respect and loyalty. If ever there was a time when her Majesty, whose excellent qualities had endeared her to all her subjects, was more entitled to their loyal and undivided support than another, it was when she was engaged in a great contest, from which he trusted this country would soon come out victorious—(Cheers). He gave them, the Queen and the Craft.—(Cheers).

The next toast was the health of the Earl of Zetland, W. M. G. M., of Masons. The W. M. said the noble Earl had held his distinguished position for many years, with honor both to himself and the craft—and he trusted it would be many years before they lost his valuable services—(Cheers).

The W. M. would propose the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D. G. M., who was a most liberal supporter of all their charities—and the rest of the Grand Officers. With that toast he begged to couple the name of Br. Le Veau, who richly deserved the honors bestowed upon him by the M. W. G. M.

Br. Le Veau returned thanks for the honor conferred upon the Earl of Yarborough, who he knew in every respect to be a thoroughly conscientious Mason, and the other G. officers. He felt proud at having had his name associated with the toast, and, on behalf of the G. Officers, begged to assure the brethren that no zeal or exertion would ever be wanting on their part to promote the interests of the craft, and merit their approbation—(Cheers).

The W. M. had now to propose, what he might call the toast of the evening—*it* being Prosperity to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement—(Cheers). That Lodge had now been in existence more than 30 years, having been established in 1823 as the Royal York Lodge of Instruction. Seven or eight years afterwards, application was made to the Grand Lodge, for a distinct Charter—but the late G. M. the Duke of Sussex objected to granting it, being of opinion that all Lodges of Instruction should be held under the Charter of a regular Lodge, which must be answerable for its proceedings—and they therefore came under the patronage of the Lodge in whose name they now met. The brethren were aware that the chief object of their meeting that evening, was not so much to celebrate their anniversary, as to do honor to their respected Br. John Hervey, whose name he would associate with the toast—(Cheers). He was sure that there was no one who knew that worthy Br. who did not highly esteem and respect him, and it was therefore with great pleasure he had now to perform the duty of presenting a testimonial of respect to their worthy Br., from the Emulation Lodge of Improvement—(Cheers). He thought that such a testimonial came with peculiar grace from that Lodge, inasmuch as Br. Hervey first saw the light of Masonry in the Royal York Lodge, and had now been for some years a P. M. of the Lodge of Unions.—(Cheers). Br. Hervey was not a very old Mason, having seen the light for the first time in 1844, but they all knew how assiduously he had devoted himself to all the duties required of him by the craft—and how well he deserved the honour con-

ferred upon him by the M.W.G.M. in making him a G. Officer of England—(Cheers). The Lodge of Emulation was greatly indebted to Br. Hervey for his exertions in promoting its prosperity, and he therefore had the greatest pleasure in handing to him in the name of the Lodge, a gold watch and chain, as a token of their esteem and regard—(Cheers). He trusted that when he looked upon that watch, it would act as a powerful incentive to future exertion, and that whilst he marked the fleeting hours and minutes, he would be reminded, not only of the duties he had to perform in this world, in extending knowledge and kindness to his brethren—but those duties to his God, which would ensure him everlasting happiness when it should please the Almighty to remove him from amongst them. He was sure Br. Hervey would continue to set a bright example to the younger brethren, and in presenting him with the testimonial, he asked them to join in drinking health and long life to Br. Hervey—and the continued prosperity of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement—(Cheers).

[The testimonial, consisting of a very elegant gold watch (the inscription on which we published last month), together with a very handsome cable chain, was here handed to Br. Hervey, who appeared deeply effected by the applause of the brethren.]

Br. Hervey felt he was not gifted with speech to such a degree as to enable him to return thanks in sufficiently warm terms, for the kind manner in which he had been spoken of by the W. M., and the very handsome testimonial just presented him on behalf of the members of that Lodge of Improvement. He begged them, however, to accept his sincerest thanks—thanks which emanated from the bottom of his heart, for their kindness and consideration towards him. He accepted it with the more pleasure, because he felt it to be a mark of their approbation in the way at which he had always endeavoured to fulfil his duties, and he could assure them, that whenever his eyes rested on their very elegant present, it would remind him of one of the most pressing of his duties—that of endeavouring to promote the prosperity and welfare of the Lodge and of every Br., connected with it to the utmost of his ability and power. He felt that the Lodge was indebted for its present proud position, not so much to his exertions as to those of older Masons, whom it had been his pleasure and pride to endeavour to follow and imitate—Brs. Honey, Savage, Robb, Wilson, &c. He was highly gratified at having met with the approbation of the Lodge, and though that handsome testimonial had been unsought and unexpected on his part, he could assure them he received it most gratefully—he should ever look back upon the proceedings of that evening with the greatest satisfaction—and use his best exertions to merit a continuance of their approbation and esteem.—(Cheers).

The healths of the W.M. Br. Beadon, of the officers of the evening, and other appropriate toasts having been drunk, the brethren separated, well pleased with the proceedings of the evening.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).

This excellent Lodge of Instruction, held its usual meeting on the evening of Friday, December the 8th, at the house of Br. Foulsham, the Clayton Arms Tavern, Kennington Oval, when the ceremony of Installation was very ably performed by Br. J. Thomas, in the presence of nearly thirty brethren. After the ceremony, Br. J. Thomas, presented Br. W. H. Luckins, P.M., No. 745, with a handsome silver snuff-box, as a slight testimonial to mark the respect and brotherly esteem the brethren of this Lodge of Instruction hold him in, accompanied by the following address, which was read by the Hon. Sec. (Br. P. Moss).

To Br. W. H. Luckins, P.M., No. 745.

Dear Sir and Brother,

We, the undersigned brethren, members of the Lodge of United Pilgrims Lodge of Instruction, No. 745, having so long experienced your great zeal and efficiency in Freemasonry, under whose kind care and instruction, and to whose diligence we are indebted for the valuable knowledge we possess and enjoy in the Masonic Art—feeling that to your valuable assistance alone—to your brotherly care, and constant attendance at the Lodge—your unceasing anxiety for its welfare both in and out of it—and your strict observance and fulfilment of the excellent laws and tenets of the Craft, the Lodge of Instruction owes its present existence and prosperity, are desirous to express our gratitude, by presenting you with a silver snuff box, which, although

J.D.; and Dickson, I.G. The Right Hon. Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.G.M., of Cheshire, occupied the throne on the occasion, and the ceremony was performed most admirably by Br. Lewis, P.M. and P.P.G.S.D.

The banquet was served at four o'clock, when the Right Worshipful P.G.M. presided, supported on his right by Sir Watkin W. Wynn, R.W.P.G.M. of Shropshire and North Wales, the Hon. Wellington Cotton, V.N.P.J.G.W.; Brs. Herbert Henry Wynn, the Hon. Major Rowley, the Hon. Br. Kenyon, Dr. Cumming, P.M.; S. Moss, V.W.P.P.J.G.W.; Billinge, P.G.D. of C. for West Lancashire: and on his left by Br. the Rev. J. Folliot, P.P.G.C.; Br. J.H. Leeche, of Carden, the W.M. of the Lodge, Br. Dixon, P.M. and V.W.P.G.J.D., &c., &c.

On the removal of the cloth, the R.W.P.G.M. gave, in succession, the healths of her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family, all of which were drank, with enthusiasm. The noble Lord in proposing the last-named toast observed, that he trusted yet to see the Prince of Wales a Mason, and if it should please God to spare him he hoped to see his friend on his right hand (Sir Watkin Wynn), perform the ceremony of initiation; for he could not think any one so fit to perform it as the P.G.M. of North Wales—(Loud cheers).

His lordship next gave the Navy and Army—(Three times three).

The Hon. Wellington Cotton being loudly called for responded to the toast. He need not say anything respecting the army as facts known to all spoke for that body. He felt confident that as hitherto the army would continue to merit the confidence of the country.

Then followed the healths of the M.W.G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland, and his Deputy, the Earl of Yarborough, which were drank with masonic honours.

Br. Horatio Lloyd, in eloquent terms, proposed the health of the R.W.P.G.M., which was received with the utmost enthusiasm, and drank with masonic honours.

The noble Lord, in responding, said, he became every year more attached to Masonry and should do everything in his power to promote the interests of the craft in the province over which he had the honour to preside—(Loud cheers). After alluding to the fact that since the Hon. Baronet on his right had become G.M. of North Wales, Masonry had revived to a very considerable extent in the principality; the noble Lord concluded by proposing the health of Br. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, P.G.M. of North Wales and Shropshire, which was enthusiastically received and drank with masonic honours.

Br. Sir Watkin Wynn returned thanks, expressing his determination to follow the good example set him by the noble Lord who presided over that province.

His Lordship then proposed the health of Br. J. F. Maddock, W.D.P.G.M., of Cheshire, expressing his regret that indisposition prevented his attendance that evening. The toast was drunk with all the honours and responded to by Br. Thomas F. Maddock, on behalf of his father.

His Lordship gave the health of the Earl of Ellesmere, R.W.P.G.M., of East Lancashire—(Masonic honours).

Br. W. Dixon, in a complimentary speech, proposed the health of Lady Combermere, eulogising her for promoting the interests of Masonry generally, but particularly for her support of the Ball.

His Lordship responded to the toast, and in complimentary terms proposed the health of Br. Lloyd, the newly installed W.M., to which that brother responded in eloquent terms.

Then followed the toast of the Provincial Grand Officers, which was responded to by the Rev. J. Folliot, P.P.G.C.

His Lordship next gave "The Visiting Brethren," which was responded to by Br. Moss, P.P.J.G.W., of Gloucestershire, in a most excellent and truly Masonic speech.

Br. Thomas Finchett Maddock next gave the health of the Marquis of Downshire, P.G.M., of Berkshire, to which his Lordship responded, and proposed Le-Gendre Nicholas Starkie, R.W.P.G.M., of West Lancashire, which was responded to by Br. Billinge, and, in the course of some excellent remarks, he observed that Masonry ought not to be confined to the Lodge-room. They ought always to remember that wherever they were they were still Masons—(Applause).

His Lordship next proposed "The City of Chester and its Trade," after which the noble Lord bade good night to the Brethren in his usual affectionate and friendly way.

Previous to the Lodge being closed, Br. S. Brown proposed the health of Br. Twiss, P.G., Organist, and the Vocalists; in doing which he mentioned the fact that Br. Twiss had come a long distance to afford them the benefit of his valuable services gratuitously.

The Lodge was then closed.

We ought not to omit mentioning the fact that each toast was followed by appropriate music, all the glees exciting the warmest enthusiasm, and some of them being encored. The following were the performers:—Br. Twiss, P.G.O., Br. Edwardson, of the Manchester Concerts, Brs. Sandy, Prickley, and Curzon, Vicars of Chester Cathedral, and Br. Safino, whose effective manner of singing "Solomon Log," merited high eulogy.

On the following evening a magnificent ball took place in the Royal Assembly Rooms, attended by most of the leading families in the county. The profits are to be devoted to the Patriotic Fund.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

SCIENTIFIC LODGE, CAMBRIDGE (No. 105).—The monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge was held on Monday, Dec. 11, and most numerous attended. Several young noblemen and other members of the University, and one resident in the county, were introduced and passed through several degrees; after which the Lodge proceeded to the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, when Br. A. R. Ward, whose ability and zealous exertions have been most successfully displayed during the past twelvemonths, was re-elected in a highly flattering manner. A proposition to subscribe the liberal sum of £10 10s. to the Patriotic Fund, was unanimously carried.

LODGE OF THREE GRAND PRINCIPLES, CAMBRIDGE (No. 645).—The members of this Lodge held a meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, at their Lodge-rooms, in Trumpington-street, Cambridge, for the purpose of electing a W.M. for the ensuing year, when Br. G. Massey, P.M., was unanimously elected Master, for the third time.

DERBYSHIRE.

ROYAL SUSSEX LODGE, REPTON (No. 446).—The annual festival of this Lodge was celebrated on Wednesday, Dec. 6. The Right W.D.P.G.M., C. R. Colville, Esq., M.P., held a Provincial Grand Lodge on this occasion, and from the reports of the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges, it appears that Freemasonry is steadily progressing in Derbyshire. Br. George Mason has been re-elected W.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge. Upwards of thirty brethren partook of an excellent banquet, provided by Br. W. Somers, of the Masonic Tavern, which comprised every delicacy in season. The brethren spent several hours in the interchange of those Masonic courtesies for which the craft is pre-eminent. Among the visitors were brethren from the Abbey Lodge, No. 907, Burton; the Devonshire Lodge, No. 998, Glossop; and the Tyrian Lodge, No. 315, Derby.

DURHAM.

ST. HELENS LODGE, HARTLEPOOL (No. 774).—The members of this Lodge, at their last regular meeting on the 1st Dec., voted the sum of five guineas to the Patriotic Fund. They also intend presenting a P.M.'s. Jewel, to their worthy Br. W. J. Hodgson, W.M., on his retiring from the chair, on the festival and installation of his successor, Br. H. A. Hammarborn.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, SUNDERLAND (No. 95).—At a meeting of this Lodge held on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Br. Jeffrey's Bath Hotel, the following brethren were installed officers for the ensuing year:—Brs. M. Douglass, W.M.; P. Ditchburn, P.M.; S. Jacobs, S.W.; W. H. Crooks, J.W.; G. Watson, Treasurer; T. Godferson, Secretary; R. Hodgson, I.G.; Wilson and Bailey, Deacons; Tyson and Hallard, Stewards; W. Young, Standard Bearer.

PALATINE LODGE, BISHOP WEARMOUTH (No. 114).—The annual meeting of the brethren of this Lodge, was held at the Bridge Hotel, on Thursday, Dec. 14, when Br. R. T. Wilkinson was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year; and was pleased to appoint Brs. J. M. Smith, S.W.; B. Brooks, J.W.; E. Smith, Tr.; St. Jno. Crookes, S.; R. A. Johnson, S.D.; B. Levy, J.D.; F. Rahn, I.G.; Wm. Laws, Tyler.

ST. HILDA'S LODGE, SOUTH SHIELDS (No. 292).—The brethren of this Lodge met in the Lodge-room on Monday, the 18th December, for the appointment of officers for the ensuing year, and the following brethren were appointed officers:—Br. Hen. Johnson was installed W.M.; J. Robb, P.M.; H. Hudson, S.W.; S. Simon, J.W.; R. S. Foster, S.D.; J. Hunter, J.D.; J. J. Oliver, G.G.; W. Ridey, S.S.; J. R. Walker, J.S.; and Thomas Rippon Tyler.

ESSEX.

LODGE OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP, CHELMSFORD (No. 343).—The annual festival of this Lodge was held on Thursday, at the Shire Hall, when Br. Capt. S. J. Skinner, R.A., D.P.G.M. for Essex, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year—this being the second time the same honourable office has been conferred upon the gallant captain. The ceremony was well performed by Br. Peter Matthews, P.M., No. 11. A banquet, at the White Hart Hotel, followed the above proceedings, when a goodly muster did ample justice to the catering of Br. Andrew Durrant, and spent a merry evening in a style peculiar to the Craft.

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH LODGE (No. 717).—On the evening of Thursday, Dec. 16, the members of this Lodge gave a grand banquet in their Lodge room, High-street Portsmouth, to the brethren of the Phoenix Lodge (No. 319), Portsmouth, and the Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 428), Portsca. The W.M. for the year, Mr. Thos. Batchelor, presided, supported by the W.M's of the two Lodges, with their P.M's and officers. About forty brethren sat down to a magnificent banquet, provided by Br. Crofts, of the George Hotel, High-street. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed the removal of the cloth, and several of the members of the naval and military services being present, the brethren did not think it a departure from Masonic principles, to give utterance to those sentiments of patriotic enthusiasm which the stirring incidents of the day so naturally inspire. The evening was spent in a manner that elicited the kindest feelings on the part of all present; and such interchanges of social and hospitable feeling, cannot fail to foster and cherish a regard for the principles of Masonry, which are becoming so generally appreciated in these towns.

KENT.

UNION LODGE, MARGATE (No. 149).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, it was resolved to present £10 10s. from the Lodge funds, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, an example which will be doubtless liberally followed throughout the county.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

SILURIAN LODGE, NEWPORT (No. 693).—On St. John's day, Dec. 27, the members of this Lodge assembled at the Westgate Hotel, when Br. R. G. Thomas, Architect, was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The following are the officers appointed for the ensuing year:—Brs J. Hyndman, S.W.; T. W. Nicholas, J.W.; E. Wells, Treasurer; W. Williams, Secretary; J. H. Davies, S.D.; J. C. Nicholas, J.D.; G. W. Jones, J.G.; H. J. Groves, orgt.; J. S. Sidebotham, Chaplain; W. McPee, Tyler. The Brethren afterwards dined together at the Westgate Hotel, when a number of Masonic toasts were drunk and enthusiastically responded to.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTHAMPTON CHAPTER (No. 463).—A convocation of this Chapter was held on the 30th Nov., at the Assembly Rooms, Northampton, when Comp. C. Elkington,

was installed as Z., for the second time—he having filled that office the preceding year; *Comp. G. Worley, H.* and the most noble *Comp. the Marquis of Huntley, J.* The ceremonies were most ably performed by *Comps. W. Watson, and J. Savage.* who attended from London for the purpose. The other officers of the Chapter consist of *Comp. Welchman, E., Comp. Roberts, N., and Comp. Smith, P.S.* In addition to the two *Comps.* above named, there were several visitors, including *Comps. Boughton Leigh, Machin, &c., &c.*

NORTH SHIELDS.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, NORTHUMBERLAND (No. 624).—At the regular meeting of this Lodge, at the George Hotel, on Monday, December 4th, 1854, there was a large attendance of members present to witness five initiations and three raisings, the ceremony being performed by the *W.M. Thomas Fenwick,* assisted by *P.M., H. Johnson.* This being the time for electing the Master for the ensuing year, *Br. Thomas Fenwick* was unanimously, and by acclamation re-elected to fill that office for the third time. *Br. John Walker Mayson, P.M., 624,* and *P.P.G.J.W.* (the present Mayor of Tynemouth), in a feeling and appropriate speech, moved that this Lodge subscribe £10 10s. to the Patriotic Fund, which was seconded by *Br. William Berkley, P.G.S.W.,* who took occasion to observe, that if the Lodges under the banner of the G.M. of England would all do likewise Freemasonry would stand in the glorious position of subscribing the noble sum of £10,000. It is needless to add the motion was carried unanimously. The installation of *Br. Thomas Fenwick,* as *W.M.,* took place at the Lodge-room, George Tavern, on Tuesday, the 19th inst., when the *W.M.* appointed the following brethren as officers for the ensuing year:—*John G. Tulloch, S.W.; Stephen Owen, J.W.; Charles A. Adamson, Secretary; James D. Brown, S.D.; W. C. H. Willems, J.D.; William Twizell, I.G.; Thomas Haswell, Organist; John Evans, Tyler.* The festival in celebration of the installation was held in the Assembly Rooms, George Tavern, on the following day, when a large number of brethren, including the principal officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland, viz., *Richard Medcalf, D.P.G.M.; William Berkley, P.G.S.W.; John S. Challoner, P.G.J.W.;* the Mayor of Tynemouth (*Br. Mayson, P.M.*); *Br. Alderman Bartleman; Br. Councillor Johnson; Br. H. Johnson, W.M.,* of St. Hilda's Lodge, No. 292, and *Br. J. Cook, W.M.,* St. Peter's Lodge, No. 706, sat down to a splendid dinner, served up in a superior style by *Br. Coxon,* and the evening was spent with that harmony which ever characterises the meetings of the craft.

OXFORDSHIRE.

ALFRED LODGE, OXFORD (No. 425).—The brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, Dec. 5, and unanimously elected *Br. John Thorp,* son of *Mr. Alderman John Thorp,* as *W.M.* for the ensuing year. At the same meeting *Br. Frazer* was re-elected Steward, and *Br. Thurland* was appointed Steward in the room of *Br. Townsend,* who resigned that office, which he has held for several years. The Benevolent Fund, established in connection with this Lodge, is progressing most satisfactorily, and a long list of donors and annual subscribers was read.

APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE, OXFORD (No. 460).—At a meeting of the members of this Lodge, on Thursday, Dec. 7, *Br. J. W. Malcolm,* of Christ Church, was elected *W.M.* for the ensuing year. The present *W.M., Br. W. H. H. Beach,* of Christ Church, communicated to the brethren that he was present at a meeting of the Grand Lodge, in London, on the previous evening, when the G.M. of England gave notice of his intention to move that the sum of £1000 be voted out of their funds to the Patriotic Fund, a notification which was much applauded, and appeared to give universal satisfaction.

SHROPSHIRE.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, ADMASTON SPA, WELLINGTON, SALOP (No. 875).—A Lodge was held on Friday, Dec. 1, being the third meeting of the season, *Br. Marriott, P.M.,* of No. 12, Fortitude and old Cumberland (a subscribing member of this Lodge), officiating as *W.M.,* when *Br. Ewitt* was installed Master for the ensuing year.

The business of the Lodge being completed, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Br. Pursill, and presided over by Br. Ewitt. In the course of the evening, the newly-installed W.M. paid a well-merited compliment to Br. Marriott, for his kind, able, and indefatigable exertions in bringing this Lodge to its present state of efficiency, his extreme willingness at all times to give his valuable assistance, his courteous bearing and urbanity of manners, rendering his presence whenever he could make it convenient to attend, a source of pleasure to every member of the Lodge. Br. Marriott also in feeling terms gave the health of the immediate Past Master, Br. Eyton, alluding to his punctual attendance and anxious care for the general interests of the Lodge, as also the many acts of liberality which had marked his year of office; and as a small token or tribute of respect, in which he was held by the brethren, begged his acceptance of a Past Master's Jewel, bearing an Inscription expressive of the high regard they entertained for him, and their due appreciation of his past services. After spending a most agreeable evening, the brethren adjourned at an early hour, to the first Friday in the present month.

SHREWSBURY.—The Salopian Lodge, No. 382, have contributed £10 10s. to the Patriotic Fund; and the Salopian Lodge of Charity, No. 135, £3 3s.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

CHAPTER OF PERSEVERANCE, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYNE (No. 674).—At the last meeting of this Chapter, it was proposed by P.Z. and D.P.G.M. Ward, that ten guineas should be handed over to the Patriotic Fund, which was seconded by Companion Dutton, and carried unanimously.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.—At an encampment of this Order lately held at the New Inn, Handsworth, it was proposed by Lieut.-Colonel Vernon, P.Z. and P.G.M. for the county of Stafford, that the sum of five guineas should be given to the Patriotic Fund. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—The D.P.G.M., Br. Charles Lee, has convened a Grand Lodge of the province of West Yorkshire, to be held in the Lodge-room of the Lodge of Probity No. 73, Halifax, on Wednesday next, the 3rd instant, when various subjects of importance are to be brought under consideration. On the subject of the Patriotic Fund, the P.G. Sec. thus addresses the brethren of the province. "Worthy brethren, with commendable patriotic zeal, and in the spirit of true benevolence, having signified their intention to move that certain sums of money shall be granted from the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund, in aid of the noble and philanthropic purpose contemplated by the Royal Patriotic Fund, the D.P.G.M. bids me subjoin the following extract from the 17th Provincial Grand Lodge By-law, for the information and guidance of the brethren:—

"A Provincial Grand Lodge Fund shall be established for the purposes of granting relief to brethren of this province who may have fallen into distress or difficulty, or who may have become disabled by accident, old age, or infirmities, and for granting relief to the indigent widows or children of the brethren of this province, and for other charitable purposes, exclusively of a masonic constitution and character, and in order to maintain the honor and dignity of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire."

This by-law evidently was framed specially to guard against any appropriation of the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge, otherwise than for the purposes for which they were instituted—Masonic Charities, and necessary machinery for the working of the Provincial Grand Lodge—but this does not prevent the benevolent action of private lodges in the good cause, where there are funds, and which funds are not under special restraint by the By-laws of such Lodges, and already two noble examples have been set, namely, by the Lodge of Probity, No. 73, which hath voted ten guineas, and by the Lodge of Harmony, No. 342, which hath voted twenty guineas, from the funds of their respective Lodges, to the Royal Patriotic Fund; and I believe the Lodge of Hope, No. 379, is taking steps for the same great and generous purpose; but where the funds of the Lodge will not admit of tact in such wise, it

is in the power of every Lodge to contribute by voluntary subscription among its members, according to their relative condition and inclination, and the D.P.G.M. being aware that the by-laws of some Lodges require a certain time to be given, he hereby gives dispensation to all W. Masters of Lodges throughout the province to convene Lodges of emergency for the purpose of affording every Lodge, and every brother of a Lodge, the opportunity of casting in a contribution, be the same small or large, as a Patriotic Benevolent Offering. The D.P.G.M. considers that, as the Annual Masonic Festival of St. John the Evangelist is nigh at hand, when in every Lodge throughout the land brother greets brother, and friendship and fraternity, in festive joy, come forth, it will be a fit season to place before the assembled brethren severally, the claims of the widows and the orphans of our gallant soldiers and sailors who have fallen—nobly fallen—fighting bravely for Britain's honour; and the D.P.G.M. requests that every Worshipful Master of the several Lodges in this province will come prepared to the Provincial Grand Lodge, with a statement, shewing the amount of money subscribed by the brethren of the Lodge over which he presides; and if it could be easily ascertained, a separate list of contributions otherwise made to the Royal Patriotic Fund, by the brethren—for the D.P.G.M. wishes to have it recorded in the minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge, that the brethren of West Yorkshire are ever loyal and true—faithful to their country, and ready to sympathise with, and relieve all, who are in suffering and sorrow."

LODGE OF PROBITY, HALIFAX (No. 73).—The brethren of this Lodge, with hearty Masonic acclamations, have voted £10 10s. from their Lodge funds, as a subscription to the Royal Patriotic Fund; and the brethren expressed a hope that the example set by this, the oldest Lodge in the province, would be followed by all the Masonic Lodges in the kingdom.

ALFRED LODGE, LEEDS (No. 384).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Friday, the 1st of December, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Br. Thos. Dixon. The ceremony of installation was admirably performed by Br. P.M. J. Hargreaves, Prov. G.S. of West Yorkshire. The W.M. appointed the following brethren as his officers:—Brs. W. Chadwick, S.W.; Dr. Hulme, J.W.; G. Pullan, S.D.; Dr. Knight, J.D.; C. Sharp, I.G.; W. H. Butterworth, Sec. This Lodge will celebrate the festival of St. John's at the Griffin Hotel, Leeds, on the 5th inst., when a numerous gathering of the provincial brethren is expected. The Alfred holds a Lodge of Instruction every Friday evening at seven o'clock, which is extremely well attended.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

HARMONIC LODGE, DUDLEY (No. 313).—The members of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 5th of December, under the presidency of Br. Cook, W.M. It is customary in Dudley for the W.M. of each of the Lodges (of which there are three), once during his year of office, to give a special invitation to the officers and past officers of the other Lodges to attend the Lodge and banquet, which arrangement has a very great tendency to promote that brotherly love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasons. The above being Br. Cook's invitation night, was marked by the attendance of a goodly number of visiting brethren. The bill of fare, both for labour and refreshment, was good. One brother was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M., and two gentlemen were initiated into the first degree by the R.W. Br. Mansfield, P.M., P.P.S.G.W. of Worcestershire. This being the night for the election of the W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year, Br. Bristow, S.W., was elected W.M., and Br. Light was re-elected Treasurer, he having ably discharged the duties of that office for the last three years. At the conclusion of Lodge business the brethren sat down in number about thirty to an excellent banquet, which reflected great credit on host Br. Roberts, and the evening was passed as usual in great harmony.

WORCESTER LODGE (No. 349).—The members of this Lodge have re-elected their esteemed Br. P. Nill, as W.M. for the ensuing year, and he was accordingly duly installed into the chair for the second time, at a meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7. The Lodge is highly prosperous, and under such able management there is no doubt it

will remain so. The brethren afterwards dined together at the Lodge House, the Bell Hotel, and passed a very pleasant evening.

SEMPER FIDELIS LODGE, WORCESTER (No. 772).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge held at the Crown Hotel, Worcester, on Monday, Dec. 4, Br. T. Clutterbuck, a highly respected member of the Lodge, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The brethren afterwards supped together, and in the course of the evening Br. Walter Cobby, an old and distinguished member of the Lodge, was presented with his portrait, most excellently painted, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the brethren. We hear that both Lodges have opened subscription lists in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—The W.M.P.G. for Worcestershire has addressed the following letter to the R.W.J.B. Hyde, D.P.G.M.

Right Worshipful Sir, and Brother—At the quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge the M.W. Grand Master gave notice that he should move at the next quarterly communication, in March, that the sum of 1000*l.* should be presented to the Patriotic Fund, and, in eloquent terms, called upon members of private Lodges to assist in rendering the offering worthy the position which the craft holds in society. When it is recollected that many distinguished military members of the Order are now engaged protecting, in the East, the lives and liberties of their brethren at home, I cannot believe that any of the brethren in my province, influenced, as I trust they are, by the holiest dictates of humanity and the irresistible calls of fraternal sympathy, will hesitate to adopt the advice of the noble Earl, our truly great and good Grand Master. I therefore propose that the Master of each Lodge in the province should move that a donation, to the utmost extent of prudence, should be voted from the funds of the Lodge to the Patriotic Fund, the minutes being confirmed, that the money may be sent to yourself, and when the whole of the Lodges have reciprocated to my appeal, I shall be glad to hear from you. As our own provincial meeting is not likely to take place until September next, I trust there will be no impropriety, with the concurrence of the finance committee, in adding from our P.G.L. Funds 10*l.* 10*s.* to the amount. —I remain, R. W. Sir and Brother, with fraternal regard,

H. C. VERNON, Provincial Grand Master, Worcestershire.

NORTH WALES.

ST. DAVID'S LODGE, BANGOR (No. 540).—The "brethren of the mystic tie" resident in Bangor and the neighbourhood, and subscribing to the *St. David's Lodge*, celebrated, by anticipation, on Tuesday, December 19th, the Festival of St. John, in order that their doing so on the regular Lodge night might save the unpleasantness of clashing with other celebrations of the Patron Saint, at the proper time, in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Shropshire.

The business of the Lodge, comprising two initiations, and one raising, having been transacted in the Lodge-room, the brethren adjoined for refreshment to the Castle Hotel, where Br. Bicknell had provided a most sumptuous and recherche banquet, which was enjoyed by the select number of eighteen. The W.M. of the Lodge, Br. Stevenson, V.W.P.P.J.G.D., of North Wales and Shropshire, presided, the W.M. of the Segontium Lodge, Carnarvon, Br. Jennings, V.W.P.P.G.D.C. of Oxfordshire, acting as S.W., and P.M. Br. Pritchard, V.W.P.P.S.G.D., North Wales and Shropshire, occupying the chair of the J.W., P.M. Br. Martin, V.W.P.P.J.G.W., West Lancashire, filled the important office of D.C., and Br. Hayden, of the Segontium, presided at the pianoforte. The other brethren present were, Captain Cummins, of the H.R.A.C. Malta; P.M. Aronson, P.M. Thomas, Algeo, S.D., Twigge, J.D., Hughes, I.G., Bicknell, Dew, Atkinson Williams, all of the *St. David's*, 540; and Potter, S.W., Turner, S.D., R. M. Williams, V.W.P.G. Steward, North Wales and Shropshire, all of the Segontium, 881. The evening was spent most delightfully, in the "feast of reason and the flow of soul," and in that feeling of loyalty and chastened joyousness, which are peculiarly the characteristics of the brethren, and indeed, in the experience of most of those present, was never surpassed for conviviality and harmony, and a full meed of gratification to every one.

On the cloth being drawn, and grace said, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was drunk with heartfelt enthusiasm.

The National Anthem was sung in excellent style by Brs. Hayden, Jennings, and Martin, the other brethren joining the chorus.

The next toast given was "Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the other branches of the royal family."

P.M. Martin, in the absence of three reverend brethren, residing in the neighbour-

hood, and two of whom, the present and the past Chaplains of the Lodge, had promised to attend, made a few remarks upon the character of St. John, and its reflection of the principles of the Order, and explained how it was that the Evangelist and the Baptist had both been considered the Patron Saints of Masonry. He then gave "The Blessed Memory of St. John," which was drunk in solemn silence.

The W.M., with a suitable eulogium upon their government of the Craft, proposed "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England, and the Earl of Yarborough, M.W.D.G.M."

The W.M. next gave "Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., M.P., R.W.P.G.M., North Wales and Shropshire, and Rev. E. Dymoke, R.W.D.P.G.M."

P.M. Pritchard, as a past grand officer of the province, responded, and urged that the Craft ought to feel deeply grateful that these and other distinguished personages came forward to promote the interests of the Order, and their doing so ought to be considered a clear proof that there was nothing but good to be found in Masonry. He then expressed his regret that their example was not followed by the leading gentry of our own neighbourhood, who, until they came amongst the brethren, could not, by possibility, know anything of the usefulness and excellence of the Craft.

The W.M. gave "The Dukes of Leinster and Athol, M.W.G.M. of Ireland and Scotland."

P.M. Pritchard drew attention to the bravery of Lord Combermere, and the literary and scientific accomplishments and liberal spirit of the Earl of Ellesmere, and proposed "Lord Combermere, Lord Ellesmere, and Le Gendre N. Starkie, Esq., R.W.P.G.M. Cheshire and Lancashire, and their deputies, John Finchett Maddock, Esq., the Rev. Gilmour Robinson, and Stephen Blair, Esq."

P.M. Martin, as a past grand officer of West Lancashire, replied, and spoke warmly of the liberality of Br. Starkie, who had sent 5*l.* to the Bangor New Church, though he had no connection whatever with the neighbourhood, and of the good qualities of Brs. Robinson and Maddock, with both of whom he had the honour of having been long acquainted. He then referred to the anxiety evinced by the W.M. to improve the Lodge, and to the sterling straightforward honesty and liberality, the admirable social disposition, and the practical kindness ever shown by him as a citizen of the world, and proposed "The W.M. of the St. David's Lodge, Bangor." (Cheers.)

The W.M. replied, and proposed "The Newly Initiated Brethren."

Brs. Dew and Williams expressed their satisfaction that they had been admitted into the Order.

P.M. Aronson proposed "The Segontium and the Hibernia Lodges," and "The Visiting Brethren."

Br. Jennings and Br. Pritchard returned thanks.

The W.M. gave the "Army and Navy," and "The Heroes of the Crimean War," calling upon Br. Captain Cummins, who acknowledged the toast in a very neat speech.

P.M. Pritchard referred to the kindness to the Craft of Lady Combermere and Lady Wynn, and proposed their healths, which were drunk, as were the other toasts of the evening, with Masonic honours.

The W.M. then gave the last toast, "All Poor and Distressed Masons throughout the globe, and speedy relief to them."

The Lodge then resumed labour, and shortly afterwards closed about a quarter to ten o'clock, in perfect harmony, all the brethren being delighted with the proceedings of the evening.

SOUTH WALES.

GLAMORGAN LODGE, CARDIFF (No. 43).—The brethren of this Lodge have voted ten pounds out of the funds of the Lodge, to be placed in hands of the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, towards the Patriotic Fund.

LODGE OF SAINT PETER, CARMARTHEN (No. 699).—We are very glad to have authority for reporting most favourably of the working of this Lodge, and of its increasing prosperity. We remember the reports made of the success attending

Lodge No. 51, when the same brother, who now takes such active interest here, resided in the neighbourhood of Birmingham; our readers well know his name, and the exertions he has made in every Lodge he has joined. We perceive that the brother alluded to, Br. Ribbans, still continues an absent member of Lodge 21, which Lodge he represented as Grand Steward, and was the mover of a medal testimonial to Br. Dobie, who also served the office of Grand Steward the same year, and acted as chairman at their meetings. The Bank of England Lodge also, has the name of the same brother upon the minutes of their proceedings. Our hearty best wishes attend Br. Ribbans. He is a consistent advocate of the Masonic Charities, and enjoys, as he deserves, the acquaintance of a large circle of friends.

SCOTLAND.

THE GRAND LODGE—EDINBURGH.

On St. Andrew's Day, November 30, the Grand Lodge of Scotland met in the Hall of the Royal Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, for the annual election of office bearers, when the following were unanimously chosen:—His Grace the Duke of Athol, K.T., Grand Master; J. Whyte Melville, Esq., of Strathkinnis, Depute Grand Master; Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., Substitute Grand Master; Patrick Keir, Esq., of Kindrogan, Senior Grand Warden; Lord Loughborough, Junior Grand Warden; Samuel Hay, Esq., Grand Treasurer; William Alex. Laurie, Esq., Grand Secretary; James L. Woodman, Esq., Grand Clerk; Rev. David Arnot, D.D., Grand Chaplain; J. H. Erskine Wemyss, of Wemyss, Senior Grand Deacon; James Wolfe Murray, Esq., of Cringletie, Junior Grand Deacon; David Bryce, Esq., Grand Architect; Charles Mackay, Esq., Grand Jeweller; John Deuchar, Esq., Grand Bible Bearer; Lieutenant P. Deuchar, R.N., Grand Director of Ceremonies; Br. Andrew Murray, Grand Sword Bearer; Br. Alex. Mackenzie, Grand Director of Music; Brs. Alex. Menzies and James Wotters, Grand Marshals; Donald Ross and Wm. M. Bryce, Grand Tylers. After the election, the Grand Master, accompanied by his officer bearers, and a numerous assemblage of the brethren from Lodges in Edinburgh, Leith, and the Metropolitan Province, as well as from those in Glasgow, proceeded to a sumptuous banquet provided in an adjoining hall, when the chair was taken at seven o'clock by the M.W. the Grand Master, supported on the right and left by the Baron Panmure, K.T. and P.G.M. for Forfarshire, Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., Colonel Campbell, and Colonel Robertson, 82nd Regiment. The croupiers were Patrick Keir, Esq., and the R.W.M. of Lodge No. 1, Edinburgh. Amongst those attending the Grand Master were the following:—Br. Home Drummond, Br. W. Rashleigh, the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg; the Grand Secretary, the Grand Clerk, Captain Wood, Br. Pilkington, Br. Wilkinson, Br. Edward Percy Thomson, 82nd Regiment, &c., &c. The band of the 82nd Regiment was in attendance, and performed a *recherche* selection of operatic music, which added much to the harmony, while assisting that usual flow of good and true Masonic feeling which has ever characterized the celebration of this ancient national festival by the Scotch craft.

BANFF.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE.—During the month of November, this Lodge, which is in a very flourishing condition, held no less than four meetings, under the presidency of Br. James Frazer, W.M. At those meetings five gentlemen were initiated into the order, and the whole of them have since been raised to the sublime degree of M.M.

DUNDEE.

The following were elected office-bearers by the Masonic Lodges of Dundee, on Thursday, November 30, being the Festival of St. Andrew:—

OPERATIVE LODGE (No. 47).—R.W.M.—Br. P. Stratton; S.W.—Br. J. Z. Kay; J.W.—Br. John Geekie, junr.; Treasurer—Br. James Bruce; Secretary—Br. John M'Dougall.

ANCIENT LODGE (No. 48).—R.W.M.—Br. P. Gardiner; S.W.—Br. David Dickson; J.W.—Br. John Mitchell; Treasurer—Br. James Gellatly; Secretary—Br. James Smith, junr.

ST. DAVID'S LODGE (No. 78).—R.W.M.—Br. Thomas Russel; S.W.—Br. Wm. Nicoll; J.W.—Br. J. A. Hughes; Treasurer—Br. William Moir; Secretary—Br. James Winter.

THISTLE OPERATIVE LODGE (No. 158).—R.W.M.—Br. James Skene; S.W.—Br. John Allan; J.W.—Br. Andrew Law; Treasurer—Br. James Webster; Secretary—Br. Thomas Anderson.

FORFAR AND KINCARDINE LODGE (No. 225).—R.W.M.—Br. Fr. Dick, junr.; S.W.—Br. K. W. Henderson; J.W.—Br. George Fleming; Treasurer—Br. John Pride; Secretary—Br. David Crabb.

CALEDONIAN LODGE (No. 254).—R.W.M.—Br. C. D. Chalmers; S.W.—Br. J. R. Archer; J.W.—Br. James Rattray; Treasurer—Br. James Anderson; Secretary—Br. Andrew Greig, junr.

CAMPERDOWN LODGE (No. 317).—R.W.M.—Br. J. D. Wears; S.W.—Br. F. Whitton; J.W.—Br. James Will; Treasurer—Br. Charles Scott; Secretary—Br. Joseph Fleming.

At a Meeting of the members of St. David's Lodge, it was unanimously agreed to give 5*l.* 5*s.* from the fund of the Lodge to the Patriotic Fund.

PERTH.

THE SCONE AND PERTH LODGE.—This Lodge met on Thursday, November 30, being St. Andrew's Day, for the election of office-bearers, when the following brethren were elected for the ensuing year, viz.:—Matthew Gloag, R.W.M.; Thomas Duncan, D.M.; Alexander Robertson, S.D.M.; John M'Kay, S.W.; Wm. Miller, J.W.; Robert Peters, Treasurer; James Galletly, Clerk; James Thomon, Bible-bearer; Wm. Fyfe, right-hand Key-keeper; James Fenton, left-hand Key-keeper; John Murray, G.S.; John Kennedy, A.G.S.; Robert Reid, Tyler; Alexander Paterson, Esq., Proxy Master to the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NATIONAL MASONIC BANQUET.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror?"

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Observing in the *Times* of last week, that it is the intention of the R.W. the G.M., the Earl of Zetland, to propose that a grant of 1000*l.* should be made by the Grand Lodge of England, towards the Patriotic Fund; and that the R.W. the G.M. expressed a hope that the example would be followed by all the Lodges, I beg most humbly to suggest, that if the R.W. the G.M. should be pleased to call a Lodge of Emergency, at his earliest convenience on this occasion, and propose a Masonic National Banquet, at the Freemasons Tavern, to take place about the middle of February, causing a general invitation through all his P.G.M., and appointing every W.M.P.G. Wardens, and P.G. Secretaries Stewards, in addition to his Grand Stewards.

And that it be proposed that a general subscription be raised by the P.G.Ms. calling Lodges of Emergency throughout England, and proposing a banquet on the occasion; and that the subscriptions be raised at the banquet by the W.Ms., his Wardens, and the P.G. Stewards, and passed to the Grand Lodge Fund, and called the Freemasons Subscriptions of the United Grand and Provincial Lodges of England, on behalf of the Patriotic Fund.

Such as the above, I have no doubt, would be duly responded to by every brother in every sphere of life, for the support of his brethren in arms, the widow, and orphan, by carrying out the Masonic principles for which we live.

We live for those who love us,
 For those who know us true;
 For the heaven that smiles above us,
 And awaits our spirits too;
 For the cause that lacks assistance,
 For the wrong that needs resistance,
 For the future in the distance,
 And the good that we can do.

Should you be pleased to consider this worthy to be inserted in the Masonic Mirror, for which I shall be very thankful, nothing would give me greater pleasure than in seeing those Masonic feelings of charity and brotherly love carried out, which would be an lasting honour to be remembered by the brethren.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, yours, fraternally,

Thomas Witt. Dominy. 199.

Droits of Admiralty Office, Poole, 19th Dec. 1354.

FREEMASONRY IN BANFFSHIRE.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror."

SIR AND BROTHER,—Have the goodness to send me a copy of the "Masonic Mirror" (stamped), by post, as published, commencing with the first number. I have been a Mason,—an Arch-Mason—indeed, at the head of the tree,—for upwards of 40 years, and when I was initiated Masonry in this quarter was in a most flourishing state. Since that time it has declined a good deal—the light waned; but, as I have always endeavoured to instil into the minds of my brethren, although that glorious light might suffer an occultation for a little, the cloud would pass away, and the light again burst forth with as much splendour as in times bye-gone; and I am glad to say that Masonry is again rapidly reviving, and that your "Mirror" will be of great service in advancing it,

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally, W. M.

Banff, November,

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror."

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I perceive by the "Masonic Mirror," that a testimonial is about being presented to Br. T. A. Adams, by the members of the various Lodges of Instruction to which that worthy brother belongs. This convinces me at once, that Lodges of Instruction are requisite, and must do good to young and inexperienced Masons. Why, then, should Liverpool not be able to boast of having a Lodge of Instruction? I am but a young Mason, and would like to gain instruction from my *elder brethren*. Whenever I meet with Brother Masons, from London, and they tell me that they visit Lodges of Instruction, and that they can learn more there than in open lodge, then am I sorry that I cannot, in a town like this, where there are many Lodges, and Masonry prospering, enjoy similar advantages. I am sure, if a Lodge of Instruction was opened here, that there would be many, very many, glad to join it.

I, therefore, pray you, as a friend and brother, to urge in your next "Mirror," that there should be a Lodge of Instruction established in Liverpool. It only wants commencing, and I know there would be many glad to lend a hand, and take the chair; and as your "Mirror" is read by many Masons in this district, your advising the establishment of such a Lodge, might lend some Mason, able and willing, to endeavour to establish it, and it could not fail to do good to all Masons.

Yours fraternally, A FREEMASON.

Duke-street, Liverpool,

She has laid him down in his russet gown
 And his tabor pipe put by,
 The berries red hang o'er his head
 But his eye's towards the sky ;
 And his bed with leaves and strawen sheaves
 She has made 'neath the oaken tree,
 For the hectic flush like a summer blush
 Tells the spirit soon will flee.—
 But to soothe her grief as the ebb of life
 Is departing strong with emotion rife
 He cries, while the birds still near him sing
 "Why weep? I shall return with spring."

D. M. E.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR DECEMBER.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

ON the 12th of December the parliamentary session was opened some six or seven weeks earlier than usual, by her Majesty in person. The Queen's speech stated, that parliament was called together in order that by its assistance measures might be taken for carrying on the war with vigour and effect. The exertions of the army and navy hitherto had been beyond all praise, though unexpected difficulties had been met with in the Crimea. The hearty and effective co-operation of the French troops could not fail to cement more closely the union between France and England. A treaty had been entered into with Austria, from which important advantages were anticipated. A treaty had also been concluded with the United States, by which subjects of long and difficult discussion had been happily adjusted. Although the prosecution of the war would naturally occupy the principal attention of parliament, it was hoped that other matters of interest and importance to the national welfare would not be neglected. The speech concluded by expressing her Majesty's gratification at the continued prosperity of the country, and stated that in the estimates to be presented to parliament it was hoped that ample provision would be found to have been made to meet the exigencies of the public service.

On the same evening the addresses of the two houses of parliament, in reply to the speech, were agreed to without a division.

In the House of Lords on the 14th, the duke of Newcastle brought in a bill to authorise the enlistment of foreigners into the British service, and stated that after the expression of opinion elicited on Tuesday evening, he did not anticipate any objection to the measure. A general conviction was then expressed, that the country had not a sufficient body of troops in the Crimea to carry on the war with vigour, and that there was not a sufficient reserve. In 1794 the first act was passed to effect the same object as that proposed by the present bill. In 1804 and 1806, and at other periods as occasion arose, similar measures were passed. By the act of 1794, the number of foreigners authorised to serve in the British army was limited to 5,000. The number was extended by a subsequent act to 10,000, and then to 16,000, at which it continued until the termination of the war in 1815. It was now proposed that these foreign troops should be placed in separate depôts, and that the number should not exceed 15,000. The bill was read a first and second time, and on the following evening passed through committee, on the 15th, fifty-five voting for and forty-three against the bill. Votes of thanks were also unanimously given to the commanders, officers, and men concerned in the military and naval operations in the Crimea, and a similar compliment to the forces of our ally, the Emperor of the French. On the 18th, the Foreign Enlistment Bill was read a third time and passed. On the 19th, the Militia Bill was

brought from the Commons and read a first time. On the 21st, it was read a second time and passed through committee; and on the 22nd, it was read a third time and passed.

The House of Commons commenced their labours on the 13th, and Lord Palmerston asked leave to introduce a bill to enable the Queen to accept any offers which might be made by militia regiments, or parts of regiments, to service out of the united kingdom. The militia would be invited to volunteer for garrison service in certain places in the Mediterranean, so as to set free the regiments of the line for the purposes of the war. It might become advisable to extend the invitation to serve in North America; but, in the meantime, the offer would be limited to such places as Gibraltar, Malta, and the Ionian Islands. After a short discussion leave was given, and the bill brought in and read a first time. The bill was read a second time on the 14th, passed through committee on the 18th, and read a third time on the 19th. On the 15th a vote of thanks, similar to that in the Lords, was passed by the House of Commons to the troops and fleets engaged in the East for their gallant services. On the 18th, the Foreign Enlistment Bill was brought from the House of Lords and read a first time. On the question of the second reading on the 19th, Sir Ed. Lytton moved its adjournment for six months; but after a smart discussion, the second reading was passed by a majority of 241 to 202. The bill passed through committee with some trifling amendments on the 21st, and was read a third time on the 22nd, the numbers on a division being for the bill, 173; and against it, 135.

On the 23rd, the royal assent was given to the two bills, and both houses adjourned to the 23rd of January, when, what may be called the regular session, will commence.

THE WAR.

But little need be said of the progress of the war, the weather and the want of reinforcements having prevented any operations of importance before Sebastopol since the battle of Inkermann. Large reinforcements, both from France and England, have, however, by this time reached the Crimea, and 25,000 of Omer Pasha's troops were, at the last accounts, on their road. Every exertion has been made to secure the comfort of the troops during the winter, notwithstanding there were a great variety of stores lost by the destruction of the *Prince*, and other transports, in the storm in the Black Sea, last month. The latest accounts are to the 18th, at which period the army appear to have been in good health, and gradually gaining ground and strengthening their position. The Russians had made various sorties, but they were all repulsed, with but inconsiderable loss to the allies—though, in one of the latest, the Russians are stated to have lost 700 men. A large body of "Navvies" has been sent out to Balaklava to lay down a railway for facilitating the transport of artillery and stores to the camp of the allies; and every exertion is being made for carrying on the war with the utmost vigour. A treaty has been entered into with Austria, which it is hoped will have the effect of assisting in bringing the war to a speedy termination.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

A dreadful murder of a twofold nature was perpetrated in Warren-street, Fitzroy-square, on the 8th, the victims being Mr. George Moore, a soda water manufacturer, and Mr. C. Collard, a greengrocer. It appears that a man named Bartlémy, formerly employed by Mr. Moore, called upon him that evening, with a view, it would seem, either of extorting money or robbing him. Being opposed by Mr. Moore, the villain drew a pistol and shot him, as he did also poor Collard, who attempted to take him into custody. The assassin has been committed for trial, and a subscription opened for the benefit of the family of Collard, who was in very humble circumstances.

On the 1st of December, George Farrell, late a clerk in the Bank of England, was sentenced to fifteen years transportation, for obtaining large sums of money by forging dividend warrants.

On the 3rd, Isaac Hart, a general dealer, was transported for fourteen years for having received 600*l.* worth of plate, knowing it to be stolen.

On the morning of the 3rd, the building lately occupied by the Whittington Club,

in Arundel-street, Strand, but better known as the once celebrated Crown and Anchor Tavern, was totally destroyed by fire, the servants, about twenty in number, escaping with great difficulty, with scarcely anything upon them but their bed clothes. The premises of the Illustrated News, and two or three tradesmen in the Strand, were also considerably damaged.

On the 5th, a destructive fire occurred on the premises of Mr. Heath, a builder in Bishopsgate-street, which extended itself to ten houses in Bishopsgate-street, Acorn-street, and Skinner-street, the inhabitants of which being principally of the working classes, and uninsured, have lost nearly all their household property and clothes.

On the 22nd, a trial upon criminal information took place in the Court of Queen's Bench, for libel, against "The Times" newspaper, in the case of the Queen v. Harrison, arising out of some remarks on the conduct of the Hon. Francis Scott, and other directors of the South Western Railway, which was described in the paper as dishonourable, and amounting to something like a swindle. The defendant was found guilty, but not called up for judgment.

PROVIDENT.

The Conservative Land Society held its second annual meeting at Exeter Hall on the 12th of December, Viscount Ranelagh presiding. Br. C. L. Gruneisen (an old member of the Masonic Craft) presented the report and statement of accounts, showing a balance in favour of the society for the financial year ending 29th September, 1854, of 4,909*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* The gross receipts of the second year exceeded those of the first year by 27,187*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, and the receipts of the last quarter of the second year far exceeded that of any previous quarter. The society has purchased twenty estates, which have been divided into 1,505 lots, of which 1,192 have been sold. The value of the various lots is 117,736*l.* 10*s.*, and the value of those sold 94,456*l.* 10*s.*, leaving 313 lots unsold, of the estimated value of 23,280*l.* The report was adopted; the retiring directors re-elected; and various votes of thanks passed, the noble Chairman bearing a strong testimony to the great exertions of our worthy Br. Gruneisen in carrying out the business of the society.

At a meeting of the proprietors in the Trafalgar Life Assurance Office on the 20th, the resolutions of a former meeting for transferring the business to the Unity General Assurance Association, were unanimously confirmed.

SCIENTIFIC.

The Royal Geographical Society has commenced its monthly meetings in the theatre of the United Service Institute, Scotland Yard, and a paper has been read by Dr. Rae upon the recent discoveries in the Arctic Regions, with the evidence that had been obtained of the probable fate of Sir John Franklin and his party. The paper was a repetition of the more interesting parts of the despatches and correspondence to which we alluded in our first number.

The Institute of British Architects opened their session in Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square, in November, when Mr. Nelson, honorary secretary, read to the society a paper written by Mr. P. Hay, F.R.S., of Edinburgh, on the application of the harmonic laws of nature in the orthography of architectural designs, illustrated by a Gothic elevation similar to that of the east end of Lincoln Cathedral. Mr. Hay entered into an explanation of harmonic progression founded on the multiples of the unit—the first series being 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7, and exhibited several scales of this progression in rectangular figures, the proportion of whose horizontal sides to their vertical sides depended on the angle which their diagonals made with the latter in harmonic division. He also showed that the columnar arrangement of the portico of the temple of Theseus had been formed on the harmonic principle. To it, too, he referred the early works of the fraternity of Freemasons, and gave it as his opinion that such principle of harmony in construction had been one of the secrets of that Order.

The 101st session of the Society of Arts was commenced at the society's house in the Adelphi, on the 15th November, by an inaugural address by Viscount Ebrington, president of the council for the ensuing year, in which he traced the progress of arts and

manufactures, and alluded to the intention of the French Government to provide a working man's exhibition—showing everything that can lead to the improvement of the moral and social condition of the industrious classes—in a separate department of the forthcoming exhibition to be opened in Paris in May, 1855. Mr. Grace Calvert, of Manchester, has since delivered a most interesting lecture on the products derivable from coal, in which he showed that the refuse—formerly so considered—of gasworks, would produce the most valuable dyes, perfumes, and it was believed—medicines—yet known; and that, too, at the most economical rates.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company on the 6th, a dividend of five per cent., and a bonus of one pound per share, was declared for the past year. The position of the company appeared to give general satisfaction.

A postal agreement has been entered into with France, by which letters will be conveyed between England and France at a uniform postage, payable in advance of four pence each, providing such letters do not exceed a quarter of an ounce in weight.

During the month Sir Joseph Paxton has been returned to Parliament as member for Coventry, vice Mr. Geach, deceased; Lord Ebrington for Marylebone, in the place of the late Lord Dudley Stuart; Mr. Holford, of Westonbirt, for East Gloucestershire, in the room of the late Sir M. N. Beach; Sir S. Bignold for Norwich, vice Mr. Peto, resigned in consequence of having taken a government contract; and Sir R. Ferguson, who is serving with his regiment in the Crimea, for Ayr.

During the past month, several convictions have taken place under the Smoke Consuming Act, and various penalties inflicted, but in the majority of cases, the payment of the fines was suspended, to give the parties time to comply with the law.

The following is the estimated loss at the great fire of Liverpool, and the respective amounts claimed from the under-mentioned offices:—Liverpool and London, 19,740*l.*; Royal, 15,035*l.*; Lancashire, 8270*l.*; North British, 6060*l.*; County, 5730*l.*; Guardian, 5260*l.*; Phoenix, 4105*l.*; Globe, 3950*l.*; Atlas, 3200*l.*; Sun, 2870*l.*; West of England, 2210*l.*; Scottish Union, 2150*l.*; Alliance, 2100*l.*; London, 1820*l.*; Anchor, 1200*l.*; Yorkshire, 1200*l.*; Royal Exchange, 610*l.*; Manchester, 600*l.*; Imperial, 500*l.*; Norwich Union, 200*l.*; Norwich Equitable, 200*l.*; District, 125*l.*; North of England, 108*l.*; Leeds and Yorkshire, 90*l.*; total 87,333*l.* Salvage estimated to realise from 10 to 15 per cent.

From an official return just published by the Registrar General, it appears that in the Months of April, May, and June there were 40,389 marriages in England, being an excess of 54 over the corresponding period of 1853. The births registered for July, August, and September were 154,735, being 7,154 more than in the same period of last year. The deaths in the third quarter of the present year were 113,930, being an excess of 21,607 over the corresponding period of last year. Taking the difference between the births and the deaths, it shows an increase in the population on the summer quarter of 40,796, but in the same period 91,900 sailed as emigrants from the United Kingdom.

It appears from a parliamentary return just printed, that in England and Wales there are 480 savings banks, having 1,068,994 accounts open, the total amount owing to depositors being £29,467,831 15*s.* 11*d.* In Scotland, there are forty-five savings banks, with 116,113 accounts open, the amount invested being £1,837,103 11*s.* 8*d.*, and in Ireland there are fifty-one such banks, with 34,470 depositors, whose accounts amount to £1,587,448 11*s.* 6*d.* There are two savings banks in the islands of the British Seas, having 12,953 accounts open, amounting to £335,009 18*s.* 2*d.* The total number of savings banks in the United Kingdom is 616, and the total amount which they owe to depositors, £33,227,394 4*s.* 3*d.*, distributed over 1,253,685 accounts.

The Emperor of Austria has presented through the Consul-general in London, a donation of 100 guineas to the Seaman's Hospital Society in consideration of the services rendered to Austrian Seamen.

OBITUARY.

BR. GEORGE MOORE.—It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of this worthy Brother, who was murdered at his own house on the 8th ult. Br. Moore was initiated in the Lodge of Peace and Harmony (No. 72), in November, 1834, and has ever since continued a subscribing member. He had attained all the honours the Lodge could bestow upon him, having long since passed the chair, and served the office of Grand Steward at the last Anniversary Festival. At the time of his death, Br. Moore held the important and responsible office of Treasurer of the Lodge. Br. Moore was likewise a member of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and a P.Z. of the Robert Burns Chapter (No. 25). The death of Br. Moore will long be regretted by the numerous Brethren who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

BR. CHARLES SAMUEL HEYWOOD.—This Brother died on the 29th of November, at the Castle Hotel, Merthyr Tydvil, South Wales, in the 39th year of his age. He left his residence (Sheffield) on a journey for his employers (Messrs. Hoole and Co., Minerva Works), and on his route stayed at the Castle Hotel, where he died before his friends could reach him. They found he had met from the host, as a fellow-Mason, and his amiable family, that genuine kindness appreciated by the craft. He was well respected by his employers and a large circle of acquaintance; was a kind husband, a generous friend, and a good Mason.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Henri.—*The mark degree, not being English, the Jewel cannot be worn in Grand or Provincial Grand Lodge. It is tolerated in some Private Lodges, though not recognised. There is no rule that we ever heard of, that upon an officer of the Grand Lodge visiting a private Lodge, all the brethren are to rise to honor him, though it is very common to pay him that mark of respect—and we think, properly so. The visitor could have no right, however, to claim the immediate P.M.'s chair. The G.M. or Prov.G.M. in his own Province, or his Deputy, would have a right to take the chair at a private Lodge, and also to put his Wardens into their respective chairs if he thought fit to do so—but it is a privilege very rarely if ever exercised. We should think a Br. who claimed so much respect and honor, as the visitor to the Lodge of our Correspondent appears to have done, entitled to very little of either, as he evidently does not understand the meaning, of the words "equality," "brotherly love," or "humility."*

Z*.**—*We have not been very successful in our inquiries, but we have reason to believe, that the reference is to "Justice, Uprightness, and Righteousness." The reference in Calmet's dictionary, is clearly only to the articles under the respective headings of the personages alluded to: The reviser certainly did not perform his duty in the last number. suggestions shall be attended to as soon as present arrangements will permit.*

X. Y. Z.—*The Masonic Mirror has, upon each occasion of its publication, been ready for delivery on the 1st of the month. A slight delay occurred in posting the first number, owing to our not having received the formal assent of the Post Office, to our doing so, but all copies applied for at the office were duly supplied on the 1st. We do not publish before the time we profess, being anxious to give the Masonic news up to the latest possible date. The W.M. is not entitled to wear a P.M.'s jewel until the close of his year of office.*

The Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 61), has just been resuscitated, and now meets at Br. Amery's Commercial Hotel, High-street, Bath. We hope soon to have some good reports to make of its working and progress.

An Occasional Traveller.—*The use of Br. Beckett's frames for certificates does not prevent the latter being readily carried about whilst travelling—as by an ingenious contrivance, they can be removed from the frame and replaced in a moment.*

We have great pleasure in calling the attention of the brethren to Brother Genge's Concert and Ball, which takes place on the 9th inst. No brother is more ready to oblige the members of the Order, and he well deserves their support on the only occasion in the year on which he appeals to his friends.

We hear the United Masonic Ball on the 30th, will be upon a scale of grandeur never surpassed by any similar meeting of the Order; the excellence of the list of Stewards ensures success.

We have received several communications too late for notice in our present number.

We cannot undertake to return rejected manuscripts.