

THE
MASONIC MIRROR:

MARCH, 1855.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

THE boys' and the girls' schools are about to make their annual appeal to the brethren for renewed assistance by means of their festivals, and judging from the list of stewards which each institution has obtained, there appears likely to be no falling off in the attendance with which they are usually honoured. But there is a third, and no less if not more important charity than the schools, which, though it appeals not through the means of a festival this year, is equally deserving of the support, and greatly in want of renewed exertions on the part of the brethren, to place it on a footing consistent with the importance and position of the Craft. We need not say that we allude to the Royal Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows. The Asylum at Croydon has just been completed, and the building committee have resigned their trust into the hands of the general committee. But there yet remains a debt upon the Asylum which calls aloud upon the brethren for immediate liquidation. The building committee in their report, which is dated the 19th of January, state that at the termination of their labours they have great pleasure in laying a full statement of their proceedings before the general committee (and, of course, through them, the Craft at large). The building committee commenced their labours on the 28th of October, 1847, and appointed Br. N. Fawdel as their chairman. The committee state, that from that time, until the amalgamation of the Royal Benevolent Annuity Fund, the Widows' Pension Society, and the Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons, the governors and subscribers of the latter charity were the only authorized body to whom the building committee reported. After several meetings, it was resolved by the governors and subscribers to the Asylum to confirm the union of the charities, but to leave the building committee an independent body; and in that position it remained until the 19th of January of the present year, when, having terminated their labours, they, by their own vote

and in accordance with a resolution previously adopted, dissolved themselves, and presented to the general committee of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, their closing report. Accompanying the report, the Committee place in the custody of the general committee the reports of their proceedings, the title deeds, the conveyance, and every paper connected with the freehold building and land at Croydon. The amount of money received by the committee from donations, subscriptions, legacies, and the grant from the Grand Lodge, has been 7807*l.*, of which there has been disbursed for the land, conveyance, building, &c., 7804*l.*—there yet remaining a debt due upon the property of nearly 300*l.* Nor is this all; for we understand the general committee have been called upon to make certain alterations in the drainage, and to put the Asylum in order for the reception of the inmates some small further expenditure is yet necessary; so that we believe we shall not be far wrong if we say that from 400*l.* to 500*l.* will be required to leave the Asylum in the hands of the general committee, clear of liability. This, to the Craft, is but a small sum, not 1*l.* per Lodge; and surely there will be no difficulty in immediately raising the money, even though the brethren are not invited to dine at the Freemasons' Tavern for the purpose. Indeed, we almost anticipate that so soon after our publication appears, calling attention to the small sum required, as the various Lodges can meet, the whole will be subscribed. To return to the report. The building committee state that they visited the building and grounds on the 25th of January, and can speak most favourably of the manner in which the works have been completed; and they believe the interest of the sustentation fund will be sufficient to keep them in substantial repair for many years to come. The committee then record their thanks to Br. John Whitmore and Br. Wm. Farnfield, for their valuable assistance, and express their regret—a regret in which we are sure the brethren will generally concur—that they have not the means at their disposal to offer to those brethren a more substantial mark of their approbation. The committee also record their thanks to Br. Dawkes, the architect; and to Br. Barrett, “for his indefatigable zeal and perseverance as a member of the committee, and for his liberal donations and great exertions” to increase the funds.

We may be supposed to have brought this subject too prominently under the notice of the brethren, but we have done so from a paramount sense of duty, feeling that the Craft will cheerfully embrace the opportunity of cementing the prosperity of the institution by placing it in the hands of the general committee entirely freed from debt.

We do not know that we can better close our notice than by quoting the concluding words of the report, in which “the building committee congratulate the general committee on this happy termination of a labour, commenced under peculiar circumstances—conducted for some time with considerable difficulty—but ending in perfect peace and harmony; and they trust that this key-stone of the amalgamation of the three charities may continue a lasting memorial of brotherly love and good will to all mankind.”

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 156.

On the appointment, by King Henry VI., of William Wanefleet, Bishop of Winchester, to be Grand Master, he was employed in building Eton College, near Windsor, and King's College, in Cambridge. The latter is a masterpiece of rich Gothic art, that can hardly be matched in the kingdom. The King also founded Christ's College, Cambridge, afterwards finished by Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond; and his Queen, Margaret of Anjou, founded Queen's College Cambridge. Wanefleet, also, at his own cost, built Magdalen College, Oxford, and other persons about twelve religious houses; so that Masons at this time were much employed and held in great esteem; for the before-mentioned record further says, that "the charges and laws of the Freemasons have been seen and perused by our late sovereign, Henry VI., and by the lords of his most honourable council, who have allowed them; and declared that they be right, good, and reasonable to be holden, as they have been drawn out, and collected from the records of ancient tymes," &c., &c.

During the civil wars which ensued between the houses of York and Lancaster, Masonry was much neglected, but on the election of Edward IV. to the throne, he employed the Grand Master, Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Sarum, to repair the royal palaces and castles, and to make the castle and chapel at Windsor more magnificent, for which service the bishop was made Chancellor of the Garter. At the conclusion of the wars, great men also repaired and built extensively. Seven religious houses were raised, and the Londoners rebuilt their walls and gates.

During the short reign of Edward V., who was proclaimed but not crowned, A.D. 1483, and of his uncle, Richard III., who succeeded him in the same year, we have no records of Masonry—the people of England having for a considerable time been more employed, during the wars of the roses, in beating down than in building. Many magnificent castles were destroyed, and their noble proprietors, who might have rebuilt them, were either killed or ruined. So many artificers were killed in these and other wars that they became exceedingly scarce, and the price of their labour was very high, and all the laws made to remedy this evil proved ineffectual. The taste for founding and building monasteries and churches began to decline, partly from the unhappy state of the country, and partly from the doubts raised in the minds of many persons of all ranks by Wickliffe and his followers, concerning the efficacy of those pious but expensive works. Doubtless, however, the style of sacred architecture, commonly called Gothic, continued to be gradually improved, and arrived at its greatest perfection, with regard to loftiness and boldness of design and excellence of construction, about this period.

When Richard III. was slain on Bosworth field, A.D. 1485, Henry, Earl of Richmond, was proclaimed Henry VII., and was afterwards married to Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., thereby putting an end to the unhappy civil wars by the union of the houses of York and Lancaster.

The Grand Master of the Order of St. John, at Rhodes, and afterwards at Malta, assembled at their Grand Lodge, and elected King Henry their protector, by which it appears that the King was already a Freemason.

The Royal Grand Master, A.D. 1500, chose for his wardens, or deputies, John Islip, Abbot of Westminster, and Sir Reginald Bray, Knight of the Garter. He summoned a Lodge of Masters in the palace, and walked in ample form to the east end of Westminster Abbey, where he levelled the footstone of his famous chapel, A.D. 1502. This chapel is one of the most beautiful remains of old English taste and magnificence, and well deserves to have stood alone instead of being a part of another edifice. It is styled by Leland the "wonder of the world," and certainly, the extraordinary taste and workmanship displayed in the construction of its ceiling, and other details, proves that the Gothic style of building had at that time arrived at its meridian. In the middle of the east end of the nave stands the magnificent tomb of its founder, inclosed with a screen of brass, most admirably designed and executed. This noble chapel was originally intended as a sepulchre solely for those of the royal blood, and none have yet been interred there but those of high quality, tracing their descent from some of our ancient kings.

The grand warden, Bray, was employed by the King to raise the middle chapel at Windsor, rebuild the palace of Sheen-upon-Thames, which was called Richmond, and to enlarge the old palace at Greenwich, calling it Peacentia, where he built the pretty box called the Queen's House. He also rebuilt Baynard Castle, London; founded six monasteries, and turned the old palace of Savoy into a hospital; Brazenose College, Oxford; Jesus' and St. John's Colleges, Cambridge; and about six religious houses were built by different founders in this reign.

This King died, aged only fifty-four years, and was succeeded by his son, Henry VIII., A.D. 1509. In this reign Cardinal Wolsey was chosen Grand Master. He built Hampton Court and Whitehall Palaces, and several more substantial and elegant edifices. Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, was the next patron of the Craft, under this King, for whom he built St. James's Palace; Christ's Hospital, London; and Greenwich Castle. In this reign the King and Parliament threw off the Pope's supremacy, the King was declared the head of the Church, in England, and religious houses, numbering about nine hundred and twenty-six, were suppressed. John Touchet, Lord Audley, succeeded Cromwell, and became Grand Master.

The suppression of religious houses did not permanently hurt Masonry, for architecture of a more commodious style was adopted. Those religious houses being sold at easy rates, caused those who purchased them to build many stately mansions. The Grand Master, Audley, built Magdalen College, Cambridge, and his house at Audley End.

Edward VI., a minor of nine years, succeeded A.D. 1547. The Regent, Edward, Duke of Somerset, as Grand Master, built as his palace, the house in the Strand, still called Somerset House. John Poynt, Bishop of Winchester, was afterwards patron of Freemasons till the death of the King, A.D. 1553.

During the reign of Mary we have no records of Masonry.

Elizabeth succeeded her sister Mary, A.D. 1558, and was made supreme head of the Church, in England. Now learning of all sorts revived, and the Italian style began to take the place of Gothic architecture. The Queen hearing that the Freemasons had certain secrets that could not be revealed to her, and being jealous of all secret assemblies, sent an armed force to break up their annual Grand Lodge at York, on St. John's Day, 1561, but the Grand Master, Sir Thomas Sackville, made some of the chief men sent on the errand, Freemasons, who then joining in that communicative, made an honourable report to the Queen, and she never afterwards attempted to disturb them, but esteemed them as a peculiar class of men, who cultivated peace and friendship, and the arts and sciences, without meddling in the affairs of Church and State.

Some colleges were built in this reign, and many stately mansions, particularly the famous Burleigh House. In consequence of many fine drawings and designs of the best Italian architects being brought home by travellers, the Gothic style became slighted, and no doubt it would have been entirely discontinued if the Queen had not encouraged the Craft. As it was, the system of building became mixed, and perhaps the magnificent house built by Cecil may be considered the best example of this new order. Great conveniences were introduced in all classes of buildings, owing, in some degree, to the increased cheapness of glass, which caused it to be more generally used in windows. And Harrison (a reverend associate-historian with the exact Holingshed, at the close of the sixteenth century), observes, "The ancient manor-houses of gentlemen were, for the most part, built of strong timber; howbeit," he adds, "such as be latelie builded are commonlie either of bricke, or hard stone, or both. Their roomes large and comelie, and their houses of office (that is, offices) farther distant from their lodgings," &c., &c. "So that if ever curious building did flourish in England, it is in these our yeares, wherein our workmen excel and are in manner comparable in skill to Vitruvius, Leo Baptista, and Serlio." He proceeds to mention one great alteration in point of convenience to the middling classes, which had taken place in his time, namely, "The multitude of chimnies lately erected; whereas, in their young daies, there were not above two or three, if so many, in most uplandish townes of the realme (the religious houses and manour-places of their lords alwaie excepted, and, peradventure, some great personages), but eche one made his fire against a rere dosse in the hall, where he dined and dressed his meat." Such is the honest picture of the want of convenience in the buildings of the middle classes as late as the time of Elizabeth. The alteration of the times, as well as the destruction of the old system of church government, which, with all its faults, had produced some of the most munificent patrons of architecture, as well as the most splendid architects (whose works are distinguished by the sublimity of their conception, and the geometrical accuracy of their designs), as well as the introduction of the ornamental style, which had been introduced for some considerable time past, and which is considered as debasing the true Masonic principles of construction, was no doubt the cause of the

decline of Gothic architecture, for the most simple savage in his hut or burrow, has a notion of ornament, whilst the sublime and beautiful can only be produced by the cultivated mind.

It may here be proper to signify the sentiment and practice of ancient Masons, viz., that Kings and other male sovereigns, when made Masons, were Grand Masters by prerogative, during their life; and might appoint a deputy or approve of his election, to preside over the Fraternity, with the title and honour of Grand Master. But if the sovereign was a female, or not a brother, or a minor, under a regent, not a brother, or if the male sovereign or the regent, though a brother was negligent of the Craft, then the old grand officers might assemble the Grand Lodge in due form, and elect a Grand Master to be annually rechosen while it was mutually agreeable. Accordingly, when the Grand Master, Sackville, declined, Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, was chosen in the north, and Sir Thomas Gresham in the south. The latter brother built the first Royal Exchange, at London, A.D. 1570. Next, Charles Howard, Lord of Effingham, was Grand Master in the south till 1588; then George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, till the death of the Queen, when the crowns of England and Scotland were united by the succession of James VI., King of Scotland, great grandson of James IV., who married Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII. of England. He was proclaimed at London, James I. King of England, France and Ireland, on the 25th March, 1603. And, according to ancient custom, became grand master of England, having been previously made a Mason by Claude Hamilton, Lord Paisley.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC TESTIMONIAL.—We have just heard that a few commercial travellers and other gentlemen lately assembled at Bristol, admirers of, and old past fellow-workers with, Br. Ribbans, of Carmarthen, have subscribed for the purpose of presenting him with some token of their admiration of his career in the cause of universal benevolence. The last Masonic act of our late worthy Br. Shbbing was, to ascertain what form Br. Ribbans would be best pleased to receive this token of respect; and we are now informed, and with pleasure report, that the sum collected, and now in hand, is to be given in equal portions to twelve poor Masons' widows at this inclement season.

UNITED MASONIC BALL.—This re-union came off at the Freemasons Tavern, on the evening of the 29th of January, and was attended by nearly 300 ladies and gentlemen, principally consisting of the brethren, with their wives and daughters. Br. Frampton officiated with his usual courtesy as Master of the Ceremonies, and the dancing was kept up until an advanced hour in the morning, under the inspiring influence of a most excellent band conducted by Br. T. A. Adams, in *propria persona*. The whole of the arrangements reflected the greatest credit on the Stewards, and the supper, wines, and other refreshments (of which there was an unlimited supply), evinced how well Mrs. Watson, Coggin, and Banks, understand the art of catering for the gratification of their friends and patrons. In the words of the song, it was "really a very pleasant ball."

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.

P A R T F O U R T H.

THE WEDDING.

EVERY preparation has been made at the cottage for the ceremony of the marriage of Harriet Marshall, and the morning has arrived on which that ceremony is to take place, at the romantic church, down in the valley yonder. The wedding breakfast has been arranged on the table in the dining room, and Rachel and Jacob have been so busy all the morning, that the former has almost forgotten the nature of the sacrifice which she feels her young mistress is about to make. Occasionally, however, the conviction forces itself upon her mind, and as it does so, she sighs in commiseration, and sometimes gives audible expression to her feelings. While she is arranging the table, she thinks of Mr. Augustus Raker, and as she does so, she uses far more energy in manipulating the articles of utility on the table, than is absolutely necessary. She, however, finds relief in the operation, doubtless feeling, that each time she bangs a fork down, she has in thought inflicted a severe blow upon the person of Mr. Raker.

Harriet Marshall has long prepared herself for the sacrifice she has been called upon to make, and now as she is being attired for her bridal, she is perfectly resigned. She feels that her greatest trial has passed, and she has a feeling something akin to satisfaction, as she finds that she has been supported under the trial. True, she thinks of the approaching ceremony with a kind of shudder running through her frame, yet almost instantly her fortitude comes to her rescue, and in the presence of her mother, especially, she appears quite cheerful.

As the marriage feast was not at all likely to be a merry one, but a very few guests had been invited. No bridesmaids had been appointed, as it was intended that Mrs. Wm. Chasey, should alone act in that capacity. Mr. Grainger had, however, sent over to say, that he had taken upon himself to invite one or two friends of Mrs. Marshall's, in her name, and the consequence was, that Rachel had to rearrange the table. He had also in his letter, informed Mrs. Marshall that it was his intention to bring certain marriage settlements with him, which would have to be executed in due form, before the bridal party proceeded to the church to go through the marriage ceremony.

This allusion to the settlements was not at all calculated to relieve the feelings of the little family in the cottage, and the perusal of Mr. Grainger's note, plunged them into new distress, and when Harriet was fully attired,

her mother, Mrs. Wm. Chasey, and herself, could not refrain from tears, and they allowed them freely to flow.

Several of the guests have arrived below stairs, and the little cottage is becoming bustling. Rachel and Jacob are properly attired for the occasion, and both are brimming with excitement. Mr. and Mrs. Puffler Smirke have arrived, together with several young ladies and the two cousins of Mrs. Wm. Chasey, who were memorable in the picnic on the hill. Presently there is some commotion amongst the party, for Mr. Augustus Raker is announced, with his friend Mr. Joseph Smith, who is attired in a fashion peculiarly his own, but which he would himself designate as being "stunning." He has on a black dress coat, light grey trousers, and round his neck he has a white shawl, arranged in such a manner upon his chest as to look as much like a groom as possible. This was a style which he considered as the very acmé of perfection. In fact, he had his portrait taken "in this style," for twenty-five shillings, accompanied by a speaking likeness of a bulldog, the presence of which he considered was incontrovertible evidence of gentlemanly taste.

Mr. Augustus Raker was very facetious on this the happiest morning of his life. He entered the room with the acclamation of "here we are," in the tone usually employed by a leading character in pantomimes, and giving Mr. Joseph Smith a thrust in his side, that gentleman threw himself into the attitude in which pantaloons according to stage traditions, invariably introduce themselves to an audience. This performance threw Mrs. Puffler Smirke into an ecstasy of delight, and she clapped her hands rapturously in applause, which became general as Mr. Augustus Raker introduced his friend to the company assembled as "the old un." This introduction placed the whole of the guests upon an easy footing with each other, and the young ladies at once entered upon a discussion amongst themselves, as to the relative merits of Mr. Augustus Raker and his friend.

The party were in rather noisy spirits when Mr. Grainger was announced, and his entrance into the room was the signal for general silence. Having chatted for a few minutes with Mrs. Puffler Smirke, he said, "now then if you please, ladies and gentlemen, we will proceed to business."

"Hear, hear," exclaimed Mr. Joseph Smith, in such a facetious tone that some of the young ladies shrieked with assumed merriment.

Mr. Grainger went to the door, and called to Henry Elliotson and Gabriel Hunter to bring in the papers. This mandate was immediately executed, and Henry Elliotson, who was exceedingly pale but still perfectly collected, placed a box on the table, and then, with Gabriel Hunter, retired to the further end of the room.

Mr. Grainger requested Rachel to inform Mrs. Marshall that they were ready, and Rachel left the room with the message.

Presently, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Wm. Chasey and Harriet, entered the room, and the young ladies thronged round the bride to congratulate her. We need hardly say how harshly such congratulations fell upon her ear. She acknowledged them, however, with a smile.

The bride took her seat between her mother and sister, and Mr. Grain-

ger, advancing to the table, took from the box thereon a document, which he proceeded to read. He said it was merely the draft that he should read, so that any alterations might be made in it that were necessary, and therefore he had left the names blank. The document merely recited that, certain annual sums were to be appropriated in a certain manner out of the revenues of the Bendersleigh estates, upon certain contingencies enumerated and set forth at length.

"Now, first of all," said Mr. Grainger, when he had finished reading the document, "I must call upon the Heir of Bendersleigh, as the principal party concerned in the matters set forth in this deed, to come forth and acknowledge it."

Mr. Augustus Raker, assuming a very bashful air, requested his friend, Mr. Joseph Smith, to support him to the table, which that gentleman did in burlesque seriousness.

"I think," said Mr. Grainger, "this is scarcely the moment for ribaldry of this character. Surely at a solemn time like the present, at least decorum might be observed by those chiefly interested."

Harriet Marshall buried her face in her handkerchief, and wept bitterly. "I don't see why we should make it a funeral piece of business, Grainger," cried Mr. Augustus Raker, fiercely.

"It is a serious moment indeed for you," replied Mr. Grainger.

"That's my business," said Mr. Raker.

"It is, and bitter enough it may be to you," exclaimed Mr. Grainger.

"Bitter enough I know, if you could have your way," said Mr. Raker, maliciously.

"My way then," replied Mr. Grainger, "was to smooth yours. I call this company to witness that I have done what I could to promote the happiness of the young hearts engaged in this ceremony, and in confirmation of that I now proclaim my conviction, that this marriage, as proposed, cannot but be disastrous."

Mrs. Marshall advanced quietly to the side of Mr. Grainger, laid her hand upon his arm, and looked into his face with an imploring expression, but she uttered not a word.

"What is the old fiend going to do now?" roared Mr. Augustus Raker, and shaking his fist in Mr. Grainger's face.

"To complete these documents," replied Mr. Grainger, quietly. "And first of all, I require the assistance of the Heir of Bendersleigh."

"Oh, well, go on," said Mr. Augustus Raker, sullenly, and advancing to the table.

"Do you feel yourself in a position to act for him?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"Don't be a fool," was Mr. Augustus Raker's reply.

"The question is not an irrelevant one on my part," added Mr. Grainger, quietly, "because I have been under the impression that the representative of the House of Bendersleigh would be worthy of his high position."

"What's the meaning of this stuff, Sir?" inquired Mr. Augustus Raker, in a tone which exhibited a strange mixture of fear and audacity.

"Again, I ask, do you feel yourself justified in assuming the position you would occupy here?" inquired Mr. Grainger.

"What the devil are you driving at?" cried Mr. Augustus Raker, "you ask me to come forward as the Heir of Bendersleigh, and here I am."

"Yes, here we are," echoed Mr. Joseph Smith, endeavouring thereby, no doubt, to give a turn to the aspect of affairs.

"Oh! you are the Heir of Bendersleigh—indeed! how then have I been mistaken. I have entertained the belief that the Heir of Bendersleigh was of a chivalrous and noble bearing, that he was worthy of the honour which he would inherit; but in you I find—what—something which I look upon with a feeling of contempt, a groveling spirit and a selfish heart—you the Heir of Bendersleigh, I do not believe it."

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed Mr. Augustus Raker, "I fancy you'll find it so, nevertheless, old chap."

"Then shall I be sorely disappointed—then shall I indeed feel that the sun of Bendersleigh is going down in obscurity."

"That's were the sun of Bendersleigh will send you, my boy," exclaimed Mr. Raker, "the sun of Bendersleigh shall shine on you no more, I can tell you."

"The sun of Bendersleigh shall shine out brightly yet, in spite of your declaration," cried Mr. Grainger, "but let us proceed; this conversation or rather altercation, is unseemly. Again I ask the Heir of Bendersleigh to stand forth."

"Is he not here?" roared Mr. Augustus Raker, in a tone of deep passion.

"Your name?" inquired Mr. Grainger.

"Augustus Raker," cried that gentleman.

"Such is not the name of the Heir of Bendersleigh," exclaimed Mr. Grainger.

"Not the Heir of Bendersleigh?" exclaimed all the guests, in a breath.

During this strange colloquy, Harriet Marshall had kept her face buried in her handkerchief, but when she heard the declaration which Mr. Grainger had just made, she started to her feet, and her bosom heaved with conflicting emotions.

"Are we to go on with this masquerading and fooling all day?" inquired Mr. Augustus Raker. "Curse the settlements, we'll go to the church without them."

"The settlements must be completed, and now, therefore, again I call upon the Heir of Bendersleigh to stand forth," said Mr. Grainger.

"For the last time, then, here he is," cried Mr. Augustus Raker.

"For the last time, yes," exclaimed Mr. Grainger in an exulting tone. "I told you, weak and selfish young man as you are, that you would rush upon your own degradation. I warned you in time to save you from that humiliation which is impending. I cautioned you, but your heart, devoid of all ennobling feeling, spurned my counsel and gave me insult for it. I pity you now, even as I pitied you then, but you have rushed upon your fate, and I cannot now ameliorate it. I have but to inform you and this good company, that the Heir of Bendersleigh is not Augustus Raker, but Henry Elliotson Raker. Come forward, Henry Elliotson, hitherto; henceforth, Henry Elliotson Raker."

Yes, the impulse is irresistible—why indeed should it be restrained—

Harriet Marshall, with a wild cry, flies across the room, and is locked in the arms of him, who, indeed, has possession of her heart.

Mr. Augustus Raker is dumb-founded. He is indeed humiliated. For an instant, however, his drowning hope grasps at the straw. "It's a trick," he cries, "I should like to see the proofs of such a trick as this—I can see through it, but it won't do."

"Here they are! here they are!" cries old Gabriel Hunter, rushing forward with a box in his hand. He had been almost bursting with the secret, which for five and twenty years he had calmly and religiously kept, and for once in his life he felt impulsive in the matter of legal documents. "Here they are!" he said, and took some papers from the box.

"A few words will soon explain this romance of your history," said Mr. Grainger, "Your father; Mr. Raker, left his native country five and twenty years ago for the East Indies—he left behind him a wife and infant, who were to follow him. Your father and myself were playmates, as boys. When we grew to man's estate, we together entered that fraternity whose holy motto is "Brotherly love, relief, and truth." Together, side by side we gained our several degrees, and when he left these shores, as he gave me that grip of brotherhood which characterizes our Order, I made him a solemn promise to see to the future of his infant son. I little thought how strangely that promise would be forced upon me, and how still more strangely it would be worked out. He arrived at his destination in the East, and immediately sent for his wife and child. A passage was taken for them, but on the night of their embarkation the vessel was lost in a tempest, at the very mouth of yonder river. Nearly all on board the ill-fated vessel were lost, but not all. The mother perished, but the infant was mysteriously preserved. The next day, a vessel sailed for the East, and the intelligence was conveyed to Mr. Raker of his loss. I need not detail how the infant so mysteriously preserved came to me, suffice it to say, that he, with one man was rescued by a merchantman which sailed the same day as the ill-fated ship, and the infant was conveyed to the West Indies. In the course of a twelve-month he was brought to me by the individual who had conveyed him thither, and by that time intelligence had reached me of the marriage again of Mr. Raker, in the East Indies. I took the boy under my charge, and brought him up to man's estate, and there he stands now;" and Mr. Grainger pointed to Henry Elliotson.

Old Gabriel Hunter rushed up to Henry, and seizing his hand convulsively, exclaimed, "Oh! Mr. Henry, many and many's the time that I have wished to tell you of this secret, but no, no, no; I was true to the trust that Mr. Grainger reposed in me.

"Aye, that he was" replied Mr. Grainger; and the two old men shook each other warmly by the hand; and we do believe that the eyes of both were moist.

"And now," said Mr. Grainger, "I think we may proceed to the execution of these settlements."

"One moment, Sir," said Henry Elliotson, "the events of the last few minutes are indeed enough to bewilder me. You have, since I entered this room, presented me with three precious gifts, which I knew not until this hour that I should ever possess. A bride—look up Harriet, confidently now—a brother, and a fortune."

"That you will be worthy of all and each, I know full well, for I have watched you anxiously from youth upwards, and I have looked forward to this day with great hope," said Mr. Grainger.

"My first duty is to my brother," said Henry Elliotson. "Brother," he said, advancing to Mr. Augustus Raker, "will you take my hand?"

Crest-fallen as he was—prostrated by the humiliation which he was suffering, the old spirit of the young man flamed up for an instant, and he darted a scowl of hatred at his new found brother, which pained all who beheld it; and we do believe that none present felt more pain than the "fast" friend of the fallen Augustus Raker. That gentleman interposed and said, "come, Raker, be a brick, and give him your hand as you ought to do; I would."

"Think not that we can be enemies," said Henry Elliotson, for we must still so designate him, and placing his hand upon his brother's shoulder, "though I am the Heir of Bendersleigh, to your deprivation, take my hand as a brother should, for rest assured that no act of mine shall ever make you feel the loss which you have sustained. Give me your hand."

Still Augustus Raker hesitated, but at length he extended his hand, and his brother grasped it fervently.

"Mr. Grainger told to me once," exclaimed Henry Elliotson, "that all was for the best. I doubted then, but I feel it now; let me then, now address you in the same words, my brother,—nay, let me alter the form of those words, and say, all shall be for the best. Bendersleigh Hall shall still be your home as long as you wish it to be so."

"And take my hand," said Mr. Grainger, advancing to Mr. Augustus Raker, "and let us if we can, forget the past; I told you once that you might have a bitter lesson to learn, and you have now accomplished it. Let me now give you a few more words of advice. To the past you may look for a guidance for the future, and as you scan the past, let it teach you to subdue those evil passions which indulged in, in the present, but too frequently leads to degradation and disaster in the future. There is my hand, I am glad you take it; but here is another that you must grasp, that of one whom you would have wronged, and whose life you would have embittered; take that hand—the hand of a sister now, and thank me that I have saved you the crime of wantonly blasting a young heart's hope."

Mr. Augustus Raker was subdued—his bearing was changed, and grasping the hand of Harriet Marshall, who now came forward, he rushed out of the room.

Our tale is ended. The marriage settlements were speedily executed, and they were merry marriage bells indeed, which announced the completion of the nuptials of the Heir of Bendersleigh.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(Continued from p. 107.)

CHAPTER VII.—A DISCOVERY.

There were others besides Ida St. Claire whose thoughts were directed towards Simon Le Trouve, but with very different feelings.

The ingrate and half-witted being who had been so providentially rescued from the frenzy of Simon, was one of those creatures, a specimen of which is to be found in almost every community of any extent. Without being entirely idiotic, his mental imbecility approached very near it, but, like some persons of this description, he had a large amount of vanity and conceit, which rendered his mental weakness more conspicuous, and subjected him to ridicule and insult.

The statement of Simon, when he encountered him on the mountain, was perfectly correct. Seeing the weakness of his character, some better impulse of his own nature made him chivalrously espouse his cause, and saved him from the result of his folly on many an occasion.

But gratitude was not an attribute of the semi-idiot's character, and though he availed himself of the patronage and protection of Simon, he secretly ridiculed his deformity, though he had sufficient prudence to conceal his sentiments towards his benefactor.

The rough treatment he had received exasperated him, and it being so much at variance with Simon's usual conduct towards him, he was totally at a loss to account for it. His mind, as may be perceived, was not of a very logical character, and was well adapted to receive any suggestion of his fancy, which on this occasion suggested as a solution of Simon's conduct, that the latter must be mad.

Having settled this matter to his own satisfaction, he resolved to communicate his conviction immediately to his fellow-townsmen. He would have carried out this intention, but the partial strangulation he had undergone made him more inclined to seek his way home, and endeavour to recover from its effect.

He was received by his mother, an aged and respectable widow, who was tenderly attached to him notwithstanding his imbecility, for he was her only child. To her he communicated a rather fanciful account of what had occurred. According to his statement, he had encountered Simon in the mountains, who, without the slightest provocation, sprang upon him like a wild beast, and, his intention being to murder him, would have strangled him on the spot, but for the courage and strength with which he resisted his attack. He stated, that in self-defence he was compelled to turn aggressor, and would have inflicted such chastisement on Simon as would have effectually prevented his renewing his murderous design, if he had not been prevented by the sudden appearance of Ida St. Claire, which made him release him from his grasp. He added, that Simon addressed him in a strain, subsequently, that clearly proved he was insane.

The narrative of André Buffon, for such was the name of this worthy, was soon circulated through the town; but with such exaggerations and alterations, as the imagination of those who related it suggested, that André would have been at a loss to recognise his own story amid the distortions and novelties which it had undergone.

Some stated, that an encounter had taken place between the Maniac of the Mount and Simon, and that André, happening to pass at the time, interposed, and was nearly murdered by the latter. Another version was, that Simon, who had become suddenly mad, attempted the life of Ida St. Claire, who was providentially rescued by André, whose life had nearly fallen a sacrifice to the insane fury of Simon. Again, it was asserted, that Simon met Alfred Beaufriere, and that a quarrel ensued between them which rose to blows; and being defeated, that Simon had flung himself over a precipice, thus terminating his existence. This latter statement relative to the suicide of Simon received something like a confirmation, as he had not been seen for some days, and the vulgar mind, with its love for the marvellous and horrible, was ready to adopt anything as truth that pandered to its morbid appetite, without subjecting it to any severe scrutiny.

The whole story was as fine a specimen of that feeling common to humanity, which is so admirably illustrated in the fable of the "Three Black Crows," as could well be furnished.

For the moment, André was exalted into the character of a hero; and when he was sufficiently recovered to make his appearance in the town, he found himself an object of general interest. Those who had never met him without a jibe or mocking, now accosted him in the most friendly manner, expressing sympathy for his suffering and admiration for his courage, beseeching him at the same time to give them a full account of all that had taken place.

Some related what they had heard, and though he was rather startled at some of the mutations which his narrative had undergone, still he was so pleased with what he was told, that he did not contradict directly the absurd statements. He was proud to find that in all the versions he was the hero, and he offered up a fervent aspiration that the statement relative to Simon having committed suicide, might be verified, on the strength of which he added a supplemental and detailed account, in which his own valour shone conspicuous.

Then there were various acts of eccentricity or actual indications of insanity in the manner of Simon, which were cited by some of his townsmen, all tending to prove that he was deranged. Indeed, several of these were derived from the fancy of the speakers, and invented for the immediate occasion, but they had their weight with an auditory who wished them true; and two facts were established in their minds, namely, that Simon Le Trouve was mad, and that under the influence of his mental aberration he had attempted to commit murder, if not suicide.

Some who were not quite so sanguine in temperament or so ready to jump at a conclusion, suggested that it would be as well to institute some inquiries at the residence of Simon. This was readily adopted, and

it was proposed that André should lead the party. It was strange that one who, according to his own statement, had exhibited such recent valour, should decline the proposed honour, and that so much persuasion was required to induce him to alter his determination. Indeed, it was with considerable reluctance that he could be induced to form one of the party, for, as the reader can understand, he had no desire to be confronted with Simon, who, if sane, could at once disprove his vain-glorious narrative; or who, if deranged, might single him out as an object on which to vent his fury. However, the party being numerically strong, he consented to join them, though so far from taking a prominent part he kept as much in the rear as possible, and a close observer might have detected some hesitation and timidity in his manner as he approached the dwelling of Simon, which was situated in a lonely and secluded suburb of the town.

As the party proceeded, their number was increased till it amounted to about fifty persons of both sexes. When they reached the door, a consultation was held as to the *modus operandi*. The door was a jar, and it was suggested that one of the foremost should enter and make some inquiries of the domestic of Simon, an aged female, the only servant he kept, and who was as morose in temper as her master.

Here, again, with singular modesty, André declined the offer of leading the party, and slunk back to the very extremity of the crowd. But the honour of entering first was thrust on the two foremost of the party, for the pressure from behind precipitated them through the doorway, and with such violence, that they measured their length in the passage. Those who were immediately behind were propelled with a similar momentum, and with the same result, only that they had the advantage of falling on their prostrate companions. On, the party still pressed, and it is hard to state what the result would have been had not a loud shriek burst from one of the party in the passage, which caused the remainder to retreat hastily.

It happened that one of these who had fallen, was rather puny in person, and had to sustain the weight of a fat and unwieldy individual, so that apprehending suffocation he began to roar lustily. This incident had the effect of causing a backward movement, and some of the more timid were about to take to their heels, supposing that it was Simon who was infuriated by the intrusion and was venting his frenzy on the foremost of their party. However, those in the passage succeeded in recovering their equilibrium and proceeded with their search. Having cautiously knocked at the door of the apartments on the ground floor and receiving no answer, they returned and reported progress. It was then agreed that about a dozen of them should enter the house together, and those who were the most apprehensive, considering that the tenement was deserted and therefore that they would incur no risk, volunteered their services.

The party thus reinforced, ascended the staircase, but when they reached the apartment which it was known that Simon occupied, they made a dead pause. Some peeped through the keyhole, but derived no information from their scrutiny, and none seemed desirous of being the first to enter.

In the meantime there had been a new comer, Alfred Beaufre. He

happened to be on his way to Simon's, for the purpose of asking his forgiveness for having caused him any pain by his thoughtless conduct in entering the lists with him. Great was his surprise when he found the crowd that was assembled, and he heard with sincere grief, the exaggerated narrative that was poured into his ears. He was a member of the Masonic body, and he felt that he had allowed his vanity to betray him into an act at variance with the principles of his Craft and with his own feelings of brotherly love, by which the mystic Order to which he belonged had banded themselves together to cement and extend. He would have made almost any sacrifice to repair the pain he had inflicted, and he resolved that, if ever the opportunity occurred he would atone to his early friend and associate.

He pressed through the crowd until he reached the door where the party were assembled.

"Have you knocked?" he inquired.

"No," replied one of the party, "we are uncertain how to act."

"Common humanity should have instructed you;" he said. "A man whom you believe is insane is left in a house by himself, and yet you hesitate in ascertaining his situation. I see some of you here are Freemasons; is such conduct towards a townsman according to the fraternal principles you possess? How do you know, but at this very moment he may be meditating or even committing suicide? Stand back."

The party readily complied with this order, and retreated down stairs, leaving Alfred to encounter alone the danger he might incur from the violence of Simon.

Alfred knocked, but receiving no answer, he turned the handle of the door and entered the room. It was empty, while several pieces of cord were strewn about, and there were other indications of things being packed up there recently. Several rude and uncouth images stood in recesses around the room—they were representations of those objects of worship found amongst the nations who have deified deformity. They were the lares and penates of Simon's abode, with the contemplation of which he nourished his morbid feelings.

CHAPTER VIII.—SIMON'S DEPARTURE.

WE trust that we have succeeded in interesting our readers sufficiently in the fate of Simon Le Trouve to induce them to follow his fortunes without weariness or disgust. It would have been easy to have selected for the hero of this narrative some character more agreeable to the taste of readers of fiction generally, and to have arrayed him in personal and mental attributes that would inspire love and admiration. But we question much, whether the object we propose in developing the growth of brotherly love, and the humanising influence it can exercise over all brought within its sphere, may not be more clearly demonstrated by showing its operation upon one who stands out in bold relief from the mass of mankind, but still claims affinity to the human family by feelings common to all, though affected by individual circumstances. Some may

shrink from physical deformity, but the anatomist contemplates it with interest, because its very irregularity may enable him to arrive at more correct conceptions of what is just and beautiful in human physiology. Viewed critically, in even this point, the moral character of our hero may furnish some study for those who are desirous of investigating mental phenomena.

Simon had received Ida's letter, and its contents added another pang to his feelings of torture. He was also puzzled how to regard it. At first he felt the force of the argument for renouncing him, and he was tempted to believe that Ida did really love him, for her avowal was expressed in terms that carried conviction. There was quite sufficient in the exhibition of his ungovernable frenzy to make the gentle and Christian girl recoil from him with horror. And then came the remembrance of the instances of interest in his fate, and the desire to soften his nature which Ida had given, and which from what he thought of her character he could not bring himself to believe were simulated. And further, he began to consider that Ida's conduct was dictated by principle, for he was well aware that she possessed, notwithstanding her gentleness, what is called character. This bore out her statement that she loved him, but it was with a hope that she had succeeded, or would eventually succeed, in working out his moral reformation. There was consolation in the thought that he possessed her affection, though he had forfeited her esteem.

However, this source of comfort was quickly dried up, for he remembered the conversation of Mrs. St. Claire, and his original distrust revived: Ida's youth, her beauty and feminine qualities might perhaps have secured for her the affections of her handsome kinsman, Alfred Beaufrère, who was his equal in wealth. His feelings were too deeply concerned to enable him to reason clearly, and the sense of his deformity intruded on his mind and confirmed his doubt as to the sincerity of Ida.

Acting upon his conviction he resolved to give her one final proof of his disinterested attachment. Accordingly, he enclosed to her a deed conveying to her one half of his fortune, which he described as the dross for which she had valued him, and expressing a hope that it might be instrumental to her happiness. He made no allusion to the past, the future, or to himself, and there was eloquence in his silence. He could not suffer her to depart without seeing her once again, and being aware of the time she was to leave, he lingered from midnight till morning on the hill, as we have already stated.

Before he descended from the eminence he cast a look around the neighbourhood where he had dwelt from childhood till that moment. Every object was familiar and teeming with beauty; but it might as well have been some strange and unbroken scene of sterility, for his heart was a sepulchre, and could no longer commune with in what was fresh and reviving in the panorama on which his eyes rested vacantly. What was it that had lent beauty to landscape, which had rendered the revolution of the seasons, and day and night, the budding and decay of floral life, objects of interest or sources of sensibility? It was the presence of Ida. It was her looks, her voice, the belief that the heart by his side was throbbing.

bing with affection for him, that lit up the scenery and gave a voice to creation.

The mountain in the distance from which he had been accustomed to gaze with Ida, on the country around, had once been consecrated in his eyes—she had poetised it. But it was now a mere material elevation. He turned from it as the Parsee might have done from the temple where the sacred fire was extinguished. He departed from the neighbourhood, bearing in his mind the conviction that the only object which charmed his existence was an illusion, and that in all creation there was not an eye that would brighten at his approach or shed a tear on his tomb were he consigned to it on the morrow.

Simon proceeded for some distance without encountering any person with whom he was acquainted, until he reached a point where the road diverged, and there he met Alfred Beaufrère. He would have passed him without recognition had not the latter accosted him in friendly terms, which he acknowledged only by a bitter and contemptuous smile.

“Simon,” said Alfred, “we must not part thus. I have thoughtlessly wounded your feelings, and I sought your abode to ask your forgiveness. Will you say you forgive me?”

“‘Forgive!’ I, the rude, deformed, defeated and reviled, forgive the handsome, gifted and successful Alfred Beaufrère for having stepped between me and the miserable bauble I sought?—by heaven, except that you know my spirit too well to chafe me recklessly, I should deem this some mockery.”

“As I hope for that heaven, I mean what I say. Listen to me patiently, Simon, we have once been children together—”

“And there was no other point of resemblance between us. We were children in years, not in circumstances; for what was my childhood? a waste as sterile as my manhood. The authors of my being disowned me; they gave me material dross instead of affection, and left their misshapen offspring at his birth to the charity of strangers. Yes, *we* were once children, but what was *my* childhood? I was a child in years alone; no genial attribute of childhood surrounded me. I had a childhood without love, without a parental eye to gaze on me, without a maternal caress to warm me. If there be such a thing as human love, it was not shewn to me. All shrunk from the repulsive infant; his tears or smiles were alike unheeded, and awoke no sympathy. The childish prattle that rose to my lips died in utterance, for it gladdened no ear and received no encouragement. And when I emerged from the nursery, and felt growing life stirring in every thew and sinew, it was only to encounter mockery and derision from the associates of my years. I never was a child.”

“I am sorry that I should have said anything to excite disagreeable feelings, Simon, but do you not exaggerate circumstances? If nature has not been bountiful to you, all are not so ungenerous as to turn away from you on that account. Have I done so?”

“You talk to me of childhood,” said Simon, not heeding Alfred’s observation, “and I cannot understand you. I can imagine *your* childhood, for you were formed to be an object, a sensible object of affection. You

grew, your faculties unfolded, and eyes of love hailed your growth, and watched with rapture your dawning and ripening intelligence. I grew, every fibre of my frame was stringing, and the spirit of enquiry came forth, elicited by expanding intelligence; but what eye marked my physical or mental development. There were none to praise, not even to censure; for though thoughts and feelings, and fancies, warm and pure and varied, grew out of my heart and brain, they withered in the bleak atmosphere of neglect; for who could regard this rude tenement that contained them? Go; you have called forth the past from grateful oblivion, to embitter the present and render hopeless the future."

"If I have done so, heaven is my witness, Simon, that it was unintentional. I feel for you, for all creation, only genuine sentiments of brotherly love. It is only recently that I have joined the Masonic body, and my natural feelings have become more intensified by my union with that fraternity. Would that you were one of us! The vulgar mind and superstition have thrown an absurd aspersion on us, and yet what is our sole object? To promote universal brotherhood to meet with the cordial grasp of friendship our fellow men who have enrolled themselves amongst us, without reference to rank, country, or creed; to rise superior to social, local, or religious distinctions; and to hail as a brother every man who treads the earth untainted with crime. Would that you were one of us, Simon. I repeat, you would find amongst us a solace for the wounds your feelings might sustain in your intercourse with the cold, the malevolent, or thoughtless."

"And yet," said Simon, with a sneer, "with such professions, and though you are a Freemason, you could interpose between me and a paltry toy I sought, whose possession could yield you little gratification."

"I grant, that in so doing," said Alfred, "I acted according to the impulses of my vanity, and you must make some allowance for the frailty of human nature, which will sometimes tempt us to stray from the path of principle."

"Human nature, whose very development is to make the strong oppress the weak. Can your boasted Order loosen the gripe of the strong from the throat of the weak? You may form yourselves into societies, clothe yourselves with formalities, and veil yourselves in mysteries, but you cannot change human nature. The man who can trample down his fellow man, will do so when he stands in his way, in the face of all the Freemasonry in the world. Physical strength will beat down physical weakness, mental power will prostrate mental imbecility, and beauty crush deformity. The beast of the desert, the brute creation generally, are a correct type of man in his deeds, only the one acts from his physical impulses, the other from the promptings of a depraved heart and reason, the most relentless of the two."

"I grant that there is much of truth in what you say. The imperfection of humanity too often tempts the human being from the path of duty. He infringes the impulses of his better nature, and the Divine Archtype which is impressed upon his spirit, which I maintain asserts its supremacy though warped and disfigured by the circumstances of his being. But,

I ask you, notwithstanding your misanthropic tendencies, if you have not frequently found some kindly feeling for your fellow creatures struggling with dark and selfish passions? Have you not felt a desire to travel out of your own personal existence, and to render a service to your fellow creatures? Have you not felt there a want in your being, a thing indispensable to your complete happiness, a craving, a sound that wanted an echo from some other human heart? Religion itself fails in eradicating the evil propensities of our nature, but it holds forth bright exemplars, which we can scarcely contemplate without desiring to imitate, and that desire, and the practise which it suggests, bring us nearer to the standard of perfection which it has reared. We cannot carry out in their entirety what a duty descended from heaven ought to shew us. All may not be able to take to their bosom the penitent thief: and human purity, while it pities, may shrink from a repentant Magdalen. But is there no benefit to be derived from the contemplation of those exalted images of the divine light, irradiating the darkness of our moral atmosphere, and defining clearly the objects of perception, and the proper motives of action? We can imitate what has been shown, and, by doing so, we approach nearer to the precepts and practise of the Divine Original. Then the order which you deride, though a mere human institution, is an embodiment of the principle of love, which it would disseminate through society. It has had to contend with those various impediments which have obstructed the noblest and most permanent institutions. It has been vilified, but those who are initiated well know that its object is to gather all within a cæstus of brotherhood."

How far Alfred, whose enthusiasm and rhetorical powers were aroused, would have carried him, or what effect they would have produced on his auditor, we cannot say, for here the discussion was interrupted by the appearance of a man who rushed up the road towards them, and, pale and panting, flung himself at their feet, beseeching their protection.

It was André Buffon, who, in a hurried narrative, stated that he had been drawn in the conscription which had commenced in the neighbourhood. He suppressed, however, the fact, that his imbecility would have been the means of his escaping, had it not been that his version of his encounter with Simon had reached the ears of one of the functionaries to whom the conscription in the town was intrusted, and impressed him so favourably respecting André's valour, that neither his supplications nor those of his mother were listened to, and he was ordered to prepare himself for immediate service.

Alfred promised to do what he could towards procuring a substitute. Simon regarded him with a look of ineffable disgust, and waving his hand haughtily to Alfred, departed.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS.

We have great pleasure in being enabled to announce, that the M.W.G.M. has been pleased to appoint Robt. John Bagshaw, Esq., of Dovercourt, Harwich, to be Prov. G.M. for Essex, vice Br. Rowland Alston, resigned. The W.M. has also been pleased to appoint John Atkins Bowyer, Esq., of Steeple Ashton, to be Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire, vice Br. C. Ridley, deceased.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

We beg to remind the brethren that the annual festival of this charity will take place on the 14th inst., when we are informed a very numerous party is expected to attend. The musical arrangements have been entrusted to Br. Lawler, and are more than usually attractive. Br. Lawler will be assisted by Miss Birch, Miss Poole, Miss Clara Henderson, and Brs. Allen, and Donald King. Br. T. Jolly, jun., will preside at the piano.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 31st January, Br. G.W. Potter in the chair, £63 were disbursed in affording relief to seven petitioners.

LONDON LODGES.

GRAND STEWARDS LODGE.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, February 21st, when Br. Tomkins, the immediate P.M., installed Br. Blake into the chair, as his successor. The new W.M. was pleased to invest his officers, as follows:—Br. Burgess, S.W.; Br. Johnson, J.W.; Br. Stohwasser, S.D.; Br. Dawson, J.D.; Br. Hewlett, I.G.; Br. Giraud, Treasurer.

GRAND MASTER'S LODGE (No. 1).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 19th, the business consisted of the passing of a brother to the second degree, the ceremony being most ably performed by the W.M., Br. G. W. K. Potter. Amongst the visitors were Br. R. S. Williams, P.M., No. 11; Br. C. Lenny, P.M., No. 27; and Br. Donald Nicoll, of No. 109. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the musical talents of Br. Jolly, and Br. P.M. Francis Crew, the able and indefatigable Secretary of the Lodge.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 14th February, when the W.M. elect, Br. Low, was most ably installed into the chair by P.M. Br. Grant, assisted by Br. Goldsworthy, and a duly constituted board of installed Masters. The officers having been appointed and other business transacted, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

ST. GEORGE AND CORNER STONE LODGE (No. 5).—This Lodge, which, after a period of some depression, is now progressing most favourably, and rapidly assuming its former high position in the Order, held its annual meeting, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 12th, when Br. Head was re-installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. passed one, and raised four duly qualified brethren to their respective degrees in a very impressive manner. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, to which nearly 30 sat down, the W.M. presiding with great good taste and *bonhomie*. There were numerous visitors present, amongst whom we observed Brs. Keightley, P.G.D.; Kingsbury, P.G.D.; Wm. Farnfield, P.M., 318; Taylor, P.M., 21; Marston, P.M., 1; Clifton, Wood, &c. During the evening, the speeches were interspersed with some excellent singing by Brs. T. Young, Leffler, and Jolly.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—The brethren of this eminent Lodge held their meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 19th. The W.M., Br. F. D. Massey Dawson, in a most efficient and impressive manner raised a

brother to the third degree, after which Br. P.M. Bisgood ably installed the W.M. into the chair, for the second year, when the W.M. re-appointed his officers. The brethren, at the close of business, proceeded to partake of an elegant dinner. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the W.M., in proposing the healths of the Grand Officers, congratulated the Lodge in having so distinguished a representative of that excellent body amongst them as Br. Purton Cooper, P.G.M., of Kent. In returning thanks, Br. Cooper stated that he had long been a member of the British Lodge, and whatever honours he had attained in Masonry must be attributed to that Lodge; and he could assure the brethren that he never felt greater pleasure than in being present at their meetings.—The W.M. then proposed “The Provincial Lodges, more particularly that of Kent,” which was so much distinguished for its charities and other excellent Masonic qualities, and coupled with it the health of Br. Bisgood, D.G.M. for that province.—Br. Bisgood, in reply, expressed his surprise at being placed in such a position when so eminent and esteemed a brother as the P.G.M. (Br. Cooper) was present, who was so much better qualified than himself to explain how Masonry in that province had attained so high a degree of usefulness than he could possibly be.—The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors—Brs. Adlard, P.M., 7; Warwick, W.M., 30; Smith, 30; and Powell, 109. In doing so, he eloquently alluded to the benefit derived by Masonry from the visits of the members of other Lodges, tending, as it did, to cement the true fellowship which should always exist amongst Masons.—Br. Stohwasser, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said that it afforded him peculiar pleasure to do so, inasmuch that the Lodge had done honour to the Brother and credit to itself in re-electing him W.M. for the ensuing year. As a memorial of the estimation which the brethren had of his great talent, he had, on their behalf, to invest him with a handsome Past Master’s jewel, inscribed with the thanks of the Lodge for his eminent services during the year 1854. After a suitable and feeling reply, the W.M. proposed the health of the Past Masters, which was responded to by Br. Gillman and several other Past Masters.—The W.M. next proposed the health of his officers, and thanked them for their services during the past year.—The S.W., in reply, said, he felt a greater difficulty in returning thanks than he had before experienced, as on previous occasions any little error might be attributed to inexperience, which could not now be pleaded.—Br. Pigot, J.W., having been unanimously elected Grand Steward for the ensuing year, stated that it should be his study to discharge the duties of the office to the best of his ability, and add to the comforts of all those who put themselves under his banner; and, at the same time, as he was about to serve the office of Steward to the festival of the Boys’ School,—an institution whose merits were such that it required no advocacy,—he should be glad to see as many members of the Lodge present as possible.—Br. Bisgood stated that it had been his intention to stand as Steward for the festival of the Girl’s School, but had been only too happy to give way for a younger and most rising Brother, viz., Br. Baxter, J.D.—The Lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on Tuesday, January 6, Br. Burton, W.M., presiding, two brethren were raised to the third degree in a very efficient manner. At the conclusion of business the brethren adjourned, and the proceedings of the latter part of the evening were enlivened by the excellent comic singing of Br. Benlar.

ENGER LODGE (No. 11).—This numerous and excellent Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons’ Tavern, on Wednesday, Feb. 14th. Br. Spooner, W.M., assisted by his wardens, Brs. Bincks and Masterman, and the rest of his officers, initiated five gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry, in a manner hardly to be equalled by a Master so young in chair. On the motion of Br. P.M. Young, seconded by Br. Isaac Bind, it was unanimously resolved that a P.M. jewel of the value of £5 5s. should be presented to the Immediate Past Master, Frederic Ledger, for the great interest he had always taken in the welfare of the Lodge, and for the zeal and urbanity displayed by him during his mastership. The business having concluded, the brethren adjourned to dinner. Subsequent to the usual loyal toasts the

W.M. in proposing the health of the Grand Officers, congratulated the Lodge on the presence of Br. England, whom he knew from long acquaintance to be not only a good Mason but a good man, fully bearing out the qualities attached to the name of Old England. Br. England, P.G.W. for Surrey, in reply, expressed the pleasure he always felt in visiting the Enoch Lodge, which he trusted he should often have the opportunity of enjoying. In proposing the health of the newly initiated brethren, the W.M. expressed the very great pleasure he felt in introducing into Masonry two of his oldest and most valued friends, father and son, as the only drawback was now removed which had in many instances prevented him from enjoying their society. With the other initiated brethren he had not the pleasure of a previous acquaintance, but from the manner in which they had gone through the ceremony, they could not fail of being cemented by that brotherly feeling which stamped the true character of Masonry. Br. Young, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., spoke in the highest terms of the manner in which he had discharged his duties in going through the five initiations, and expressed himself perfectly assured that if there had been any other ceremonies they would have been performed in an equal style of excellence. He also congratulated the brethren in having a Master so well calculated to advance the interests of the Lodge. The W.M., after returning thanks in a most suitable speech, proposed the health of the visitors, Brs. England, P.M., 57; Hewlett, P.M., 23; J. Adams, P.M., 23; Day, 218; Playford, 255; and Br. Crew, the much esteemed Secretary of the Girl's School; and expressed on the part of the brethren of the Lodge, the great pleasure they always felt in being honored by the presence of such distinguished visitors. In proposing the health of the Past Masters, the W.M. expressed his thanks for their readiness at all times to render their valuable advice and assistance to the Lodge when called upon, but more particularly for their kindness to himself, in rendering him instruction and support in whatever office he had had the honor of being placed. In calling upon the brethren to drink the health of the Officers, the W.M. thanked them for the able manner they always had discharged their duties, and more particularly for the able support he had received on the present occasion. Br. Bincks, S.W., and Br. German, returned thanks. The pleasure of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Br. Day, Br. Crew, and several other brethren.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE AND OLD CUMBERLAND (No. 12).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 12, under the presidency of Br. Louis Meunier, W.M., when a candidate was initiated into the mysteries of the Order, and two brethren passed and one raised to their respective degrees. The brethren afterwards dined together, and the enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the exertions of Br. Donald King, J.W., Br. A. Braham, and Br. Binge.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, February 15th, when the W.M. (Br. Humphrey) passed a brother to the second degree, and initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Masonry. Br. J.W. Adams was elected to serve the office of Grand Steward for the year 1855-6. The W.M. stated, that as he had the honour of serving as Steward at the festival of the Boys' School, he should feel obliged by the support of as many brethren as could make it convenient to attend on that occasion. Before the close of the Lodge, a tribute of respect was deservedly paid to the memory of Br. Edward Charker, P.M., whose recent death is greatly lamented by his brethren and friends.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 5th. Br. Goring ably presided, in the absence of the W.M., from indisposition. Two brethren (Br. Powell and Dougal) were raised to the third degree, and another addition was made to the number of members by the initiation of a gentleman into the Order. All business being concluded, the Lodge was closed at nine o'clock. We were surprised, out of the long list of P.M.'s belonging to the Lodge, to find but two present on this occasion, Brs. Goring and Newton.

OLD KINGS ARMS LODGE (No. 30)—This Lodge met on Monday, February

26th, under the presidency of the W.M., B. Edward Warwick, when the brethren appeared in Masonic mourning, as a mark of respect to our deceased Br. Scrivener, the late Honorary Secretary of the Lodge; to whose memory the W.M. in the course of the evening, took occasion to call upon the brethren to pay a tribute of regard and esteem.

GIBON LODGE (No. 57).—The members of this Lodge met at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, on the 15th February, Br. England, P.P.G.S.W., W.M. presiding. The business consisted of two initiations; four passings, and two raisings. Amongst the brethren passed, were Capt. Macdonald, and the chief mate of the Ballarat, about immediately to proceed to Australia. Nearly forty brethren afterwards joined together, and the Lodge separated in perfect harmony.

CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).—This Lodge held its meeting at the Exeter Hall Hotel, Strand, on Thursday, February 15th, 1855, when Br. John Shirley, P.M., in a very able manner, installed Br. William Vince, W.M. for the ensuing twelve months. He was pleased to appoint Br. Percy Moss, S.W.; Br. James Robert Horn, J.W.; Br. John Shirley, Treasurer; Br. William Farnfield, Secretary; Br. George Grunbridge, S.D.; Br. John Ward, J.D.; Br. Joseph Smith, I.G. The Secretary gave a statement of the usefulness of the several Masonic charities; after which, the usual annual subscriptions were voted to the Freemasons' Girls' School, Boys' School, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and Widows' Fund. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren proceeded to the banquet, when, in due time, a P.M. jewel was presented to Br. John Mules, in token of respect for the manner in which he presided over the Lodge during the past year. The presentation was acknowledged in a neat and appropriate speech. Many of the brethren of the Lodge having received much valuable instruction, both privately and at the Lodge of Instruction, from Br. Thomas Scotcher, P.M., they and the other members of the Lodge, as a mark of the high estimation in which he is held by them, took this opportunity of presenting him with a silver tankard, for which mark of esteem and friendship Br. Scotcher, in a very able speech, thanked the brethren; at the same time pointing out the beauties of Freemasonry, and further stating that he had but one son to whom this mark of their kindness would be handed down, when it pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to call him from this world. With a view, as an inducement to others to do the same, he thought it proper to mention that, from the able manner the Secretary (Br. Farnfield) explained the benefits of the several charities to their poorer brethren and their widows, a brother of the Lodge, not yet in office, had handed him a cheque for the sum of £26 5s., with a request that he would pay the same to the proper parties, to enable him to become a Governor of the four charities above named.

LODGE OF FELICITY (No. 66).—The only business transacted at the meeting of this Lodge, which took place at the London Tavern, on Monday the 19th, was the election of Br. Kynaston as G.S. for the ensuing year, the candidate for raising not arriving until the Lodge was closed.

ROYAL NAVAL LODGE (No. 70).—The members of this Lodge assembled together at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 14th ult., when a brother was passed to the second and another raised to the third degree.

ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—This highly respectable Lodge held its meeting, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, February 15th, when a Brother was passed to the Second Degree.

GRENADIERS LODGE (No. 79).—The brethren of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting, on Thursday, February 22nd, when the W.M. elect, Br. Peck, was installed into the chair, by Br. P.M. Tyler. The other business of the evening consisted of two passings and one raising; the whole of the ceremonies being extremely well performed. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshments, and spent a very agreeable evening.

LODGE OF UNITY (No. 82).—The members of this Lodge met together, at the London Tavern, on Monday evening, February 5th, when Br. Bellinger was most effectively installed into the chair by Br. P.M. Howe. The new W.M. was pleased to

appoint Br. Masterman, S.W.; Br. Sleigh, J.W.; Br. Slight, S.D.; Br. Anderson, J.D.; Br. Porter, I.G. Three candidates (amongst whom was Mr. Funge, whose urbanity and kindness is highly appreciated by every visitor to the London Tavern) were duly initiated into the Order. At the close of the Masonic business, upwards of twenty brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, served in Br. Bathes' best style.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Thursday, Feb. 8, two brethren were passed and two raised to their respective degrees, by Br. P.M. Wm. Johnson, who also explained the tracing boards. Br. Lewis Solomon having been duly presented to a Board of Installed Masters, was then duly inducted into the chair by Br. H. L. Crohn, G.S.G.C. At the conclusion of the ceremony of installation, the officers were invested as follows:—Br. Albertz, S.W.; Br. Grosjean, J.W.; Br. McCallan, Treas.; Br. Augero, Sec.; Br. Rea, S.D.; Br. Azemar, J.D.; Br. Bosen, I.G.. A ballot was then taken for Grand Steward, which was declared to be in favour of Br. Warren, P.M., 202. Owing to engagements of numerous brethren, the installation banquet was postponed.

BURLINGTON LODGE (No. 113).—This Lodge met at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, on Tuesday, February 13th, for the usual transaction of business, and the more important object of installing the W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Coutts having resigned the chair to Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D., he proceeded to instal the newly-elected W.M., Br. George Borlase Childs, the ceremony being performed in a very impressive manner. The working of this excellent Lodge we have before alluded to, and we have every reason to be pleased that the duties have fallen on a brother so highly esteemed and respected by all. Br. Childs has earned for himself a very warm feeling in the Masonic body, he being a great supporter of our charities and a strict disciplinarian for the Masonic duties. It is pleasing to find the W.M. at once ready to commence operations. The initiation of a new brother was performed with great ability. As before, we shall repeat the hope that the Master, in vacating the chair in the Lodge for his successor, will install his successor himself, and not hand it over to others; this, we believe, will keep more alive the practical bearing of Freemasonry than is at present the case. After the close of the business, the evening was passed with mirth and conviviality, upwards of forty brethren sitting down to a most sumptuous banquet.

LODGE OF GOOD REPORT (No. 158).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at Radley's Hotel, on Thursday, 1st of February, when the brethren presented to Br. Fish a P.M.'s jewel, in testimony of their regard for the immense services rendered to the Lodge during his years of office as W.M., 1854.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—This Lodge held its regular meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Wednesday, January 31, when the W.M., Br. Gilton, initiated two gentlemen into the secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, and raised two brethren to the third degree.

St. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 168).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, at the Builders' Arms, Chelsea, on the 5th inst., after the usual business had been transacted, it was resolved to present £5 to the Royal Patriotic Fund.

CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).—The members of this Lodge met together on Tuesday, February 20, for the dispatch of business. The W.M. Br. Capt. T. Malkin, who presided, initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of the Craft, and passed a duly qualified Brother to the F.C. degree.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 6th ult. The business consisted of initiating three gentlemen into the noble Order, passing Br. Edmonds and Br. Nisbett to the second degree, the latter brother being a joining member (having taken his first degree in Malta), and of raising Brs. Taylor, Westwood and Darby to the degree of Master Masons. The whole of this business was gone through in the usual able manner, for which this very excellent Lodge is so well known and distinguished in the Craft. Br. Baker, an old member of this Lodge, and P.M. of the Mount Lebanon, having been elected a joining member, and all other business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, and spent the evening in perfect

harmony and true Masonic feeling. Br. Taylor presided at the piano, and Miss Taylor delighted the brethren with her charming singing. The W.M., Br. G. M. Gurton, after the usual Masonic toasts, proposed "The Visitors," on whose behalf Br. Crew returned thanks, and spoke of the happiness he felt in visiting this Lodge, where he had always found the true principles of Masonry so effectually carried out. The W.M. then took the opportunity of reminding the brethren of the near approach of their "Annual Ball" (on the following Thursday), and said he felt quite sanguine of meeting with the same support which had been given to the last ball under the presidency of the "immediate P.M.," Br. Kennedy. The brethren separated in high anticipation of their happy evening on the following Thursday. The Ball took place at the Hanover Square Rooms on the evening appointed, when, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there were present about 350 of the brethren, their ladies, and friends. Dancing commenced soon after nine o'clock, and at half past twelve the whole of the company sat down to a very excellent supper, supplied by Mr. Withers; and the wines, supplied by Br. Arnell, of this Lodge, were all of first-rate quality. Br. G. M. Gurton (the President), then proposed "The Queen," after which Br. Booth, P.M., proposed the health of Br. G. M. Gurton, which was drunk with "three times three." The President returned thanks in an appropriate speech, and proposed "The Ladies," which was drunk with enthusiasm. Br. Kennedy, P.M., as the ladies' representative, returned thanks, and assured the president and gentlemen they were greatly obliged to them, also that they were delighted with the ball and all the arrangements which had been made, and they (the ladies) certainly would give this masonic ball their support on every occasion. The company again returned to the ball room, when dancing was resumed and continued until past five o'clock. The band, supplied by Br. F. G. Taylor, was excellent, and Br. H. A. Taylor, as M.C., gave general satisfaction. We are pleased in being enabled to announce the proceeds will realize 20 guineas, "in aid of Masonic Charity."

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—This rising Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday, the 10th ult., when three brethren were very efficiently raised to the third degree by the W.M., Br. John Webber. Three candidates having been proposed for initiation, the Lodge was closed in the most perfect harmony. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and in the course of the evening were entertained by the vocal exertions of Mrs. Lawler, Donald King, and Beular, the celebrated comic singer.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—On Monday, Feb. 12, the members of this Lodge assembled in great force at Br. Ireland's, Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, Fetter lane, under the presidency of Br. T. A. Adams, W.M., who passed six brethren to the second degree, in his usual style of excellence. A Brother was admitted a joining member, and two candidates were proposed for initiation. In our notice of the installation of Br. Adams, we omitted to give the name of his officers; they are Mrs. Shea, S.W.; Marshall, J.W.; Smith, Treas.; Childs, Sec.; Gast, I.D.; Dearth, J.D.; and Baker, I.G.

ST. JAMES'S UNION LODGE (No. 211).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held as usual at the Westmorland Arms, George-street, Portman square, on Tuesday, the 13th ult., when two candidates were very ably initiated into the Order by the W.M. Br. Kelly, who concluded by giving them the beautiful charge on the principles and excellency of the Institution, which is too often omitted. In the course of the evening, a handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to Br. P.M. Hudson, the W.M. complimenting him in the name of the Lodge for the excellent manner in which he had performed the duties of the chair during his year of office as W.M.

UNIVERSAL LODGE (No. 212).—This prosperous Lodge met on Friday, the 23rd inst., and at the Freemasons' Tavern, when four gentlemen were duly inducted into the mysteries of the Craft. A brother was also passed and another raised to their respective degrees. At the conclusion of the business, 33 of the brethren (amongst whom were two visitors) supped together and spent a very pleasant evening.

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY (No. 218).—This Lodge held its Meeting on February

the 19th. It being Installation night the brethren met early. Br. Herman initiated one brother and raised four brothers to the sublime degree of M.M., after which Br. Seeley, P.M., of the Lodge of Joppa, installed Br. Saul Solomons as W.M., in a most impressive manner. The W.M. presented (in the name of the Lodge) a very splendid jewel to Br. Herman, the immediate P.M. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren retired to an excellent dinner. Amongst the visitors were Brs. Burton, W.M., 9; Lyon, W.M., 223; H. Levy, P.M., 223; Desolla Chaplain, 223; Moss Ansell, Yarborough Lodge; S. Isaacs, P.M., Chatham Lodge; C. Isaacs, P.G.W., of Kent; H. S. Samuel; Poole, &c. The festivities were kept up with great spirit throughout the evening, the new Master performing his duties most efficiently. There were nearly 50 brethren present.

LODGE OF CONFIDENCE (No. 228).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge, was held on the 12th ult, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. As there were no ceremonies to be performed, the business of the evening was merely routine, on the conclusion of which the brethren adjourned to the banqueting, where the W.M. Br. J. Nesbitt, jun., ably presided. Harmony and good fellowship prevailed, and the brethren enjoyed a delightful evening. The visitors were Br. Blackburn, a Past Master of the Lodge, and Brs. Sharman and Williams, of the Phoenix, 202. The officers of the year, are Brs. Nisbett, jun., W.M.; Follett, S.W.; Jackson, J.W.; W. Jones, sen. S.D.; W. B. Baker, J.D.; and Br. Cummins, I.G. This Lodge has voted 5*l.* 5*s.* to the Patriotic Fund.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—The monthly meeting of this well-regulated Lodge took place at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Tuesday, February 20th. The W.M. (Br. Raudall) passed two candidates to the second degree, performing the ceremony with great ability. This most worthy Brother has always interested the visitors to the Lodge by his excellent working and practical knowledge of Freemasonry. Amongst the other business performed was the appointment of a Steward for the annual festival of the Girls' School. It is needless to say that the Stewardships of the charities have been always readily accepted in this Lodge. Br. John Watson, who takes upon himself the responsible office this year, is highly respected and esteemed, and will be, doubtless, well supported on the evening of the festival. The banquet which followed the business of the evening was well attended, and passed off with the greatest cordiality. How could it do otherwise, enlivened as it was by the excellent singing of Br. Crew?

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—The monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, February 7th. Br. Lewis Crombie, the W.M., was in the chair. A gentleman was initiated into the Order, and a duly qualified brother passed to the second degree. Br. Frederic Slight has become a joining member of the Lodge. At the conclusion of the business, nearly 30 of the brethren dined together; and amongst the visitors we observed Br. England, P.Prov.G.S.W., W.M., 57; Br. Berringer, P.M., 229; Br. Levinson, J.W., 7; Br. H. Kyd, 318, &c., &c.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, February 16th; Br. Spooner, W.M., presiding. Mr. James Robinson was initiated into the Order, and Br. Michael raised to the third degree by the W.M., in the most impressive manner. The only other business consisted of the re-election of the W.M. as Master for the ensuing year. The brethren then retired to a splendid repast, and the remainder of the evening was spent in the most harmonious manner. We may here observe, that we last month erroneously intimated that Br. Aznavour, of the Turkish Exhibition, had become a joining member of the Lodge.—It appears that the worthy brother was initiated in the Lodge on the 17th February, 1854, and was raised to the third degree on the 24th April following.

LODGE OF STABILITY (No. 264).—This Lodge met at the George and Vulture, Cornhill, on Tuesday, February 6th, when Brs. Sillifant, Perch, and Holenbole were very ably passed to the second degree by the W.M.; and after other private business, the Lodge adjourned to refreshment.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 13th of February inst., at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, when Br. P. M. Cooper, the proprietor of the Adam and Eve Tavern, Kensington, was installed for the second time, as Master for the ensuing year. After the ceremony, which was ably performed by Br. P. M. Andrews, the new W. M. was pleased to invest his officers as follows, viz.: Br. Carter, S. W.; Br. Lugg, J. W.; Br. John Coggin, S. D.; Br. Collard, J. D.; and Br. Bromley, I. G. Br. Grimstone was again unanimously elected Treasurer. The other business consisted of initiating into the mysteries of Freemasonry two eligible candidates—the ceremony being performed by Br. P. M. Grimstone, assisted by the officers. The business of the Lodge being ended, the Brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, which was most liberally and tastefully supplied by Br. Rackstraw. Amongst the visitors we noticed Br. Hughes (No. 9), Br. Potter (No. 11), Br. Wm. Watson, Jun. (No. 23), Br. Andrews (No. 752), and Br. Morley (No. 169), &c., &c. After the usual toasts, and some excellent singing, the Brethren separated in perfect harmony.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—At the February meeting of this Lodge, held on the 1st instant, a candidate was initiated into the Order, three of the brotherhood passed to the second, and one (Br. Ive, who is about to proceed to Australia) raised to the third degree. This being installation-night, Br. Dyke, the W. M. elect, was most ably installed into the chair by Br. P. M. Mills. Br. Dr. Paul having been invested with the S. W.'s collar, Br. Pierce Egan, jun., with that of J. W., and the other officers appointed, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet prepared for the occasion.

LODGE OF UNION (No. 318).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on the 5th of February, the W. M., Br. Blair, presiding. The business consisted of two raisings, which were very efficiently performed. At the close of the business the Brethren adjourned to refreshment—and Br. Bacon, P. M. of the Bedford Lodge, returned thanks for the visitors.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 8th of February, a duly qualified brother was raised to the third degree.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 805).—The February meeting of this flourishing Lodge took place at the Railway Tavern, Lewisham, on Tuesday, the 13th, and, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, was extremely well attended. Br. Ireland, the new Master, initiated a candidate into the Order, and afterwards worked several sections in the first lecture, in a very excellent style. After partaking of refreshment, the brethren separated at an early hour.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 830).—The members of this Lodge assembled together in their lodge-room at the head-quarters of the Royal Artillery Company, on Friday, the 23rd ult.; but the Lodge was almost immediately adjourned on the formal business having been gone through, on account of a large number of the brethren having their military duties to attend to.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.—The quarterly communication of Grand Chapter was held in the Temple, on Wednesday, the 7th February, the attendance being very limited. Present: Comp. Crohn, who acted as Z; Comp. Pattison, as H; Comp. Rev. E. Moore, as J; Comp. W. H. White, E; Comp. John Hervey, as N; Comp. Tomleson, as P. S.; Comp. Potter, as 1st A. S.; Comp. Bonamy Dobree, 2nd A. S.; Comp. Biggs, as S. B.; Comps. J. Biggs, as Stan. B.; Comp. Herbert Lloyd, D. C.; Comps. John Havers, Thomas Parkinson, J. H. Goldsworthy, C. Baumer, R. Gibson, Leech, W. Farnfield, G. Elkington, Hewlett, Newton, Allen, Robinson, &c., &c. The Chapter having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last quarterly communication, and the report of the Committee of General Purposes were read and confirmed. A petition was then presented from the Howe Lodge, No. 857, Birmingham, praying for a Charter to enable them to establish a new Chapter in connection with their Lodge. The petition, which was very numerously signed by members of the Lodge, and of different neighbouring Chapters,

fixed the 10th Wednesday in every quarter as the day on which it was proposed to hold the Chapter, and nominated Comp. Wm. Goode, as Z.; Comp. J. H. Bedford, H.; and Comp. J. Thos. Goode, J. On the motion of Comp. Savage, seconded by Comp. Leech, it was unanimously resolved that the prayer of the petition should be complied with, and the Charter for the new Chapter granted. All business being ended, the convocation was closed in due form.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPTER (No. 2).—This Chapter, which is attached to the Lodge of Antiquity, met at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 1st ult., when the principals for the ensuing year were elected. At the conclusion of the business, the Comps., to the number of 20, dined together, under the presidency of Comp. Henderson, M.E.Z. Comp. Thisleton, Secretary to the Boys School was amongst the visitors, and, in the course of the evening, made an eloquent appeal to the Comps. on behalf of the Masonic Charities.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This distinguished Chapter met at the Freemason's Tavern, on Friday 2nd February, when Br. Valence was exalted in a most able manner by Comp. Herbert Lloyd, P.Z., assisted by Comps. C. Robinson, Wm. Watson, M. Dawson, &c. After which the Companions proceeded to elect Comps. Herbert Lloyd Z.; Stowasser, H.; M. Dawson, J.; Purton Cooper, E.; Else, N. The Companions after the business of the Chapter was completed, sat down to an elegant banquet. In proposing the health of the grand officer, Comp. Lloyd, as Z., took occasion to express the pleasure he felt in seeing so excellent a member of their body as Comp. Dr. Rowe, a visitor, and he hoped to have the pleasure of meeting him for a number of years in Masonry, but more particularly the British Chapter. After a suitable reply from Comp. Rowe, the health of the principals was drunk, and the merits of Comp. Charles Robinson, in discharging his duties as Z., in conjunction with the H. and J., were adverted to in terms of strong praise. In returning thanks, Comp. Robinson stated that it had always been his study to perform his duties to the best of his ability, when called upon. He had been requested to hold the office for the ensuing year, but he had requested to be allowed to retire, in favour of Comp. Herbert Lloyd, from a conviction of the benefit that must accrue to any Chapter, by being presided over, by so eminent a Companion, and he felt exceedingly pleased to find the Chapter had fallen into his views in so unanimous a manner. In drinking the health of the visitors, the M.E.Z. expressed the thanks of the Companions to Comp. W. Watson, for his readiness at all times to render his valuable assistance in Masonry when called upon. The M.E.Z., in proposing the health of the newly exalted Companion said, that he had had the great pleasure of his acquaintance for a number of years, and although he had not increased in stature, he had increased in grace, which had been amply exemplified by his firmness and correct bearing during the recent ceremony. Comp. Valence, in a most eloquent and amusing speech, expressed his thanks, and trusted that his grace might still continue to grow in the esteem of his Companions. The health of Comp. Gibson, P.Z., was drunk in conjunction with the past principles of the Chapter, and in proposing the toast M.E.Z., said, that the thanks of the Chapter were due to the past principals, but to none more than to Comp. Gibson. In proposing the health of the officers, the manner in which they had discharged their duties was alluded to in terms of the highest commendation, and particularly to Comp. Bisgood, Treasurer, for the able manner in which he at all times maintained the interest of the Chapter.

MOUNT MORIAH CHAPTER (No. 9).—This Chapter held a convocation at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 1st ult., Comp. Roberts, M.E.Z., presiding, when Comp. D. Gooch, was elected 2nd principal, and Comp. G. Lyons, 3rd principal. Comp. John Hervey, G.S., and P.Z., No. 7, honoured the Chapter by his attendance.

ENOCH CHAPTER (No. 11).—This well appointed Chapter, held its meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, February the 20th. The M.E.Z., Comp. Robert Williams, proposed three brethren for exaltation.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—A convocation of this Chapter was holden at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday the 20th ult., when three brethren were exalted into the Royal Arch, the ceremony being most beautifully performed by Com. Andrews, M.E.Z., assisted by the other officers of the Chapter.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—The members of this Chapter met at the George and Vulture, Cornhill, on Tuesday, the 13th ult., Comp. Newsom, Z., presiding. The candidates for exaltation not being in attendance, the removal of the Chapter was taken into consideration. It being thought desirable this Chapter should, as far as was practicable, remain in an eastern locality, Burrell's Bridge Hotel, London Bridge, was proposed as its future place of meeting, which, after some discussion, was carried. It is to be hoped that a change of quarters will prove the advent of increased prosperity to this Chapter. The attendance of Companions on this occasion was very limited.

INSTRUCTION.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMPSTEAD (No. 196).—On the 31st January, a number of the brethren connected with this and other Lodges, entertained Br. P.M. Thomas A. Adams at dinner, at the Holly Bush Tavern, in order to present him with the testimonials mentioned in our last Number. Br. Wm. Watson, P.M. (No. 23), presided, but owing to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was not so numerous as had been expected.

After dinner, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honored, and the Worshipful Master said that Free Masons were ever ready to pay respect where it was earned by merit, and therefore it was that they were that evening assembled to do honor to the worthy Brother on his right, the value and extent of whose services to the Craft, it was difficult for them properly to estimate. He found himself in somewhat a different position from the rest of the brethren whom he saw around him, for he had known and esteemed Br. Adams before he became a Mason; his first communication with him had been, however, for a Masonic purpose, and he was happy to say, that he thought that it had had some influence in inducing him to join the Order. He had also a great respect for the Lodge in which his Brother had been initiated, and over which he now so worthily presided. Indeed, no one who would visit the Domestic, the Lodge to which he referred, could help remarking the vast amount of care Br. Adams had taken, and the great sacrifice, both of time and professional engagements, he must have made to ensure to the brethren so great an advance in the science as that which distinguished the members of that Lodge. No one could have listened to the beautiful manner in which he gave the illustrations of the several Lectures, and to the force with which he impressed the beauties and excellencies of Masonry, upon the minds of the brethren, without being pleased and enlightened, gratified and improved—(hear, hear, and loud cheers). His Masonry too, was, they all knew, orthodox. There was no doubt of that. These were circumstances which ensured for him a high place in Masonry; but the qualities which endeared him to every Mason of his acquaintance, and where in the Metropolis was there a Mason desirous of learning the science, who did not know Br. Adams? were his *bonhommie*, his kindness of disposition, his willingness to instruct the learner, and his anxiety to attend to any office where his great talents could be made available for the furtherance of Masonic Instruction, as he held with him, that the most humble place in a Freemason's Lodge, was yet a post of honour. Now, they were aware that nothing so much redounded to the renown and credit of Masonry, as a strict adherence to the ritual, and that was observable in all the Masonic labours of Br. Adams. He had, in fact, in every way so endeared himself to the Craft, that he was that night in a position to receive from their hands a recognition of his industry, his perseverance and high talents—(hear, hear). He was delighted that it should have fallen to his lot to present that token—a token which held out a bright example to their younger brethren, and set before them the glorious truth that each man had but to do his duty, and he was sure to meet his due reward. He considered that in presenting Br. Adams with that token, the Craft had done honour to themselves, and it was a proof of their excellency as Masons, that they had been able to estimate the worth of their excellent Brother—(hear, hear). Here, addressing Br. Adams, the Worshipful Master said, Br. Adams, it affords me inexpressible pleasure to present to you, in the name of our brethren, this jewel. The inscription which it bears, will, I hope, ever recal to your memory the pleasurable feelings of this

evening, and the remembrance of those esteemed brethren who have done themselves the honour of attending here to night; with them, I wish you many years of health and happiness. May the great Spiritual Architect who formed the Universe, ever have you in his keeping. May he bless you. May he prosper you. These, Sir, are mine and their sincerest aspirations—(Cheers).

Br. Hazard, P.M., 196, in presenting the memorial from the St. John's Lodge of Instruction, said, that it had fallen to his lot to perform one of the most pleasing duties that could befall one man who respected another. After the truly Masonic speech of the W.M., it would be out of place if he were to follow him in the same strain. His duty was to present to Br. Adams the testimonial voted to him by the St. John's Lodge, Hampstead, and, in doing so, to set before the brethren how it was that testimonial had been earned. When Br. Adams became W.M. of the St. John's Lodge, he said that there was in it plenty of ready material to make good Masons, but that a workshop was required for such a purpose; and knowing that a Lodge of Instruction would be of the greatest benefit to the Lodge, he granted his warrant for the opening of one, that the Hampstead Masons might make a further progress in Masonry. Having so originated the Lodge of Instruction in which they were now met, he had not forsaken it, for, in the first year of its working, he visited it thirty-two times. Now, that circumstance demonstrated that he must have had the good of the Lodge at heart, for they all knew that he could not have journeyed so often from London without great sacrifice of his time and professional engagements and great expense—(Hear, hear). They might ask what Br. Adams had done during the thirty-two visits to which he referred. He would tell them what he had done. He had worked 62 sections of the first lecture, 11 of the second, and 20 of the third—(Hear, hear, and cheers). He had, besides, assisted in working many more, and had several times worked the ceremony of each degree. That working had proved most instructive to the brethren, and for himself he would say, that his first inquiry on reaching the door was if Br. Adams was present, and he was always delighted to receive an affirmative reply; for without disparaging other Masonic teachers, he could always understand the lectures when given by their excellent and worthy brother (Hear, hear). Having thus inadequately, he was sorry to say, endeavoured to lay before the brethren how it was that Br. Adams had deserved the testimonial in their hands, he should now speak of the testimonial (Hear). It was in itself a beautiful thing, and he was delighted with it. He had, however, to confess that he had failed in his endeavours to read it, because some of the letters must, he was sure, have been invented since his school-boy days—(Laughter). Joking apart, the design was most beautiful, and the penmanship chaste and exquisite. Here, turning to Br. Adams, he said:—If, sir, I have been unable to read it, I hope and trust that you will have health and strength to read it for many years to come; and, when summoned to the Grand Lodge above, may you leave it as a proud heirloom to your family, so that in years to come your child may be able to say in exultation, "See how my father was respected." Believe me, sir, it is a grand thing to be able to point in honourable pride to such a testimonial, and that it is a significance beyond that pride. It says, can a bad child come from such a stock? And I am glad to find that you, sir, are in your children one of the happiest men I know. May that happiness ever abide with you, and may every other species of happiness attend you—(Cheers).

Br. Adams arose with deep emotion to express his acknowledgments for the presentations, and said that he tendered to his brethren his sincere and grateful thanks for the honour they had done him; and he had to confess that, from the eloquent and able manner in which the W.M. and Br. Hayward had performed the parts which had devolved on them, he found himself in some difficulty to find language adequately to express his feelings. It could not but be highly gratifying to him to find that he was held in such high esteem by the brethren; for he valued their esteem, and hoped he should never be found unworthy of it—(Hear, hear). He should never forget the address he had received from the W.M. when he was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and was informed by him that

the badge with which he had been invested, not only pointed out his rank in the Order, but was also to remind him that he was called on to supply instruction to those in inferior degrees of the Craft. He believed that he had ever acted on that principle—(Hear). Indeed, nothing afforded him greater pleasure than his endeavours to extend the influence of Freemasonry, founded, as it was, on the purest principles of piety and virtue, and, foremost of all, on brotherly love, by the exercise of which they were taught to regard the whole human species as one family, high, low, rich, and poor, created by the same Almighty Being, and sent into the world for the mutual aid, protection, and support of each other. That was, they knew, the grand principle on which Freemasonry united men of every country, sect, and opinion, and, by its unerring dictates, conciliated a true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. Brotherly love was, he was sure, the motive which influenced the brethren in paying him the high compliment with which he had that night been honoured, and for which he, in a great measure, felt indebted to the zealous and untiring efforts of their esteemed Secretary, Br. Aldrich. He felt he owed that Brother a deep debt of gratitude. In conclusion, he had to say that the testimonials with which he had that night been presented should always remind him of those beloved brethren to whose liberality he was indebted for them, and of the many kind faces which he saw around him. The pleasurable feeling of that evening should never leave his breast while the G.A.O.T.U. allowed him to sojourn here. He should retain it until time was no more, and until he received his summons to attend the Grand Lodge above. Again assuring them of his eternal gratitude, he begged leave to drink health and prosperity to them all.

The health of the W.M. for the evening and a variety of other toasts having been drunk, the company separated, after spending a most agreeable evening.

UNIVERSAL LODGE (No. 212).—The members of this Lodge held their anniversary meeting at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The ceremony of Passing was ably performed by Br. M. Attwood, P.M. On the arrival of Br. Law, W.M., of the Parent Lodge, and Master for the evening, who was assisted by Br. Sargeant, of the Middlesex Lodge, No. 167, as S.W., and Br. Christie, of No. 212, as J.W., the Lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The fourth and fifth sections of the first Lecture were worked by Brs. Crawley, Secretary, and Hill, Treasurer, in that style of excellence for which this Lodge is so much distinguished.

After the unanimous election of Br. Bincks, of the Enoch Lodge, No. 11, as a joining Member, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet to celebrate the 47th anniversary of this Lodge of Instruction.

After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed the Parent Lodge in connection with Br. Hill, P.M. Br. Hill, in returning thanks on behalf of the Members of the Universal Lodge, alluded to the readiness of the Past Masters at all times to give their sanction and assistance to the Lodge of Instruction, which had proved so excellent a school, not only for members of the Parent Lodge, but to those of many other Lodges which attended it.

The Universal Lodge of Instruction, in connection with Br. Crawley, Secretary, was next proposed.

Br. Crawley expressed the difficulty he felt in returning thanks to the toast, owing to having been prevented by business from attending the Lodge so regularly as he could desire; but he was well convinced of the benefits derived from Lodges of Instruction. This had been fully borne out by the Universal, in which he had seen members (when he first had the pleasure of joining), whose Masonic knowledge was very small, and who had afterwards ranked amongst the most distinguished in the Order, not only for their working, but for their charitable and brotherly feeling. Br. Crawley concluded by saying, that as he had experienced the difficulty of gaining Masonic instruction, he should, as heretofore, be always happy to afford it to others whenever it laid in his power.

The health of the W.M. in the Chair, and Master of the Regular Lodge, was then drunk, and most honourable mention being made of the able and efficient manner in which he at all times discharged the duties of his office.

The W.M., after a most unaffected and suitable reply, proposed the health of the visitors, and expressed the pleasure he felt at all times in meeting brethren from the country who visited the Lodge. With the toast he coupled the name of Br. Bincks, the joining member, whom he trusted he should long have the pleasure of meeting as a member.

Br. Bincks in reply stated, that he had been led to join the Lodge from its high character for working, a character which he had seen fully borne out that evening. It was his opinion that Lodges of Instruction were of the greatest importance in furthering the interest of Masonry, for though he in no way objected to brethren enjoying themselves over the banquet, he considered that so far from that being the object (as supposed by some of the uninitiated), it was only a means by bringing brethren together from different Lodges—of rendering the bond of brotherly love more universal and binding.

The W.M. then proposed the health of the Past Masters, and in doing so expressed the thanks of the members to them, and more particularly to Brs. Attwood and Naghten, whose exertions had rendered such valuable assistance to the Lodge.

The health of the Stewards was then proposed, in connection with the Chairman and the host, Br. Chas. Ireland. In giving this toast, the W.M., in the name of the Lodge, thanked Br. Ireland for the handsome and liberal manner in which he had provided the banquet, and for his readiness at all times to give assistance in Masonry when called upon.

The health of the officers having been drunk, the brethren retired, after spending the evening in the greatest harmony, enlivened by some excellent singing.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—We understand that this long established Lodge of Instruction will have their annual supper somewhat earlier than usual this year. It is fixed for Thursday, March the 29th, at Br. Testar's, Union Tavern, Air-street, Piccadilly. We can, without fear of contradiction, say that this Lodge has turned out some of the best working Masons in London; and when we inform the Craft that Br. Rackstraw will preside upon the occasion of the annual supper, faced by Br. Watson, we are sure we need say no more, as their names will be enough to fill any table, however large and long. The above brethren will be assisted as Stewards by Brs. Allen, Burton, Caulcher, Copus, Dyte, Gladwin, Kardall, Murray, Tyrrell, and Newt.n, Hon. Sec.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—On February 6th, the members of this old and influential Lodge held their usual monthly communication. Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T. for Devon, &c., &c., passed two brothers to the second degree, in his usual impressive and effective manner. A gentleman was balloted for, but being prevented from attending, his initiation will probably take place at next Lodge meeting. Br. Deacon moved that the thanks of the brethren be presented to Br. Gover, for his very kind present of a perfect Ashlar stand, and which was passed with acclamation. The Lodge was closed in peace and harmony, at 9 o'clock, many visitors from neighbouring Lodges favouring the brethren with their presence, and the banquet that followed. This thriving Lodge instead of being second, is at the top of the tree as regards the efficiency of its present officers.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 14th February, when Br. P.M. Doidge raised a brother to the sublime degree, in a manner worthy the occasion. The Lodge was

closed in love and harmony, at 10 p.m.; the brethren retired to refreshment, served in a style that reflected great credit on the purveyor.

HARMONY LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 182).—This rising Lodge met shortly after 5 o'clock, p.m., on the 5th February, when Br. P.M. Watts raised a brother to the sublime degree of a M.M., after which the newly elected Master, Br. Earle, initiated a gentleman, in an exceedingly able manner—Br. Earle from his Masonic age, or rather youth, giving great promise of future excellence. The Lodge closed in full accordance with its "Title," at 9.30, the brethren retiring to refreshment, served in Br. Watts' usual style of superiority.

STAR OF BRUNSWICK LODGE, DEVONPORT (No. 185).—The members of this respectable Lodge met on Wednesday, the 7th February, when Br. Gidby, P.M., most ably initiated a gentlemen into the science. The Lodge was closed at 9.45., in perfect harmony, and the brethren retired to a supper of the most recherche description, for which great praise is due to the indefatigable exertions of the Stewards, and which was acknowledged by bumpers to their health and prosperity. Many visitors favoured the brethren with their presence.

LODGE OF SINCERITY, PLYMOUTH (No. 224).—This most respectable Lodge met on February 12, in St. George's Hall. Labour being ended, the Lodge was closed in unanimity at 8.45, and the brethren retired to supper (at their own houses). At a Lodge of emergency held on the 19th, Br. Damant, the W.M., most ably passed a brother to the second degree; labour being ended, the brethren retired to refreshment, and spent an hour most harmoniously. Brothers from other Lodges being present—the emergency in which this Lodge is worked, should be an example of how well things can be done when the heart is in the matter.

LODGE OF CHARITY, PLYMOUTH (No. 270).—The members of this Lodge of "hearty good fellows," met as usual on the Tuesday, 20th inst. The business of the evening (which was not laborious), being ended, the brethren retired to refreshment at 8.15. p.m., having been favoured with the company of several visitors.

DURHAM.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY, GATESHEAD (No. 56).—The sum of £10 has been contributed by this Lodge to the Royal Patriotic Fund.

BOROUGH LODGE, GATESHEAD (No. 614).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled on Monday, the 19th Feb., in their Lodge room, at Br. Buntou's, the Black Bull Inn, Gateshead, for the installation of Br. Phillip Holloway, W.M. elect for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was ably performed by Br. Wm. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint and invest the following brethren as officers for the year:—Brs. John Hopper, P.M.; S. Joel, S.W.; D. W. Spence, J.W.; W. Dalziel, D.C.; W. Johnson, Treas.; R. Fell, Sec.; Peter Brown, S.D.; J. Terry, J.D.; R. Jefferson, S.S.; J. Rose, J.S.; D. O'Neill, I.G.; Alex. Dickson, Tyler. The ceremonies having been concluded, the brethren dined together in the Lodge room. The W.M. occupied the chair, supported on his right by Brs. Geo. Weatherhead, P.M., and P.P.G.I.W. for Northumberland; W. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland; W. Johnson, P.M. and P.P.G.I.W. for Northumberland; and George Weppel, P.M.; and on his left by Brs. John Hopper, P.M.; Wm. Berkley, P.M. and P.G.S.W. for Northumberland; Wm. Punshow, P.M.; and John Cook, W.M. St. Peter's Lodge, 706. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and J.W. The usual Masonic, loyal, and patriotic toasts were given, and most heartily responded to, and the evening was characterised by that love and harmony so peculiarly belonging to the Craft. We cannot omit to state that the greatest praise is due to Br. Buntou, for the *recherche* entertainment provided on the very interesting occasion.

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH LODGE (No. 717).—The installation banquet of the Worshipful Master, Br. Joseph J. Galt, was held at the above Lodge on the 1st February. The

W.M. was supported by the Provincial Grand Master, Br. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart.; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Br. Charles E. Deacon, Esq.; the Past Grand Warden of England, Br. Lord George Lennox; the Immediate Past Master, Br. Bachelor; and Past Masters of the Lodge, Brs. G. Stebbing, E. Galt, W. Mitchell, and Dr. Owen; the Worshipful Master of the Sussex Lodge, Br. Slade; Br. Captain Atkinson, Br. J. Hills, Br. Pinco, and other visiting Brethren. At the Installation of the W.M. on the 11th ult., the following Brethren were appointed to hold office:—Br. M. Frost, S.W.; Br. Castell, J.W.; Br. Luke Camwell, S.D.; Br. Rake, J.D.; Br. W. Cavander, T.; Br. H. Hollingsworth, Secretary; Br. Weston, I.G.; Br. Way, Tyler. The banquet, by Br. Crofts, of the George Hotel, was well provided.

LANCASHIRE—EAST DIVISION.

KEYSTONE LODGE, FACIT (No. 469).—This Lodge held its anniversary festival of St. John, on Wednesday, January 10th. The Lodge was opened in due form at the hour of 4 o'clock p.m., in the first degree. The minutes of the former Lodge night were read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened on the second degree, when the W.M. elect, Br. Abraham Shackleton, was presented for the purpose of being installed. The Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and a board of installed Masters formed, when the ceremony of installation was most impressively performed by Br. John Leach Holland. The W.M. appointed the following brethren as his officers, namely:—Br. Charles Farrow, S. W.; Joseph Collingwood, J.W.; James Hoyle, S.D.; Adam Hill, J.D.; and James Rawstras I.G. The Lodge being closed down to the first degree, was called to refreshment, and an excellent dinner being provided, the brethren did ample justice to the good things of this world. After dinner, and the usual Masonic toasts had been given, Br. Edward Whitworth, at the request of the W.M., said he had one more toast to give, which he hoped would be drunk in a bumper. He would propose health and happiness to Br. John Leach Holland, whose services to the Lodge it would be impossible to adequately reward. He then proceeded to say;—Br. Holland, the brethren have delegated to me the pleasing task of presenting you with this token of their esteem, not as a reward or payment for services, but as a token of their appreciations of those services; may you long live to wear it, and may it be as a memento of time to prepare you for eternity, and may your childrens children for many generations, keep it as an heirloom in the family, and look upon it with proud satisfaction as a token of the esteem in which you were held among your friends and brother Masons. The present, a valuable gold watch and appendages, having the following inscription neatly engraved upon the inner case ("From the Brethren of the Keystone Lodge, No. 469, of F. and A. Masons, to Br. John Leach Holland, as a token of their esteem"), was then handed to Br. Holland, and his health drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. Br. Holland, almost overpowered with emotion, made a few brief remarks in reply, but having no previous intimation of the gift, it had come upon him most unexpectedly, and his looks, more eloquent than words, testified to the intensity of his feelings. He resumed his seat amidst the most hearty cheering of all the brethren. It was altogether a scene that will long live in the memory of all who had the pleasure of witnessing it. The Lodge having resumed labours, finally closed at half past eleven, p.m.

TUDOR CHAPTER, OLDHAM (No. 344).—The annual meeting of this Chapter was held on Monday the 19th inst., when the following officers were installed for the ensuing year:—Comps. Thomas Mattinson, Z., by R. Holt, P.Z.; John Bamford, H., by R. Holt, P.Z.; W.H. Brideoake, J., by J. Gaitskell, P.Z.; S. Smith, of 177, Manchester, J., by J. Gaitskell, P.Z.; D. Evans, S.E.; J. H. Hayes, S.N.; J. Booth, Treasurer; Abraham Milnes, Prin. Sec.; Bros. H. W. Lidler, Solicitor, and Wm. Ogden, Cotton Manufacturer, both of 344, were afterwards exalted. At the conclusion of the business of the Chapter, the Companions sat down to refreshment, and after spending a couple of hours in harmony, retired at eleven o'clock, much pleased and gratified with the evenings proceedings. This Chapter having been recently completely refurnished looks remarkably well, the ceremonies are

performed correctly in a becoming manner, and the meetings are consequently interesting and well attended.

NORFOLK.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, YARMOUTH (No. 667).—On the 23rd January, the members of this Lodge held their anniversary dinner at the Duke's Head Inn, when Br. William Lucia was installed into office as Worshipful Master, and on which occasion he presented the Lodge with a large and handsome Bible.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

ST. PETER'S LODGE, BYKER, NEAR NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 706).—The brethren of this Lodge have subscribed the sum of ten guineas to the Royal Patriotic Fund. Br. John Cook, W.M. of the Lodge, has received a truly fraternal letter from Br. Major Powy's, acknowledging the receipt of the above sum.

THE ROYAL ARCH.—CHAPTER DE SUSSEX, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 586).—On Wednesday, the 14th Feb., the members of this excellent Chapter held their anniversary meeting at Freemason's Hall, Bell's court, Newgate street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, when the following Comps. were installed officers for the ensuing year:—Comps. R. W. Todd, G.; J. S. Challoner, H.; G. Beldon, J.; J. R. Hodge, E.; H. Bell, N.; G. P. Birkenshaw, P.S.; T. Hornsby, Janitor. The Comps. then visited the Chapter de Swinburne, No. 24., Freemason's Hall, Blasket street, after which the members of both Chapters partook of an excellent supper, provided for them by Comp. Rogerson of the Crown and Thistle Inn.

OXFORDSHIRE.

APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE, OXFORD (No. 460).—On Friday the 16th Feb., the brethren of this Lodge assembled in the Masonic Hall for the purpose of assisting in the installation of the Worshipful Master elect, Br. J. W. Malcolm, of Christ Church. The ceremony was conducted by the retiring Worshipful Master, Br. W. W. Beech, and was performed in an admirable manner. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. appointed the following brethren to be his officers for the year:—S.W., Br. W. W. Harrison, M.A., Brasenose College; J.W. Br. Hon. W. J. Vernon, Christ Church; Chap. Br. Rev. John Sedgwick, M.A., Magdalen College; Treas. Br. W. Thompson; Sec. Br. Hon. Gerald Dillon, Balliol College; S.D. Br. H. Barter, Merton College; J.D. Br. J. E. Codrington, Brasenose College; D.C. Br. the Earl of Lincoln, Christ Church, and Br. W. Gainer, St. Mary Hall; I.G. Br. J. C. Farnborough, Magdalen Hall; Organist, Br. Dr. Elvey, New College; Stewards, Brs. Viscount Garlies, Christ Church; G. Drummond, Christ Church; C. Dalison, Merton College; and Hon. Henry Wodehouse, Christ Church; Tyler, Br. Tipton. In the evening, about 70 of the brethren sat down to an elegant entertainment, in the banquet-room, when the W.M. presided, supported by Br. Alderman Sadler, the present Mayor of Oxford; Br. Alderman Spiers, late Mayor of Oxford; the late W.M. of the Apollo Lodge, Br. Beech; the late W.M. of the Alfred City Lodge, Br. Randall; the W.M. of the Cherwell Banbury Lodge, Br. Rev. Vernon Blake, M.A.; the W.M. of the Churchill Lodge, Br. T. Joy; the officers and brethren of the Apollo and Alfred Lodges, and many other brethren from various parts of the province. In the course of the evening, Br. Alderman Spiers announced that the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland, had conferred the appointment of Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, vacant by the death of the Rev. C. J. Ridley, on Br. Captain Bowyer, and that his lordship looked forward to the pleasure of installing that brother into his office, in Oxford, in the course of a short time, when it was probable that a large number of the officers of Grand Lodge would accompany his lordship. The announcement was received with great applause, for the appointment is one so well deserved, that it cannot fail to give satisfaction to the whole province. Br. Bowyer holds the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, and the general expectation is that that office will be conferred on Br. Spiers, who was honoured by the Earl of Zetland with the appointment of Grand

Sword-bearer of England for two years, and who has done much to raise the character of Masonry in this province, and to place it in its present proud position.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

MENTURIA LODGE, HANLEY (No. 606).—In addition to our notice of the proceedings at the St. John's Festival of the above Lodge, when the Rev. W. H. Wright, P.G.C. for Staffs., was installed as W.M., we have the pleasure to add that testimonials of respect were presented to Br. W. K. Harvey, the Immediate Past Master of the Lodge, and also to Br. John Horton, J.W., for their efforts in reviving the Lodge, and the latter for continuing in office as J.W. In the course of the banquet, the R.W.P.G.M., Colonel Vernon, in an able speech, spoke encouragingly of the efforts which had been made to bring the Lodge into an effective condition, and the K.W., Thos. Ward, Esq., D.P.G.M., in alluding to the fact that Masonry had now been introduced in Hanley fifty years, called attention to many Masons, claiming this as their mother Lodge, who had attained to high honours in the Craft, and had adorned Masonry by the excellence of their private life. He trusted that the improvements in Masonic administration and the example of so many excellent Masons would so stimulate the efforts of the Menturians, that the next fifty years of Masonry in Hanley should be years of increasing efficiency and prosperity.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM MASONIC FULL DRESS BALL.—On Wednesday evening, the 14th of February, the seventh annual ball took place at the Royal Hotel, Birmingham, under the patronage of the Right Honourable Lord Leigh, P.G.M., and the Masons of the province, in aid of the funds of the Masonic Provident, Benevolent, and Annuity Association. About 220 were present, and dancing commenced at half-past nine; the Past Deputy Grand Master of the province (one of the founders of the Association), Dr. Bele Fletcher, and Mrs. C. W. Elkington, opening the ball, from which time, till nearly daylight, the company kept up the merry dance with unabated spirit, to the enlivening music of Hayward and Tilly's band. Supper was announced at 12 o'clock, when the whole suite of rooms were thrown open, and substantial refreshments, with ices, tea, and coffee were replenished the whole night. The Stewards were indefatigable in their exertions, and the Secretaries, Brs. Kettle, Charles W. Elkington, and Emson, exerted themselves, not without success, in making all enjoy the delightful evening. Br. Dee officiated as musical steward, and Br. Ridgway as director of ceremonies. We should here mention, that this excellent Association has derived most substantial assistance from these annual re-unions, upwards of £600 having been realized and invested. We never remember to have passed a more enjoyable evening—the magnificent dresses of the lovely women present, intermixed with the various Masonic dresses of Craft, Provincial Royal Arch, and the higher grades, gave brilliancy to the scene. The room was most tastefully decorated with the banners of the provinces of Warwick and Stafford, the various Lodges, and the standards of the Knight Templars. The supper was most excellent, consisting of the great delicacies of the season.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY ANNUAL MASONIC BALL.—This annual ball took place at the Dudley Arms Hotel, Dudley, on Thursday evening, February 8, and although it was not so numerously attended as on former occasions, which may be ascribable to the severity of the weather, and the postponement from the time originally fixed, on account of the sudden and lamented death of the late Edward Dixon, Esq., it nevertheless passed off with its wonted eclat. The company numbered about 120. The room was, as usual, tastefully decorated with the various banners and ensigns of the Order, and the brethren appeared in full Masonic costume. Dancing commenced at nine, and was continued with great spirit to the strains of Syriyer's band, till about five on Friday morning. The supper arrangements were of the first character, and reflected great credit on the respected hostess, Mrs. Smith,

and Br. Gilmer's services as master of the ceremonies were fully appreciated. Amongst the company present were :—Br. H. M. Wainwright; J. S. Bourne, and Mrs. Bourne; C. H. Homer, Esq.; Joseph Walker, Esq.; S. D. Foreday, Esq., and Mrs. Foreday; H. Elliott, Esq.;—Tierney, Esq.; J. S. Naylor, Esq.;—Cresswell, Esq.; W. Williams, Esq.—H. T. Hickman, Esq.—Hooman, Esq.; Brs. Masefield, P.M.; Dennison, P.M.; Dudley, P.M.; John Aston P.M.; Bateman, P.M.; Brettie, P.M.; Morris, P.M.; Bristow, W.M., 313, and Mrs. Bristow; Willisroft, W.M., 838; Dudley, P.M., and Mrs. Dudley; A. Patterson; J. Ward; Miss Patterson; G. R. Shaw, and Mrs. Shaw; W. Wilkinson, and Mrs. Wilkinson; T. C. Shaw, and Mrs. T. C. Shaw; Clarke, and Mrs. Clarke; Cooper, Wright, Sparrow, Kenwick, &c.; Mr. T. Hancox; Mr. Yardley, jun.; and the Misses Yardley; Miss Bourne; Miss Piggott; Miss Wilkinson; Miss M. A. Wood; the Misses Wilson; Miss Saunders; the Misses Minty; and Mrs. Whitehouse.

HARMONIC LODGE, DUDLEY (No. 313).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting, on Tuesday, the 6th February, and was honoured with the attendance of a goodly number of visitors. Br. Bristow, W.M., raised two brethren to the sublime degree of M.M., and passed one to the degree of F.O.

SCOTLAND.

BANFFSHIRE.

St. Andrew's Lodge, Castle Street, Banff (No. 60).—A meeting of this Lodge, duly called, was held on the 31st January, when there were present the R.W.M., Br. James Frazer, Jun., Br. Dr. Whyte, Br. Rust, Br. Barclay, Br. Mackay, Br. Duff, and Hendry. There were also present from the St. John's Lodge, Br. Bairnsfather, Br. Mc Kenzie, &c., &c. The R.W.M. stated that he had called the present meeting for the purpose of initiating two gentlemen from Mc Duff, viz. :—Mr. Alexander Carney, and Mr. John Cruickshank, both of whom were well recommended, and he had no doubt would make excellent Masqns. The candidates were then initiated into the Order. At the conclusion of the business, about 26 gentlemen sat down to an excellent refreshment, and spent the evening in the greatest Masonic harmony.

On the 6th of February, the members of the same Lodge held a meeting for the purpose of advancing three Brothers, viz. :—Brs. Cumming, Carney and Cruickshank, to the sublime degree of M.M. The R.W.M., well assisted by Br. Bairnsfather and his officers, performed the ceremony in a manner reflecting the highest credit on the Lodge and the Craft. The business being over, the Brethren retired to refreshment. The R.W.M., in giving the first toast, The health of the Honorary Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Fife, said that nobleman was ever mindful of the Brethren of the Lodge—(cheers). The next toast, the W.M. said he had great pleasure in proposing, as it was the health of the very worthy, respected and excellent Mason, whose services were at all times of great benefit to the Lodge; he alluded to Br. Bairnsfather. The Brethren, about 27 in number, very cordially drunk the toast with great Masonic cheering. Br. Bairnsfather returned thanks and said, he was highly delighted to observe the spirit of fraternal union and harmony which prevailed amongst them that evening. Whilst these feelings existed among them, their Order must flourish, and he trusted they would always be found pre-eminent in their various Lodges—(cheers). After a few more toasts, interspersed with excellent songs, the Lodge broke up in the most perfect harmony.

On the evening of the 13th of February, the Lodge held its annual ball, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, by nine o'clock the spacious hall was well filled with the most respectable and fashionable company of the neighbourhood. Dancing was carried on with great spirit, and, at twelve o'clock, the party retired into the drawing room to partake of an excellent supper. The cloth being removed, the R.W.M. requested Br. Dr. Whyte to give a toast. Br. Whyte, in his excellent

and masterly style, said: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am called upon by our R. W. M. to give a toast, and I am sure you will all be delighted to join with me in drinking to our Honorary Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Fife, who is at all times mindful of the brethren of this Lodge—(cheers). I believe, if possible, the noble Earl has this year exceeded his usual liberality, having specially ordered some choice boxes of fruit from London for our ball, besides sending us a large cake, with wines, ham, venison," &c. The toast was received with vehement cheering. The gallant Br. then said, "the next toast, ladies and gentlemen, you will also cordially join me in, it being the health of our Lady Patroness, Mrs. Gray. It is well known to us all that, were it not for our Lady Patroness, we never should have had such an excellent and splendid hall as we now have"—(loud cheering). The dancing was then resumed, and kept up with considerable spirit until four in the morning, at which time the Lady Patroness concluded the ball in a reel with the R. W. M.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, BANFF.—The members of this Lodge held a meeting on the 30th January, for the purpose of raising two F.C.'s, Brs. Alex. Bairnsfather and Charles Innes, to the sublime degree of M.M. Br. James Mason performed the ceremony in his usual excellent style, and requested the D.M. to deliver the charge, which was done in a very impressive and forcible manner; after which the evening was spent in a way known only to the brethren of the "mystic tie."

THE COLONIES.

WEST INDIES.

PHILANTHROPIC LODGE (No. 515), PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD.—At the first regular meeting of the above-mentioned Lodge, for December, Br. Daniel Hart was installed for the fourth time W.M. He appointed the following office-bearers:—George Telford Malvaney, S.W.; Cleomens A. Rousseau, J.W.; Louis Serville, Treasurer; Frederick Ralph Hart, Secretary; Alexander Savary, D.C.; Michael A. Hart, S.D.; Charles Bradshaw, J.D.; Louis Bath and Auguste Hypolite, Stewards; and John Jas. Elie, I.G.—There was a full attendance of members. As soon as the Lodge was closed, the members all hastened to the east, to congratulate Br. Hart. Soon after the brethren were summoned to the banquetting-hall. The members formed a line, and received their W.M. with cheers and clapping of hands.

INDIA.

CALCUTTA.

ST. JOHN'S DAY.—MASONIC PROCESSION.

The Brethren of the Mystic Tie assembled at the Freemasons' Hall, at half past 9 A.M., yesterday. The Grand Director of Ceremonies marshalled the Lodges for the Procession, in the following order:—

Governor General's Band.
Lodges, according to Junriority,
viz.:
Killoinning in the East,
St. John's,
Courage with Humanity,
Marine,
Humility with Fortitude,
True Friendship,
Industry and Perseverance,
Star in the East,
Each Lodge preceded by its Banner.
Grand Director of Ceremonies, (Bro. Roberts.)

Two Grand Stewards.
 Grand Pursuivant,
 (Bro. Cohn.)
 Grand Organist and Past Grand Organist,
 (Bro. Emanuel and Clingen.)
 Grand Superintendent of Works,
 (Bro. Fraser.)
 Grand Deacons,
 (Bro. Gray and Crawford.)
 Assistant Grand Secretary,
 (Bro. W. H. Hoff,
 Bearing the Book of Constitutions.)
 Past Grand Registrar,
 (Bro. Harris.)
 Grand Registrar and Deputy Grand Registrar,
 (Bro. Colebrooke and Clarke.)
 Grand Chaplain,
 (Rev. Bro. Bellew.)
 Past Grand Wardens,
 (Bro. Montcoith and Burking Young.)
 Grand Wardens,
 (Bro. Howe and Abercrombie.)
 Banner of the Grand Lodge,
 Borne by M.M.

Volume of the Sacred Law,
 Borne by a M.M.

Banners of the Lord Patron and of the
 Grand Master,
 Borne by Wor. Bro. Hennessey and Bro. Kiernan.
 Deputy Grand Masters,
 (Bro. Hoff and Watson.)
 Grand Sword Bearer,
 (Bro. Rennie.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

Grand Tyler,
 (Bro. Daniel.)

At 10-45 A.M. the procession arrived at the gate of St. John's Church. The Brethren halted, and opened to the right and left. They then entered the church in reversed order, and took their seats as they entered. The music continued playing until the whole of the procession entered the church. The two front pews were occupied: viz., that on the left of the pulpit by the Grand Master, with the Deputy Grand Masters, one on each side of him; that on the right of the pulpit by the Past Deputy Grand Master, with the Grand Wardens, one on each side of him; and so on.

The service and prayers were read by the Rev. A. Hamilton, and an eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. J. M. Bellew. The text was taken from the First Epistle General of St. John, chap. iv., verses 20 and 21:—

“20. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

“21. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also.”

The collection at church, for the benefit of the Masonic Fund of Benevolence, was made by four Grand Stewards, two below and two in the galleries.

After divine service the procession was reformed by the Grand Directors of Ceremonies, and returned to the Freemasons' Hall in the same order as before, halting at the gate, and entering as at the Church. The grand officers and representatives of Lodges proceeded direct to the Lodge-room, on the third floor, while the other Brethren unrobed and retired.

The Grand Lodge then opened, and proceeded to business. The Grand Treasurer retired into the adjoining room, and with the assistance of the Grand Deacons ascer-

tained the amount collected at church; and on their return into the Lodge-room they reported the result, which was Co.'s Rs. 652, and odd.

At the conclusion of business, the Grand Lodge closed; and in the evening the officers of the Grand Lodge, together with the representatives of Lodges, met at the Hall, and partook of a dinner provided in the banquetting room.

The Brethren appeared in *full masonic costume* on this occasion, it being a Farewell Dinner to the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master, previous to his departure from Calcutta.—*Bengal Hurkara, Dec. 24th, 1854.*

AMERICA.

ALABAMA.

YORKVILLE.—The Yorkville Lodge (131) is reported to be in a harmonious and prosperous condition, and steadily increasing in numbers.

FARRAR LODGE, ELYTON (No. 8).—On St. John's day, Br. W. S. Mudd was installed W.M. of this Lodge, when he appointed the following brethren to their respective offices:—Robt. T. Emond, S.W.; Nathaniel Hawkins, J.W.; James A. Mudd, Sec.; Thomas J. Wright, Tr.; M. T. Porter, S.D.; T. M. Adkins, J.D.; W. S. Earnest, Tyler.

CARROLTON.—On St. John's day, a new Lodge was opened in this town with great Masonic splendour. A large body of visitors from other Lodges of the province participated in the ceremony. The Carrollton Lodge makes the 221st on the Alabama Register.

ARKANSAS.

LITTLE ROCK.—The annual communication from Grand Lodge of the State Arkansas, was held at the City of Little Rock, immediately after the close of the sittings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, a notice of which we inserted in the last number of the *Masonic Mirror*. At this communication which lasted four days, 53 out of the 84 Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, were represented. The M.W., the G.M. Br. Luke E. Barber, presided. The Grand Secretary reported that he had received from 75 subordinate Lodges in fees for dispensations, charters, &c., a sum of 2,495 dollars 60 cents. Several admirable addresses were read and the proceedings terminated by the appointment of the following officers:—R.W. Nat. G. Smith, Grand Master; R.W., W. D. Lee, Grand Lecturer; R.W., W. K. Patterson, Grand Orator; R.W., D. F. Armstrong, Sen. G. Warden; R.W., A. S. Huey, Junior Grand Warden; R.W., R. L. Dodge, Grand Treasurer; R.W., T. D. Merrick, Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

VERY SUSPICIOUS.—The Masonic Hall building in Bucksport, says the *St. Francisco Times*, is occupied, the lower story as a Lyceum, the upper as a Lodge Room. On Friday night, the 8th Dec, the lower room was occupied by the members of the Lyceum, at 11 o'clock a bright light was seen in the Lodge Room; on last evening the Lodge Room was occupied by the Masons, and the same light was seen in the lower story. The respective rooms were locked up at the time. The appearance of the lights has given rise to various speculations. Some of the old women, of the masculine gender, finding blood, hair, etc., on the stairway, suppose that a *Mason had been murdered*, or a Know Nothing initiated. The old women, of the feminine gender, are sorely puzzled.

GEORGIA.

ALBANY.—ALBANY CHAPTER (No. 15).—At the last meeting of this Chapter, the following Comps. were elected as the governing officers for the ensuing year:—F. M. Thompson, H.P.; J. S. Moreman, K.; James M. Mercer, Scribe; R. T. Bradley, C.H.; J. H. Watson, P.S.; W. H. Owens, R.A.C.;—S. D. McLendan, M. 3d V.; Joel E. Hunter, M. 2d V.; John Turner, M. 1st V.; A. P. Grier, Tr.; S. D. Irvin, Sec.; Jesse Floyd, Sentinel.

ALBANY LODGE (No. 24).—The brethren of this Lodge at their last meeting made the following disposition of offices for the ensuing year:—A. P. Grier, W.M.; E. A. Roberts, S.W.; H. G. Alexander, J.W.; Mark Smith, Tr.; J. M. Mercer, Sec.; J. C. Gardner, S.D.; J. D. Kettlehand, J.D.; Jesse Floyd, Tyler.

CLINTON LODGE, SAVANNAH (No. 54).—On St. John's day, Br. Wm. Cox was duly installed W.M. of this Lodge, when he nominated the following brethren to their respective offices:—Brs. G. W. Hardcastle, S.W.; ——— Parker, J.W.; W. M. Davidson, Tr.; D. H. Galloway, Sec.; E. O. Withington, S.D.; H. Sheppard, J.D.; R. Thomas, Tyler.

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.—The Grand Council of the members of this degree was also held here at the same season with the Grand Lodge of the Craft, under the presidency of the Z.I. Grand Puissant Br. J. M. Barrere. The condition of this branch of the Order was represented to be in a highly flourishing condition in Ohio. At this Communication thirteen Councils were represented out of nineteen, which is a fair evidence of zeal on the part of the Companions. The following preamble and resolution were submitted by Comp. Dodds, and agreed to:—"Whereas, It is of the utmost importance to R. and S.M. Masonry, that uniformity in the work and lectures of those degrees should exist; and, whereas, such uniformity can be more readily produced, while those degrees are cultivated to but a limited extent, (as is the case at present,) than it could be if they were more extensively diffused; and, whereas, there does exist discrepancies in the work and lectures of those degrees in different parts of the country, and also in our own jurisdiction, and believing it to be incumbent upon this Grand Chapter to use every effort in her power to cure such evils: Therefore, Resolved, That the T.I. Grand Puissant be requested to open a correspondence with the G. Puissant of our sister Grand Councils, and urge upon them the necessity of a Convention of Delegates from each Grand Council, whose duty it shall be to confer together and adopt some uniform mode of work for those degrees, and report to the next Communication of this Grand Council."

ILLINOIS.

DE KALB CENTRE.—De Kalb Lodge (No. 144), is located in this village. It commenced work in September last, and, of course, its numbers as yet are few; but, all "good and true" men, and brotherly love, relief and truth prevail among the members. At the annual communication for the election of officers, held on St. John's day, the following named brothers were elected for the ensuing year, viz:—T. C. Wetmore, W.M.; E. G. Gilbert, S.W.; J. H. Burget, J.W.; Samuel Brookings, Treas.; James Brookings, Sec.; J. D. Butts, S.D.; B. F. Humphrey, J.D.; Richard Jemis, Chap.; S. R. Hyslop, and James Daniels, Stewards; and Norris Sweet, Tyler.

JACKSONVILLE.—The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Illinois, at its last annual convocation, held at Jacksonville, was thus addressed by the M.E., Br. M. J. Noyes, G.H.P. Companions:—"We are now at the close of the Masonic year; twelve months have elapsed since the last Grand Annual Convocation of this Grand Body, and we are again permitted to meet under such favourable circumstances as to call forth, from every Masonic heart, deep and abiding sentiments of gratitude to the Supreme G.H.P. of the Universe, for all the multiplied and varied manifestations of his enduring goodness. As men and citizens, we have shared the common blessings of a beneficent providence upon our favoured land—and as Masons, we have especial cause of congratulation and joy for the unusual measure of prosperity which the All Wise has vouchsafed to our honoured and beloved Institution. And we have the greater cause for thankfulness, that this unusual degree of prosperity of our noble Order, is not partial to our own particular locality and jurisdiction, but that it pervades our common country, and extends to other lands. The star of Masonry is everywhere in the ascendant, and especially is R. A. Masonry flourishing and expanding its benign influences to an extent hitherto unknown; and my greatest fear is, that amidst so much prosperity, sufficient caution may not always mark the "guarded way."

NEW JERSEY.

TRENTON.—The Grand Lodge of the State of New Jersey met on St. John's day, at ten o'clock, and adjourned about five p.m., the following day, with a representation from 23 Lodges. Every act of the session was characterized with perfect harmony, good feeling, and fraternal courtesy. The following are the officers elect:—Edward Stewart, (re-elected), Grand Master; Samuel Reed, Dep. Gr. Master; John Hill, S. G. Warden; Dr. John H. Janeway, J.G. Warden; Elias Phillips, G. Tr.; Joseph H. Hough, Gr. Sec.; and John R. Chapin, Dep. Gr. Sec.

BURLINGTON.—On the 20th of December, the M.W. the Grand Master, Br. Edwd. Stewart, assisted by the R.W. Rev. Br. J. L. Lenhart, installed Br. John Rodgers W.M. of this Lodge, and he appointed Brs. Ellwood Conner, S.W.; John F. Kelly, J.W.; E. E. Boudinot, Treasurer; James Watts, Secretary; Rev. Thos. Neall, Chaplain; Samuel Keys, S.D.; Ferd. Brother, J.D.; Lewis Gotta, Tyler.

NEW YORK.

UNITY LODGE, NEW LEBANON (No. 9).—The following brethren were, on the anniversary of the Lodge, elected to their several offices for the ensuing year:—Nelson Tanner, W.M.; Loren L. Kingsley, S.W.; Joseph K. Royce, J.W.; John C. Clark, Sec.

KINGSTON LODGE, KINGSTON (No. 10).—Br. Warren Chipps was, on St. John's day, installed W.M. of this Lodge, and he appointed the following brethren his officers for the year ensuing:—Brs. William Templar, S.W.; Jacob H. Dubois, J.W.; Augs. Schoonmaker, Tr.; P. H. Van Buren, Sec.; Wm. M. Hayes, S.D.; James Brown, J.D.; Thomas L. Johnston, 1st Steward; John S. Langworthy, 2nd Steward; Henry S. Van Ettew and Peter E. Cole, M. Cer.; Aaron, Newkirk, Tyler; C. D. Westbrook, Chap.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER, LEBANON (No. 13).—The following Companions constitute the board of officers for 1855:—Henry Hull, H.P.; Hampton C. Bull, K.; Elias Gates, S.; Henry D. Gay, Sec.

AMES CHAPTER (No. 88).—At the anniversary meeting of this Chapter, the following disposition of the several chairs and offices was made by the votes of the assembled Comps.:—P. P. Murphy, H.P.; T. Baker, Jr. K.; Wm. B. Lusk, Scribe; J. W. Steel, Capt. H.; S. L. Chase, P.S.; A. Furgerson, R.A.C.; A. Day, M. 3rd V.; B. M. Woods, M. 2nd V.; W. G. Richardson, M. 1st V.; James McKain, Tr.; W. W. Douglass, Sec.; B. Bunnell, Sentinel.

LOCKPORT LODGE, LOCKPORT (No. 73).—Br. Asher France, was at the last meeting of this Lodge, installed W.M. for 1855, and he appointed the following brethren to their respective offices:—Wm. B. Lusk, S.W.; O. F. Starkey, J.W.; J. D. Higgins, Tr.; E. D. Shriler, Sec.; B. H. Fletcher, S.D.; J. W. Steel, J.D.; B. Bunnell, Tyler.

LITTLE FALLS, HERKEMER COUNTY.—Lodge 181, belonging to this town, is reported to be in a very prosperous condition, and numbers above 60 members. The following brethren were, on St. John's day, elected to their respective offices: Micaiah Benedict, W.M.; John P. Bellinger, S.W.; Peter Snyder, J.W.; Charles Benedict, Tr.; M. R. Casler, Sec.; James H. Bellinger, S.D.; T. A. Burnham, J.D.; Rev. J. H. Skinner, Chaplain; Joseph Lee, jun., M.C.; E. G. Chapin, and S. J. Waters, Stewards; and Benjamin Klock, Tyler.

BOLIVAR, ALLEGHENY COUNTY.—The members of Macedonia Lodge, (258) and a number of visitors, assembled on St. John's day, at Forest Hall, to commemorate the Patron Saint, when the W.M., Br. S. G. S. Rowley, in a very appropriate and solemn manner, installed the following officers:—S. W. Thomas, W.M.; A. G. Williams, S.W.; D. A. Hix, J.W.; Alva Withy, Treasurer; C. B. Davy, Secretary; Charles Withy, S.D.; D. C. Root, J.D.; J. W. Hoyt, J. M. Curtiss, Stewards; Chester Davy, Tyler. After which he arose and addressed the audience in the following brief remarks, which were received with the most candid and profound attention. Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren of Macedonia Lodge (No. 258), of F. A. M.—The transactions of this day call up in my mind the many pleasant meetings I have enjoyed

of a like kind. On casting my mind back to my Masonic birth-day, I find that sixty eight festivals of St. John's day have past; yet I am prepared to say the moment of regret that I was a Mason has never fitted across my mind; but, on the contrary, I can say it has ever been a solace, a comfort, and sure foundation. Brethren, I can say with our worthy patron, "it is good for me to be here." Although a furious tornado has passed over our Masonic Mount, yet our hallowed Order stands unshaken. As the howling, angry winds tries the strength of the timber on the mountain top, hoarsely shaking and bending many almost to the earth, yet as it passess they return with a mighty spring to their perpendicular standing, the better prepared to withstand a more severe shock. They have been tried and found able to stand; the timber is of fine and consolidated texture; the heart is sound; the roots have struck deep into the earth; the tendrils thereof have laid hold of the abiding Rock of Ages, and their tops are aspiring to Heaven! But, alas! in the same grove we see many mutilated; instead of comparing with the plumb-line in beauty of standing, are bending in disorder, casting their fruit and unhallowed seeds to cowans and eavesdroppers.

NORTH CAROLINA.

BENTLEY BRIDGE.—At the last communication of the Grand Lodge, a charter was granted for holding in this town a Lodge of the brethren under the designation of St. Paul's Lodge, and on the 5th of January, the D.G.M., Br. Green, installed its first officers. The Lodge is in a flourishing condition, and the members are fully determined to admit no material which will not pass the *square*. The above determination of the members of this new Lodge is surely worthy of all praise, and we hope it may be extensively initiated. We should have no cause to fear from the large increase of initiates wherever Freemasonry is planted at the present time, if all Freemasons would come to the same determination. We have no doubt that the members of this Lodge will pursue the course they have resolved on. They have taken the proper step to become intelligent Masons, and this is a sure guarantee that they will also be *bright*.

OHIO.

CHILLICOTHE.—At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, lately held in this city, the M.W., G.M. Br. Zacius V. Bierce, gave to the brethren a most interesting account of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge for the past year, and of his own labours to promote the welfare of the Order. He concluded his address in the following terms. In closing this communication, and with the present session my official connection with the Grand Lodge, I have the pleasing consciousness of restoring the charge entrusted to me unfurnished, and the ancient landmarks still well defined. It has been my aim and object, by discipline, to maintain the moral reputation of our Order, that Masonry may not be regarded as a post for characters to lean on that are too rotten to stand alone. Intemperance and profanity I have treated as sins that required reproof, admonition, suspension or expulsion. If tolerated in our Lodges, we may as well lay aside our claim to the designation of a moral institution. To preserve the ancient landmarks, promote the morals and preserve harmony and uniformity, I have devoted over two months of my time in visiting Lodges and attending on the business of the Order, besides what I have spent in my office; travelled over twenty-five hundred miles, written over one thousand letters, decided one hundred and nine cases of Masonic jurisprudence which were submitted to me, granted seventeen dispensations for new Lodges, and expended over two hundred dollars in money. No one can discharge the duties of Grand Master properly and efficiently, short of devoting at least two-thirds of his time to that service. There being now two hundred and sixty Lodges in the state, and over five thousand miles of travel, to visit them all would require all his time. Finally, brethren, having discharged the duties entrusted to me to the best of my abilities, I must ask you to charitably attribute any defects in my administration to the head, and not to the heart; and I shall be happy to aid you, in the choice of my successor, in selecting one who, with more means at his command than I can control, is willing to devote them to the cause of Masonry and the consequent good of man.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

SOLOMON LODGE, CHARLESTON (No. 1).—At the regular stated meeting of this Lodge, held on the 1st of January last, a handsome silver cup was presented to the efficient and worthy Secretary, Br. Andreas Meyer, by the brethren, as a token of their esteem for his high moral worth and Masonic character, as well as for the able and correct manner in which he has discharged his duties since his election to that honourable station. The inscription on the cup reads as follows: "As a token of esteem and regard of the brethren of Solomon Lodge, No. 1, A. F. M., to their Secretary, Andreas Mazure Meyer, January 1st, 1855." The cup has also engraved on it, the square and compasses and cross pens, emblematic of the office. This testimonial was presented to Br. Meyer, by Br. P.M.E. Thayer, in a neat and appropriate speech, expressive of his own warm feelings, as well as the high estimation entertained by all of the members towards their Secretary. The following brethren were elected to their respective offices for the ensuing year:—J. W. Lee, W.M.; W. A. Wilson, S.W.; W. Reed, J.W.; E. Thayer, Treas.; Andreas Meyer, Sec.; ———, S.D.; J. Dowell, J.D.; G. C. Relyea, and A. Marines, Stewards; J. H. Schmidt, Tyler.

UNION CHAPTER (No. 3).—At the last meeting of this Chapter, the following Comps. were installed as follows:—T. Allason, H.P.; W. Reed King; P.H.P.C. Fromberger, Scribe; P.H.P.E. Thayer, Treas.; A. Meyer, Sec.; J. Lymons, C.H.; C. C. White, P.S.; W. A. Skrine, R.A.C.; R. W. Seymour, M. 3d V.; H. W. Schroeder, M. 2d V.; E. Huckel, M. 1st V.; J. H. Schmidt, Sent.

GERMANIA CHAPTER (No. 12).—The following Comps. were at the last meeting of this Chapter elected to their respective offices.—F. Melchers, H.P.; J. G. Ranken, King; H. N. Ellerhorst, Scribe; J. H. Jemgluth, C.H.; H. H. Miller, P.S.; J. Ansel, R.A.C.; H. H. Hahn, M. 3d V.; A. Melchers, M. 2d V.; J. Campren, Treas.; B. Bollman, Sec.; J. H. Schmidt, Sent.

VERMONT.

LEE LODGE, CASTLETON.—At the last meeting of the brethren of this Lodge, Br. A. C. Hobson was installed W.M., and he appointed Brs. A. T. Woodand, S.W.; F. H. Smith, J.W.; S. H. Root, Sec.; Smith Sherman, Tr.

VIRGINIA.

NORFOLK LODGE (No. 1).—Br. Thomas F. Owens, on being installed W.M. of this Lodge for 1855, made the following disposition of the other officers:—Br. H. S. Williams, S.W.; Henry Yeatman, J.W.; Wm. M. McKenney, Sec.; T. E. Sale, Tr.; Wm. Reynolds, S.D.; J. J. Tompkins, J.D.; Wm. Rogsrs, Tyler.

THE ATLANTIC LODGE, NORFOLK.—The following brethren are the officers for 1855, viz.:—George L. Upshur, W.M.; James Y. Leigh, S.W.; Wm. A. Graves, J.W.; T. M. Crowder, Sec.; John P. Biddle, Tr.; John Bonsall, S.D.; R. M. Butler, J.D.; Wm. Rogers, Tyler.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE THREE ARTICLES OF NOAH.*

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER.—I am very sorry to perceive that scarcely have you made four respirations in your Editorial existence, than you are likely to be strangled by the incubus of controversy and disputation.

It is vexing, that after having answered a Correspondent's question to the best of your ability, and which answer I will presently make appear to be correct, you should

* By a Printer's error we were made in our last number to refer to the 1st section of the 1st lecture, instead of the 4th section in that lecture.

have been subjected (in my opinion) to so uncourteous a letter as that inserted in your last number, from Z***.

I believe it to be a fact, patent to all, that the road to knowledge (whether Masonic or other) is both steep and rugged, and beset with many difficulties; and I further believe it to be generally acknowledged, that the student, who does not bring to his aid humility, patience, industry and perseverance, will never arrive at the goal. From the petulance exhibited by your Correspondent, when he writes about *irritation*, and leaving off in *disgust* (rather inelegant), upon so trifling a matter, I am fearful he must be minus some of the qualifications just mentioned.

It appears that in a Book of Constitutions, about ninety years old, are these words—“Cement of the Lodge,” and “the three Articles of Noah,” for which an explanation is required, and which (premising that our system is veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols), I will endeavour to give—

1st “Cement of the Lodge.”

In the Book of Constitutions, of the respective dates of 1827 and 1841, page 14, may be read thus:—“cultivating brotherly love, the foundation and cape-stones, the cement and glory of this antient fraternity;” from which it is clear that the word *Cement* has a meaning; and of the highest character, being in accordance with the commandment given by the great founder of our holy religion—“*Love one another.*”

2nd “Three Articles of Noah.”

On reference to the Great Light in Masonry, it will therein be found that Noah, is stated to have been a “just and perfect man,” and “a righteous man;” here the meaning is equally clear and distinct; these were Noah’s *Articles*, his distinguishing characteristics; what more noble! what more grand! what more beautiful! would that the Great Architect of the Universe inspired all men with the desire for such! then the produce of love and charity would abound more extensively. In addition, see the 39th Ques. and Ans. 2nd Sec. 1st Lecture; also the address to the candidate at the N.E. part of the Lodge.

Having thus proved, as I believe, the answer you gave to the question, a correct one, I hope that in future no one will rashly denounce conclusions which are just and proper as “*lame and impotent.*”

In conclusion, I will only add for the information of your Correspondent, that the *riddle*, he has been so much puzzled about, the mole hill over which he has stumbled, no longer exists—in neither of the *Books* in my possession are the words in question to be found. Wishing all success to the “*Mirror,*”

I remain, Sir and brother, yours very fraternally,
Peckham, February 19, 1855. P. McC., late P.M. 198.

[We have received other letters on the same subject, for which we thank the brethren, but as while agreeing with us in opinion, they throw no further light upon the matter, we do not think it necessary to publish them.—ED. M. M.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Some twenty years ago, I recollect a cant phrase of “Flare-up,” being all the rage. A gentleman of some standing as an elocutionist, wrote a parody on the then vulgarism, to the tune of “Miss Bailey,” wherein the following prophetic verse may be found:—

“Young Nick, the Czar, has too long been
The gallant Poles oppressing,
But soon the Sons of Freedom mean
To give this brute a dressing;
We’ll gladly spend our hard-earned coin
To blow this Russian Bear up,
Old England too, with France will join,
In such a glorious “flare up.”

Feeling very anxious for your success, I offer the above as a small contribution, and trust that other brothers will unite and flare up a little to support your good efforts.

T. B.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Revelations of a Square. By the Rev. G. Oliver, D.D. *Spencer.*—Dr. Oliver is so well known as a Masonic writer, that we need scarcely inform the brethren that this is a most valuable addition to our literature. A portion of these revelations have already appeared in the late *Quarterly Freemasons' Magazine*, but in their collected form, revised and extended by our Rev. Brother, they lose none of their value from that circumstance. These revelations, which treat of the sayings and doings of eminent free and accepted Masons, from the revival of the Order in England, in 1717, by Dr. Desaguliers, to the reunion in 1813 under their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, are supposed to be made by an old silver square which formerly belonged to Sir Christopher Wren, presented to Dr. Oliver by a friend. The square having, in the imagination of the worthy Doctor, taken upon itself the power of speech, recounts how, after Sir Christopher Wren ceased to be G.M., Freemasonry fell for a few years into disrepute, until it was taken up by Dr. Desaguliers, a Fellow of the Royal Society, who was initiated in the present Lodge of Antiquity. Under his influence, rules and regulations were laid down for the guidance of the Craft, which again sprung into eminence, and has ever since continued to hold a prominent position amongst the institutions of the world. The work is full of anecdote in reference to distinguished Masons, and records many peculiar usages and customs, which, though now obsolete, are not the less interesting to the student in Freemasonry, as evincing the spirit which actuated the Craft in times gone by. The revelations are illustrated by several curious engravings, and are certainly well worthy the attention of the brethren.

The Ear in Health and Disease, with Remarks on the Nature and Prevention of Deafness. Illustrated with Wood Engravings. By William Harvey, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary. *Renshaw.*—This is a very important, well-written, and concise work, and displays with clearness and in simple language the diseases of the ear and the causes of deafness. Br. Harvey has met a difficulty—that of giving to the reader at a moderate price and size, a work of this nature; and we doubt not it will have an extensive circulation, as coming from one who can write from much experience on the subject of deafness and its many causes.—We may add that Br. Harvey is one of the medical officers of the Freemasons' Girls' School.

 SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR FEBRUARY.

THE MINISTRY.

As we stated in our last, the Ministry resigned just as we were going to press. After ineffectual attempts on the part of Lords Derby and John Russell to form an Administration, Lord Palmerston received her Majesty's commands to do so. After some delay, the Ministry was announced to have been completed on the 6th February; the only alterations from the Aberdeen Ministry being the secession of the Premier, the Duke of Newcastle, and Lord John Russell—Lord Palmerston taking the position of First Lord of the Treasury; Lord Panmure, Minister of War (the Secretaryship of War being suppressed); Mr. Sidney Herbert, Secretary for the Colonies; Sir George Grey, the Home Department; and Lord Granville returning as President of the Council. Things remained in this state until the 21st, when, in consequence of a portion of the Government being opposed to the appointment of the Roebuck Committee, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Sir James Graham resigned. Their offices have since been filled up by Lord John Russell as Colonial Secretary, Sir George Cornwall Lewis as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir Chas. Wood as first Lord of the Admiralty. The Presidency of the Board of Trade (vacated by Mr. Cardwell) and other minor appointments still remain vacant.

Lord John Russell is absent from London, having proceeded to Vienna to take part in the conference between the representatives of the five Powers for peace, on the basis of the four propositions of the allies.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Nothing was done in the House of Lords on the 1st of February, beyond receiving the explanation of Lord Aberdeen, for the resignation of their offices in the Ministry, by himself and colleagues. On the 8th, Lord Derby entered into an explanation, showing that he had endeavoured to form an administration on the basis of coalition, and failed. Lord Panmure, as a member of the Palmerston Administration, assured the House of his determination to conduct the war with the utmost vigour.

On the 16th, the House resumed after the adjournment, consequent on the change in the Ministry, when Lord Ellenborough complained of the system of promotions in the army, and also, that General Simpson, who had distinguished himself as Commander of the Army at Scinde, had not been employed in the Crimea. Lord Panmure in reply, agreed in the necessity of improving our present military system, and stated his willingness to carry out, as far as practicable, the various suggestions that had been thrown out. Referring to the exertions of the new Administration, he remarked that General Simpson had been sent to the Crimea to discharge the new duties of "chief of the staff."

On the 19th, a Bill was brought in, to enable men up to the age of 34, to enlist in the Army for limited periods. The Bill was read a second and third time on the 20th—its operation being limited for a space of three years.

On the 22nd, Earl Granville stated, that it was the intention of the Ministers to advise the Queen to fix a day for humiliation and prayer, in connection with the war.

On the 24th, Lord Panmure informed the house, that Sir John Burgoyne was coming home from the Crimea, to resume his old duties—and he would be succeeded by a younger man, General Jones. Every arrangement was being made to prepare summer clothing for the troops.

On the 26th the only business transacted, was the reading for a second time a Bill previously introduced for facilitating criminal prosecution.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, 1st February, the time was occupied with Ministerial explanations relative to their resignation of office.

On the 2nd, on the call of the Speaker, Lieut. Gen. Sir De Lacy Evans rose in his place, when the vote of thanks passed to him on the 19th Dec., was read from the chair. The Speaker then addressed him in a speech of excellent taste, adverting to the brilliant services of the gallant officer at Alma, Balaklava, and particularly at Inkerman. For these services, the Speaker had to tender in the name and by command of the Commons of England, their unanimous thanks. General Evans replied, and the proceedings were ordered to be entered on the minutes. Nothing further of consequence took place, until the 7th, when writs were moved for, for those Ministers who had accepted or exchanged office—and some estimates were moved for regarding the Ordnance in Committee of supply to the extent of £1,200,000, and agreed to. On the following day, £1,615,600, was voted in excess of the Navy estimate of 1854—5. On the 9th, £2,000,000 was granted from the Consolidated Fund, to make good deficiencies in the votes of supply for 1855.

The House did not meet again until the 16th, to give Lord Palmerston and Mr. Sidney Herbert an opportunity of being again returned to the House. On that day, Lord Palmerston entered into a variety of explanations relative to measures for improving the Army, and expressed a hope that Mr. Roebuck would not proceed with his resolution for appointing a Committee of the House, but that gentleman expressed his intention to persevere, in which he was supported by Mr. Disraeli, and other prominent members on both sides of the House. In Committee of supply, the House voted £10,716,338 for the Navy, and £5,181,465 for the transport service.

On the 19th, after another discussion relative to Mr. Roebuck's Committee, the House went into a Committee of supply on the Army estimates. The number of men to be provided for, was stated at 193,575, (of whom 14,950 were foreigners)—the money vote being £7,00,000. On the same evening, the Chancellor of the Exchequer carried a resolution, upon which to found a bill for abolishing the Newspaper Stamp, and allowing all printed papers to pass through the post at a rate of 1d for every 4 ounces, or fractional parts thereof.

On the 20th, a discussion took place on the naval blockade of Russian ports, and

it was explained it could not well have been more vigorously enforced in the early part of the war, without detriment to British subjects, who had paid for merchandise, but a more vigorous blockade would take place in the coming season. The enlistment bill was brought in, and read a first time, and on the following day for a second time.

On the 23rd, it passed through committee, and Lord Palmerston informed the House of the resignation of three of his colleagues.

The bill was read a third time, on the 23d, and the ex-ministers entered into various explanations of their reasons for withdrawing from the Government, because they could not agree to the appointment of Mr. Roebuck's committee. After some discussion, the committee was appointed as follows, by consent of the Premier: Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Drummond, Sir John Pakington, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Layard, Mr. Ellice, Lord Seymour, Sir George C. Lewis, General Peel, Mr. Bramston, and Mr. John Ball—the quorum to be seven.

The House was engaged in Committee of Supply on the 26th, passing Army Estimates.

THE WAR.

All the accounts from the Crimea show that though no operations of importance have taken place, everything is much improved, the troops being better clothed, fed, and housed, than for some time previously. The navies were proceeding rapidly in their work of making a railway to the camp. The health of the troops appears to be improving, and the Russians, who are stated to have received considerable reinforcements, have made several sorties which the French have successfully repulsed, though upon one occasion a French mine had been destroyed. Omar Pacha, with his troops, had arrived at Eupatoria, and a telegraphic despatch from Lord Raglan, dated the 18th, states that, on the previous day, he was attacked by the Russian troops, 40,000 strong, but the Turks beat them back with great loss. The Turkish loss is said to be inconsiderable, but Selim Pacha, commanding the Egyptian brigade, was killed. The British men of war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

A verdict of wilful murder was returned by a Coroner's jury at Chatham, on the 6th, against Elizabeth Laws, a servant aged seventeen, for having destroyed her Mistress, Mrs. Bacon, a widow lady aged 79, by beating in her skull. The girl alleged that the crime was committed by two men, and to give a colour to her story, had slightly cut her own throat.

The Will o' the Wisp, a screw steamer was wrecked at Lambay, on the Coast of Ireland, during a storm on the 8th, and her crew and passengers numbering about 20 individuals, all lost.

A dilapidated house in Lower Road, Islington, fell on the night of the eleventh, and killed seven persons. The Coroner's jury have returned a verdict of accidental death, but censured the owner for having had repairs executed by an incompetent person without giving notice to the district surveyor.

The screw steamer Mauritius, belonging to the General Screw Navigation Company, was destroyed by fire in the Southampton Docks, on the 16th. She was of 1800 tons burthen, and valued at between £70,000 and £80,000.

During the month there have been various bread riots in the lower parts of London, Liverpool, Birmingham, and other parts of the country, owing to the severity of the weather having thrown large numbers of the working classes out of employ. Fortunately, no very serious damage was done, and as the frost after six weeks duration appears now to have passed away, so with the return of employment will all incentives to violence.

A disastrous fire occurred on the night of the 16th, at the Steam Saw Mills of Samuel Routledge & Co., Holland-street, Blackfriars-road, which rapidly extended to the adjoining buildings, causing the destruction of property to the estimated value of £150,000. Mr. Jackson, one of the Surveyors of the Sun Fire Office, was killed by the falling of a stack of burning timber.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

The Railway Companies have been holding their meetings during the past month; but it would be impossible for us to enter into anything like a detail of the proceedings. The dividend of the Great Western has been confirmed at the rate of 3 per cent., and the Directors have been authorized to raise £1,325,000 by the issue of 5 per cent. preference shares. The revenue has been unfavourably affected by the war. The South-Western dividend is at the rate of 5 per cent., and the revenue shows an increase through the military and naval movements at the port of Southampton; but it is stated that even under other circumstances a favourable result would have been manifested. The dividend of the London and North-Western has been confirmed at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of £71,270 to be carried forward. The Great Northern dividend is at the rate of 5½ per cent., and an agreement with the Ambergate Company has been arranged. The traffic of the North and South-Western Junction presents a steady increase, and the dividend is at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. The dividend of the Eastern Counties Company will be 7s. per share, carrying over £5080, which, with the former amount, constitutes a total of £11,642. The Directors of the London and Blackwall Company recommended a dividend of 4s. 6d. per share, leaving a balance of £385; the receipts exhibit an increase, and the widening of the railway to Stepney is proceeding as rapidly as circumstances will admit. The dividend of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company will be at the rate of 4 per cent. In the case of the North-Eastern Company, the proportion of dividend on the York and Berwick shares will be at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and on the York and North-Midland at 2½, while on the Leeds it will be at the rate of 6 per cent. on the first and second preference shares. The traffic on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton line is improving, and the Directors have at length been enabled to declare the full dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. on the preference shares. At the meeting of the Midland Company, the dividend is equal to 3¾ per cent. on the consolidated stock, and in proportion on other descriptions. The line, it is stated, is worked in a satisfactory manner, and the arrangements with the London and North-Western and Midland Railway will, it is expected, prove advantageous. The dividend of the East Lancashire Company is at the rate of 4 per cent., and the Directors have been authorized to raise additional capital. At the meeting of the Bristol and Exeter Company the dividend of 4½ per cent. was agreed to, the report being received as satisfactory. Various guaranteed dividends have also been declared during the month.

A new project, for which the Bill has been already obtained, is before the public under the name of the Metropolitan Railway, to unite the Great Western, the Great Northern, and the London and North-Western Railways with the Post-Office. There will be half-mile stations throughout the centre of the Metropolis, and the line has already received most influential support.

The Royal British Bank has declared a dividend for the past year, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The reserved fund now amounts to £15,006.

The dividend and bonus declared at the half-year meeting of the London and County Bank, on the 1st February, made the return for the year 12 per cent. free of Income Tax. The Guarantee Fund now amounts to £69,000, and will be limited to £100,000.

The Crystal Palace Company held their half-yearly meeting on the 8th, when a dividend at the rate of 5 per Cent. per annum was declared, notwithstanding the Directors only recommended 4 per Cent. It was also resolved to raise £150,000 on preference shares bearing 7 per cent. interest, to complete the water and other works—the whole of which are expected to be ready for opening early in June.

BENEVOLENT.

The Committee of the Middlesex Hospital have placed 40 beds at the disposal of the Government, for the use of the sick and wounded from the seat of war.

The Royal General Annuity Society held its Anniversary Festival on the 14th, when nearly £400 was received as donations in aid of its funds, which are unduly depressed.

The Annual Dinner of the Stationers' Mutual Benefit Society took place on the

19th. During the ten years of its existence, £659 9s. 6d. have been expended in relief to members in their sickness, and £305 to members on the death of their wives, or, on the death of members, to their widows or nominees, making the total disbursed £964 9s. 6d. ; and the invested fund now amounts to £1670.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Bill is to be brought into Parliament for the establishment of limited liability in Partnership.

Admiral Sir Charles Napier and the Earl of Cardigan were entertained at a grand dinner at the Mansion House, by the Lord Mayor, on the 6th, when the gallant Admiral declared that the Admiralty, and especially Sir James Graham, had prevented his taking active operations when he first proceeded to the Baltic, and had afterwards urged him to operations, which, if adopted, would have ensured the destruction of the fleet. Sir Charles's statements have been denied by the Admiralty and re-affirmed by him. Earl Cardigan briefly alluded to the Light Cavalry charge at Balaklava, and stated that he made it in obedience to orders, though contrary to his own judgment—a statement which he has since repeated.

Mr. Peto, the eminent contractor, who undertook the construction of a railway at Balaklava, has been created a baronet—and therefore has now become Sir Samuel Morton Peto.

Mr. Hume, M.P., died on the 20th, aged 79, deeply regretted by all political parties.

 OBITUARY.

BR. WM. HARDY.—On the 31st ultimo, Br. William Hardy, Clothier, Sunderland, aged 83 years, who had been a Master Mason for the last 56 years, and is reputed to be the oldest Freemason in England, was buried with Masonic honours. During his Masonic career, the deceased Brother initiated the late Earl of Durham, Sir Cuthbert Sharp, and many other eminent men, into the mysteries of the Craft. Brother Hardy was one of the annuitants of the Royal Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, from which he received £39 per annum.

BR. JAMES COSGROVE.—Died on Friday, the 10th of February, Brother James Cosgrove, of the Old Concord Lodge, 291.

BR. EDWARD CHARKER.—This deeply-regretted and ever-to-be-lamented Brother departed this life rather suddenly on Tuesday, Feb. 6th, aged 64. Br. Charker was initiated in the Robert Burns' Lodge, No. 25, in April, 1842, and became W.M. in 1849, which office was most efficiently carried out by him. Br. Charker was one of the first twelve brethren that was exalted in the Robert Burns' Chapter, and filled all the subordinate offices until he became M.E.Z., in 1852. Br. Charker was one of the resuscitators of the Globe Lodge (Peter Gilke's Lodge), with Brs. Watson, Tomblson, Bennett, Newton, Goring, and B. Webster: he was also Treasurer of the Robert Burns' Lodge and Chapter up to the time of his death, and here his loss will be severely felt. Our late brother was interred on Tuesday, Feb. 13th, in the Brompton Cemetery. In addition to his relatives, Brs. Watson, Tomblson, P.M's. (No. 25), and Neat's, followed his earthly remains to the grave. We know that our worthy brother had great reliance in the G.A.O.T.U., and we trust he is now in the G.L. above. In the chapel of the Cemetery we observed Brs. Fox, Apted, Goring, and Newton P.M's. (No. 25), Langley, Blackburn, P.M. (Globe Lodge), Quelly, Goldschmidt, Sheen, Testar, Gladwin, Davis, Allen, and Privett, and more than twenty others, as friends and neighbours. A great number of his neighbours paid a further mark of respect to departed merit, by partially closing their shops and houses on the day of the funeral.

BR. THOMAS SCRIVENER.—We regret to have to announce the death of this worthy Br., which occurred on the 21st ult., after a few days illness. Br. Scrivener was initiated in the Old King's Arms Lodge, No. 39, in 1835, and subsequently went through all the offices of the Lodge of which, at the time of his death, he was a P.M. and Hon. Sec. Br. Scrivener was a liberal supporter of the charities, having served the office of Steward at festivals of both the Girls' and the Boys' schools, in addition to that of G. Steward.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Booksellers in the Provinces wishing their names to appear as Agents for the "Masonic Mirror," are requested to forward their cards to our Office, with the address of their London agents.

Brethren having any difficulty in procuring the "Masonic Mirror," are respectfully requested to forward their orders direct to the Office, and we will find an agent to regularly supply them.

H. J. J.—The Numbers of the "Masonic Mirror" are all in print, and your Bookseller must, we presume, have been misled by his London agent in stating that they were not to be had.

We must request our correspondents to send their communications as early as possible in the month. Both delay and expense are incurred by a disregard of this rule.

The "Reminiscences of a Freemason," by a past Master of Lodge (No. 50), Ireland, are unavoidably postponed until our next number.

Several valuable communications must stand over until present arrangements are carried out.

P. M.—*The resolution prohibiting a Brother from sitting as W.M. for two Lodges at the same time, received the sanction of Grand Lodge, Nov. 29, 1847. We think it a very unwise resolution, as the brethren are the best judges of the claims of their members to preside over them, and a Master of a Lodge in London may have quite a distinct connection amongst his friends in the country.*

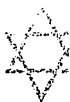
A Subscriber.—*The number of Widows who now receive Annuities from the Royal Benevolent Institution, is 13; and it is worthy of remark, that from the establishment of the Widows Fund in 1849, to the present time, not one of the Widows admitted to its benefits has died.*

H.—*The Companion alluded to had no right, under the Constitutions, to wear such frippery as gold lace upon his collar, although he is a P.Z. We should doubt whether he would be allowed again to enter G. Chapter with it, as we know it was observed and commented upon by others as well as H.*

J. J. C.—*We certainly think that the Master of a Lodge has the right to ask Visitors to withdraw whilst the Treasurer is making a financial statement, or during other private business concerning the interests of the Lodge only, and which it might be detrimental to be made known. To the second question, regarding the power of a Master to delegate his duties to a Warden, our correspondent will find by the Book of Constitutions, that he has that power, and that the Warden, whilst performing the ceremonies, takes his seat immediately to the right of the Master. Of course, should the Warden be a P.M. of the Lodge in which he was acting, or any other, he would take the chair. A P. Warden might be employed in like manner to perform the ceremonies, should there not be a P.M. in the Lodge capable of going through the duties—a state of things which we trust exists only in a very few, if any, of the Lodges.*

Ethée.—*At a Masonic ball held under the sanction of a Lodge, with directions to appear in Masonic clothing, we should consider ourselves bound to appear in the Craft Apron; but the Arch sash is also very generally worn upon such occasions.*

E. B.—*The — is a very respectable and good Lodge. It is, however, in our opinion too numerous, and though we have the pleasure of the acquaintance of many of the brethren connected with it; we should not recommend any person to become a member who wishes to progress in the order, the more especially as our correspondent informs us he does not know any member of the Lodge.*



Is thanked for his kind communications. The R.A. jewels ought most certainly to be in accordance with the drawings in the Book of Constitutions. The difference observed originates in some old Jewels being still in use, and the too great fancy often shown for undue ornament. We did not defend the wearing of black gloves, but merely stated that we would not turn a brother out of Lodge for it, though we did not believe they would be admitted into Grand Lodge.