

OUR ARCHITECTURAL CHAPTER.

THE laying the corner stone of the Freemasons' Hall at Leicester, on the 18th ult., is a grand event. We find that the Hall or Lodge room, instead of being of the dimensions formerly given by us, is higher, for it is sixty feet long by twenty-five feet wide, and twenty-two feet high, and includes, as we have before stated, a music gallery at the south end, which, as we understand, is placed over the ante-room. The banquet room has been likewise finally arranged by Bro. Millican, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, to be twenty-four feet by seventeen. The approach to the ground floor is by a staircase six feet wide, leading to an open landing. The front of the building is of Italian character, and constructed of red dressed brick, with Bath stone dressings and cornice. The front is set back from the street line, so as to give a better effect, and will be separated from the street by an ornamental iron railing.

We wish the Brethren at Leicester would send us up an engraving of the building, with a plan, for insertion in the *Freemasons' Magazine*; for it would be an honourable memorial of their labours, a suitable compliment to Bro. Millican, and an incentive to the exertions of other Brethren.

We find we have a constant call to add to our lists of Masonic buildings, by the insertion of the names of old buildings not before known to us, and by the accession of new establishments; so that when we come to make our review next year we shall give a list much more copious and more nearly complete. It is evident that what we are doing, in publishing the good deeds of the Brethren, is stirring up others to exertion, and that there is a spirit abroad now which must exercise a most favourable influence in the vital improvement of Masonry.

A building not included in our list is the hall of the ancient
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Lodge at the Cape of Good Hope named De Goede Hoop, situated in gardens in Bouquet-street, Cape Town. The buildings are so considerable in comparison with others in the city, that they are at present occupied by the lower house of the South African parliament, the House of Assembly; the first instance, probably, in modern times of a parliament meeting in a building dedicated to Masonic rites and decorated with Masonic emblems. On the completion of new public buildings the Lodge will lose these tenants.

This Lodge was founded in 1776, but we do not know the date of the buildings. We have no detailed description of them, but understand them to be of the usual character of a continental Lodge with several fair sized apartments on the ground floor, and rooms for the Tyler, and situated in a garden, or grounds, which ensures privacy for the building, and which can be used by the members. This is not an uncommon arrangement of the foreign Lodges where they have their own building, and might be advantageously adopted here. Sometimes entertainments are given in the grounds to the families of members; and in summer time the members spend the evenings occasionally in the gardens, which become a customary resort for conversation or reading, as well as the Lodge rooms or library. The building is kept clear of the plantations, but otherwise the grounds are planted so as to screen the inside from observation. The building being isolated, can be kept well tyled from the exterior.

De Goede Hoop not having been invited at a proper time by the Grand Lodge of England, has not come under its jurisdiction, but remains under that of the Groot Oost, or Grand Orient of the Netherlands, and is worked on the French ritual with three symbolic degrees, and four high degrees rising to Rose Croix. There is, however, only one Chapter for the two Lodges. The other Lodge, a more modern one, is named De Goede Trouw (Good Faith, or in older English, Good Trow). It is much to be regretted that many Lodges remain in our colonies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France and Holland, contrary to the comity of Masonic law, which, by the judicious action of Grand Lodge, might be united to the national jurisdiction. The continuance of these two important Lodges at the Cape under Netherlands jurisdiction does not arise from any indisposition to English associations or to the Grand Lodge of England, for in the Lodge under English jurisdiction a considerable number of the Officers and Brethren are Hollanders. The members of the Lodges under the two jurisdictions likewise unite in a Freemasons' education fund, which has been supported for some years. The cause of the in-

disposition of the Netherlands Masons at the Cape is, that they will not abandon the ancient rights and privileges of the exercise of the high degrees, from which, under the remodelled constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, they would be debarred. Thus, while in De Goede Hoop the member who holds a high degree wears the insignia of his rank, is received with special honours, and has a seat in the east—when he visits the English Lodge he is called upon to strip off his jewels and apron, to put on a Master's apron, and received with no compliment; some inferior brother holding provincial or past provincial honours is preferred to him. This of course is contrary to what may be called the law of nations of Masonry, for the clothing a brother is entitled to in his own country he is entitled to wear abroad, provided there be nothing unmasonic in it. Thus, in De Goede Hoop, or in any foreign Lodge, a Grand Officer or Provincial Grand Officer would be allowed to wear his insignia and would not be stripped to his Master's apron, and on the other hand, in all processions where the Lodges of the jurisdictions move in common, as in those for instance, at Cape Town, each Brother wears his own insignia. The Netherlands Brethren are, therefore, very indisposed to expose themselves to confiscation under the English jurisdiction, and the same feeling is entertained at the Mauritius; and again, when Brethren from the foreign Lodges of the Cape or the Mauritius come here, they are indignant when they learn they cannot wear their aprons, and are told to take off any jewel above or below Royal Arch. There is not, however, the same indisposition towards the Irish jurisdiction, which recognises their privileges, and some foreign Lodges have acquiesced in the Irish or Scotch jurisdiction.

With a parliament house in their keeping, our readers will not be surprised to learn that each of the Cape Town Lodges has for its officer an architect—a functionary rare in England. The architect of De Goede Hoop is Bro. P. G. Van Brede, and the architect of De Goede Trouw is Bro. P. Karstel.

The other officers are of the usual description under the French ritual. Among the offices of De Goede Trouw is one neglected in England, but deserving of more notice, and that is the Master of the Music. Musical celebrations are beginning to receive attention in England, but they are not cultivated as yet with the due regard that belongs to a recognized Masonic art. In the Mark Lodge at Leicester, however, we notice that Bro. A. Cummings has been appointed Director of Music and Ceremonies.

Attention to Masonic furniture is one of the restored observances

which we welcome. Lodges meeting in taverns do not like the Master's chair to be occupied next night by a noble grand, or an arch Druid, or supreme gardener, and therefore they care less for this and other articles of Lodge furniture, than they do when they have a house of their own. At the Pleiades Lodge, which meets at the Masonic rooms, Totnes, we notice that Bro. Lidstone Senior Deacon, announced that as soon as he found a good design he would place a Past Master's chair in the Lodge. A chair for the Past Master is commonly neglected, though it may be made a very striking article of Lodge furniture, and should correspond in design with the Worshipful Master's chair. It will depend upon circumstances whether it is raised on a platform to the level of the Worshipful Master's chair, that is, if the rest of the East is raised; but it must be so placed as not to interfere with the access of the Worshipful Master to the chair, or to a candidate in the south east part of the building, or to a guest advancing to the Worshipful Master on that side, and whom he receives with welcome. It should likewise be placed to communicate with the functionaries and guests near him. On the whole the best position for the Past Master's chair is rather behind that of the Worshipful Master, and on the same level.

Another class of seat to be designed and provided are seats or stools, not chairs, for the Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon, who are never seated where the ritual says they ought to be, and where the bewildered initiate vainly seeks for them after receiving the information. By the side of each seat should be rings to hold the wand.

There should be a chair likewise for the Director of Ceremonies. Being a superior officer he would occupy a chair; but where the functions are discharged by a junior officer, this would not be the case. The best position for the seat of the Director of Ceremonies, where the seats in the east form a half circle, is at the north end of the half circle, as the Sheriff of London in the Court of Aldermen or Common Council. He is then close to the Worshipful Master, and between the east and west, and can easily walk down to the Inner Guard, or where his presence may be required. He should likewise be provided with a place to put his wand of office.

Where the Treasurer and Secretary are superior officers, besides chairs, each must be provided with his desk, but we regret to say that in few Lodges are these convenient or of suitable design, any table is made to serve the purpose of either functionary.

A stool seat should likewise be provided for the Inner Guard. This is the most suitable and convenient. The object in having stool seats

for the Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon is to prevent them from being in the way of members sitting behind.

At Southport the reform movement has been successful in the Lodge of Unity; a proposition having been brought forward to consider the propriety of the Lodge meeting in a private room, instead of an hotel, it was carried by an overwhelming majority, that the rites be celebrated in a separate room. The Lodge have therefore taken a Lodge-room in the Assembly-rooms in Lord-street, which is to be called the Masonic Hall, Southport, and the entrance will be decorated with a Masonic device.

The place of meeting of the Lodge of Brotherly Love at Yeovil, although in an unmasonic building, has been redecorated.

THE ILLUMINATI;

AND THEIR ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH FREEMASONRY.

ABOUT the year 1775, or 1776, Adam Weishaupt, a professor of canon law in the University of Ingolstadt, in Bavaria, in conjunction with a few other men of high position and intellectual attainments, formed a secret society of a more extraordinary character than modern times had ever known. Of this association the most extraordinary accounts have been given at various periods, in which the romantic element has combined with malicious exaggeration to distort the few facts which are really known concerning it. We are told that the design of the institution was to accomplish the overthrow of all civil and religious government—the throne and the altar were equally destined to annihilation, and society was to have been completely disorganized. Weishaupt himself is said, by the opponents of his system, to have been an extreme political reformer, and an infidel. But little is known of this person; the meagre accounts that we have of him have been written under the influence of strong prejudice; and there is great reason to doubt whether he or the society which he established deserved the bad character which has been attached to them.

The Order of Freemasons has been frequently accused of a connection with the much dreaded, but little known institution of the Illuminati; and the world at large has been led to believe that the French revolution, and all the horrors that followed, were, in a great degree, the result of conspiracies hatched under their united auspices.

We purpose to investigate the statements and the charges brought against them in the works of two hostile authors, the one a foreigner, the other our own countryman.

The idea of connecting his institution with Freemasonry did not exist in Weishaupt's mind at its formation, for it will be seen that the first steps have no Masonic bearing whatever; but it seems that imagining that union with an ancient and honoured institution would be favourable to the promulgation of his scheme, he became a member of a Lodge in Munich, and in a short time his persuasive arguments induced many Masons to enlist into the new Order. He then contrived to interweave the three ancient symbolic degrees with Illuminism, the better by their means to get over the scruples of the more enlightened of those who became his followers. By his adversaries it is said that, as soon as the Masons witnessed the development of his "high degrees," they saw their error, and one and all retreated; while some, who had left the society in disgust at witnessing the disloyal and infidel precepts that were broached, betrayed its principles.

Upon learning the political tenets taught in its assemblies, the Elector of Bavaria ordered a judicial examination into the charges made against the Order, and the result was that the meetings were forbidden, and the society extinguished in his dominions. It, however, spread into other parts of Germany, and was introduced into France in 1787; the state of the public feeling in France at this period was favourable to the tenets of an institution like Illuminism, and it made rapid progress.

Although Professor Robison and others have endeavoured to connect the Illuminati with Freemasonry, certainly nowhere has it been established that there was ever any specific union or connexion with our noble Order. Events which occurred in France during the fever of the French revolution, cannot be received in evidence, all society and order having been overturned in that convulsion. It is very clear that the institution had but a very brief existence in the country of its birth, and that throughout Germany the Masonic Lodges were closed against its founder; indeed several dissolved themselves, as it was said Lodges might by possibility harbour conspirators, and therefore they must remain closed till quieter times.

Weishaupt himself, in recommending his scheme, speaks disparagingly of all Masonry, but says he has contrived a system, "inviting to Christians of every communion, which gradually frees them from all religious prejudices; and which animates them by a great, a feasible, and speedy prospect of universal happiness, in a state of liberty, free from the obstacles which society, rank and riches continually throw in our way." Certainly Freemasonry teaches nothing of this sort. Doctrines even more alarming to the minds of those who reverence "the right divine for kings to govern wrong," were promulgated in France, and the causes of the revolution may at this day be traced, not to such institutions as the Illuminati, but to

the deplorable corruption of the national morals, and the exhaustion of its resources.

The wasteful wars of Louis XIV., his stupendous public works, the splendid edifices erected by him, and the pomp of his magnificent court, although supported by the most oppressive taxation, had at least the effect of flattering the national vanity; but the wanton prodigality of Louis XV. produced a different result upon the national mind. The habit of lavishing the public money in profligate expenditure was firmly fixed in the court, and the corrupt system of government too deeply rooted to be easily eradicated; and when Louis XVI. ascended the throne he succeeded to an empty treasury, and a debt of four millions of livres. The young king's virtuous attempts at reform were opposed by the clergy and noblesse; and at the period of which we are treating, the smouldering fire of public indignation was ready to break into flame.

Accounts of an institution holding tenets like those attributed to the *Illuminés*, would naturally increase the alarm of the upper classes, who saw on every hand signs that their days of public plunder were approaching to an end. A work entitled, *Essai sur la Secte des Illuminés*, which was published anonymously, but has since been ascertained to have been the production of the Marquis de Luchet, made its appearance in the year 1788; and the pretended disclosures which were therein made increased the prevailing excitement. Clavel quotes this work for his remarks on the travelling Masons, and as the book is scarce, we present an analysis of its contents, omitting chiefly such matter as may be considered extraneous to the subject, passing lightly over such chapters as are unimportant to us as Masons, but giving *in extenso*, all that bears on Freemasonry.

Although Professor Robison, in his "proofs," published ten years after De Luchet's "Essai," makes no mention of the work of his predecessor, we are disposed to think he was not unacquainted with its contents. It is not, however, our intention, on this occasion, to notice Robison's work; the extraordinary account we give of this society is derived from De Luchet's volume, and rests upon his authority. How much of it is true, and how much of it owes its existence to the fertile imagination of the marquis, we do not pretend to determine; we reproduce the narrative as a curiosity, which may not be without interest to our readers; but, at the same time, we may remark that we think De Luchet's statements must be taken *cum grano salis*.

The Illuminati, says our author, began by excluding the New Testament, and every reference to Christianity, altogether from their Lodges; no part of their system, however, from his account, appears to bear the slightest resemblance to symbolic Masonry. The sect had two classes, which were subdivided into lesser degrees, their first class containing the following:—Novices; Illuminatus Minor; Illuminatus Major. In the second class were attained the mysteries; this was divided into two degrees, lesser and greater; the lesser comprehended the degrees

styled "Priests" and "Regents, or Princes;" in the greater are comprehended those of "Magus" and "Rex." Between these two classes were afterwards interwoven the three symbolic degrees of Masonry, with those of Scotch Novice and Scotch Knight. From the last class were chosen the "elect," who were the supreme council, and the "Areopagites." The operations of the sect, depended in every degree, on the tact of one single brother, designated the Brother Inquisitor, whose office was to make proselytes, and to prepare the minds of the newly initiated for the part they were intended to act.

De Luchet's anger appears to have been excited by the protection given to Masonry under Frederick the Great, and the assumption by that monarch of supreme authority over the Order, by the institution of the thirty-third degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, the pattern on which was formed the supreme council of the Illuminati. M. De Luchet being a zealous son of holy church, of course classes the order of Freemasons with the heretical abominations of Luther, Calvin, and Protestantism generally; such opinions of the Craft have been inculcated by Jesuit malice upon the minds of the ignorant for ages past, and are still promulgated by the agents of that association. The marquis expresses his fears that the overthrow of all religion will speedily ensue unless the Masons, and the kindred Illuminati, be suppressed.

In a short preface to his essay on the Illuminati, he says that in Germany and France much has been written against Prussia, and that recently established kingdom had been criticized with extreme severity. "All these works," says he, "speak of the Illuminati, to which gloomy sect are to be attributed all the ills which have befallen the heritage of the immortal Frederick. He goes on to notice the numerous sects, theological, philosophical, and political, which were every where in Europe rising at the period he wrote; and says that England itself is not free from some of the new dogmas. An examination of the Masonic system leads him, by a somewhat singular train of ideas, to investigate that of the Illuminati; and he is led to conclude that the council of this latter order was an instrument of deception, a laboratory of iniquity, where chains were forged for kings, and poison distilled for the corruption of humanity; whose oaths realize the bloody fable of Atreus; and whose tenets, if fulfilled, would cover the earth with a race of murderers. The author alludes to what he considers the baneful tendency of the patronage shown by some of the contemporary sovereigns of Europe to these pseudo-philosophic, but really revolutionary societies, and warns the princes of the continent that the tendency of them is to destroy royalty, and to overturn the whole fabric of society. A quantity of verbiage follows of the most inflated description, in which we find such expressions as this—"Kings themselves must lay the axe to the root of this empoisoned tree, whose roots are in hell, but whose lofty branches overshadow their thrones."

We shall now proceed to examine what our author has to say in detail.

The first chapter is an essay on the tendency of men to adopt visionary projects, and notices the most prominent in different stages of modern history. The second chapter is devoted to an examination of the morality of the European nations; neither this or the third chapter, on the system of the Jesuits, need any remark, as society, since the date of the author, has undergone such marvellous changes. The fourth chapter is headed—"Of Freemasonry considered as the Institution most useful to the Illuminati;" and proceeds as follows:—

"This institution, commanding respect from its antiquity, and from its primary bases equality and charity, has by turns experienced proscription and the most firm support; it has never failed to receive the respect of the multitude, the indifference of the wise, and toleration from rational governments. Apparently their secret, so much sought but never betrayed, consists merely of certain ceremonies which give solidity to this association from which humanity has never derived aught but benefits. I speak of the Masonry of France and England—a body of men neither very select nor highly organized, composed of individuals as ignorant of the physical as of the occult sciences—innocent of statecraft as of the evocation of spirits—as little acquainted with mysticism as with magic.

"In this order is found a sure means of putting men to the test—an essential point for a sect compelled to make use of instruments most perfect in the art of deceiving the vulgar. It is not every mortal who has sufficient ability to carry even vice to the highest pitch.

"The labours of the Freemasons, (whatever they may be) have produced an association, which in due time convened its assemblies. These latter have been filled with eloquent speeches; from the eloquence of religion to that of fanaticism there is but one step—these orations excite the desire of further knowledge. Instruction is given in each grade; the grade is bestowed as the reward of zeal—zeal leads to devotion to the order—this devotion to a solemn oath; and after this the proselyte is prepared for anything.

"Their ceremonies are combined with festivals, with ceremonies, with banquets. Men in their convivial moments allow but too often their secret thoughts to escape them. The careful observer, who never loses sight of his object, seizes on these various shades of character, through their different expressions, and having from time to time repeated his examination, acquires at last a certainty that he is in no danger of confiding his secret to an unworthy recipient.

"An order which does not recognise those distinctions without which society believes it cannot exist, is very certain to impose distinctions of its own upon the masses. Men of rank are actuated by a species of vanity in descending to mix with the lower orders; and these, on the other hand, feel a satisfaction in meeting princes and nobles on a footing of equality. Those peculiar characteristics which mark the existence of brotherly affection, are more developed among Masons than in any other confraternity.

"There is no resemblance between the Freemasons and the Jesuits. The one body is all coldness, the other all cordiality; no banquet, no familiar greeting, no kindly grasp of the hand, are found among the followers of Loyola; festive meetings and friendly sympathy are the characteristics of the Masons. From each of these bodies, the Illuminati have taken something; while they have revived the initiatory ceremonies of antiquity and the order of Templars of the twelfth century, they have not neglected to preserve the four institutions of the Jesuits, and to bend them to their

needs. If Iamblicus, Plotinus, Porphyry,* whom M. de Pav rightly calls the three greatest visionaries that have ever existed, should come back to preach their doctrines among us, these same Illuminati would receive them with open arms, and would procure sovereigns for their protectors, and their subjects for disciples. The difference which is found is, that the visionaries of bygone ages led men into errors and extravagance that at times approached sublimity, while those of our time conduct them to imbecility and the degradation of the human species.

"I do not know who it is that has said that Freemasonry is but a child's game played by grown men. It can never be justifiable to ridicule an institution of which the results are favourable to humanity. Be the mysteries of the Freemasons what they may, they exist—and that is sufficient for the Illuminati; whether those secrets be good or bad, true or false, just or unjust, they care not. To gain their end, they would adopt equally the code or of Cartouche,† that of the Carthusian monks. Again I repeat, that no similar organisation has yet appeared in the world — though many of those who are members of this order, are ignorant of the consequences of their guilty errors, and cannot understand what a fearful injury they are inflicting upon mankind. It has been the object of this sect to persuade princes that an enlightened people is difficult to govern; that the best policy of sovereigns is, instead of fostering science, to suffer their people to relapse into barbarism and the darkness of ignorance, which they call the natural state of man. Educated men, say they, have ever been those who have stirred up wars, and made conquests. The rulers of Europe, thoughtless, but greedy of power, have listened to their insidious advice, and have surrendered their confidence, their sceptres, their glory, their country, and their subjects to this ambitious sect, which has already commenced to deprive them of that which they feared so much to lose."

After this tremendous peroration M. de Luchet remarks that it is necessary "to announce to the nations the evil which threatens them."

The sixth chapter of the work treats of "The Circles," which is the title given to the administrative councils of the order. Each of these "Circles" is composed of nine persons; and there is one for every province where the heads of the order consider it necessary. They

* Plotinus was a Platonic philosopher of Lycopolis, in Egypt. He went to Rome, and there publicly taught philosophy. For many years he possessed great influence, which decayed ere his death, A.D., 270, in his sixty-sixth year. He wrote a number of treatises on metaphysical subjects, but the reasoning is very abstruse. Porphyry was a pupil of Plotinus, and according to the testimony of the ancients, excelled all his cotemporaries in knowledge. His style, dignified and elegant, was remarkable for its simplicity and grace; but the narrative part of his works is filled with abstruse subtilty and mystical flights. His most remarkable work, which was against the religion of Christ, and noticed by Jerome, is now lost. He died at the age of seventy one, A.D., 304. Iamblicus, a native of Chalcis, in Syria, was a disciple of Porphyry, and being eminently versed in all the mysteries of the Plotonian system, taught with great success to a large number of hearers. In one of his works, he ascribed to Pythagoras miraculous powers, intended to sink into insignificance the miracles of Jesus: this, it is said, gained him the favour of Julian the Apostate. His death is supposed to have occurred, A.D., 333.—*Lemprière*.

† Cartouche was a notorious robber, who organised a band of thieves, supposed to be sworn to fidelity and secrecy by fearful oaths, who were the terror of Paris for a long time. Cartouche was taken at last, and broken on the wheel.

have, says the author, organized a system of secret communication between their agents in the various countries of Europe, which has attained to a surprising perfection. They have spies everywhere, selected with the greatest judgment, by whose means these councils are put in possession of the secrets of courts, colleges, tribunals, consistories, and families. Nothing escapes them—the secret weaknesses of princes and the real character of philosophers are laid bare by them. This chain of communication extends over the most distant states, and by its means princes and statesmen who have allied themselves to the order obtain with certainty the secrets of their rivals. By this means, says De Luchet, the Emperor of Germany might, if he chose, have copies of the private despatches of the cabinet of Versailles, while the great Frederick at Potsdam is equally well informed as to what schemes are being hatched at St. Petersburg.

The system of the Illuminati thus having extended its ramifications over every kingdom, and seduced all ranks from the prince to the commoner, by flattering the peculiar weaknesses of each sect and individual—is destined to overthrow all society. With this end in view the founders of the order have sought to incorporate in their system the institution of Freemasonry, which has lent, without knowing it, to this infamous cause, its mysteries, its secrets, and the high consideration and respect which have been paid to it in all ages. Under the pretext of reforming or perfecting Masonry they formed other sects also, which they affiliated to themselves, and from which they hoped to derive similar advantages. Amongst these, according to our author, were the order of the "Asiatic Brothers," the "Rite of Strict Observance," and the "Eclectic Lodges." By degrees they broke down the original fabric of Masonry, substituting for its precepts the tenets and rites of their new system. Several European sovereigns plunged headlong into these extravagances; some with the hope of acquiring boundless wealth; others in the expectation of universal dominion. The essayist then gives a detailed account of the chain of communication between the principal European cities, all of which, he says, is directed from one supreme centre; he omits, however, to state where this last was situated.

In the seventh chapter the author gives us a full account of the manner of proving an Illuminé previous to making him a member of the "Circles" already mentioned. He says that the facts he is about to give to the public were confided to him at different periods by two separate individuals, in places far distant from one another, who could not have had any communication together, or any knowledge one of the other; he therefore considers their statement to be equally correct with a mathematical demonstration. These worthy men were induced to become Freemasons in the first instance, being convinced of the merits and truth of that institution. On gaining an insight into the mysterious iniquities which the Illuminati had engrafted upon the Masonic system, they retired in horror and disgust at the new obligations which they found were to be imposed upon them. To our more

practical eyes in this century it would seem very much as if the fears and credulity of the marquis had been played upon by two knowing swindlers ; nevertheless, we give his recital as we find it.

When the Illuminati, he assures us, have discovered among their Masonic novices a man sufficiently hot in zeal, sufficiently credulous, or possessed in a sufficient degree of those infamous qualities which they require in their instruments, they propose to him to dedicate himself to their order and to consecrate his resolution by solemn oaths. Having agreed to this, he is conducted by a gloomy path into an immense hall, of which the roof, the floor, and the walls, are covered with black cloth, on which are represented flames of fire and threatening serpents. Three sepulchral lamps shed an uncertain light upon the dismal scene, and enable him to gaze upon the bones of dead men suspended from the walls in funeral crape. In the centre of the place, a heap of skeletons forms a kind of altar, by the side of which are displayed open books ; if he examine these, he will find that, while some contain threats against the perjured, others reveal the fearful history of the vengeance which has overtaken those who have broken their oaths. Eight hours elapse, when mysterious phantoms, clad in grave clothes, appear slowly and noiselessly to traverse the hall, and disappear in the gloom beyond, without any sound, but leaving behind them a fetid smell

The initiate is kept in this terrible place for twenty-four hours, until both body and mind are weakened by his long fast ; suddenly, at his feet appear three cups filled with a liquid of a greenish hue. Exhausted, he is induced to lift one to his lips, but finds it so particularly nasty that he is fain to cast it from him. At length appear two persons, who seem the very ministers of death ; they bind the forehead of the recipient with a rose-coloured ribbon tinged with blood, bearing sundry characters in silver interspersed with the figure of *Nôtre Dame de Lorette*, and place in his hand a copper crucifix. They put on his neck a species of amulet covered with violet cloth. He is then stripped of his clothes, which two serving brothers place upon a funeral pile at the other extremity of the chamber. They then trace on his naked body a cross with blood, and perform other disgusting and painful ceremonies. In this state of suffering and humiliation, he sees approach, with haughty steps, five phantoms armed with swords dripping with blood. Their faces are veiled ; they spread a carpet on the floor on which they kneel in the attitude of prayer, crossing their hands on their breasts and looking on the ground in profound silence. An hour is passed in this penitent attitude. After this fatiguing probation, plaintive accents are heard, the funeral pile is lit, but only throws a pale glimmer on the scene ; the clothing is consumed, while a colossal figure, nearly transparent, issues from the centre of the pile. At this sight the five men throw themselves into convulsions horrible to view. At length a tremulous voice pierces the chamber, and propounds the obligation, which certainly is atrociously blasphemous. If *M. de Luchet* invented it (which we strongly suspect), he certainly

was not deficient in imagination ; upon horror's head horrors accumulate, with a vengeance. The victim is commanded to swear that he will break all the ties which bind him to father, mother, sister, wife, all bonds of kindred, and those of gratitude, obedience and service. He is next informed that he is released from all pretended duty to his country and the law, and he must swear to reveal to his new chief his most secret thoughts and actions, and all information that he can obtain as to those of others. He is finally recommended to honour and respect the poison *acqua Tofana*, as a sure means of purging the globe of all objectionable individuals.

The ceremony concludes by placing before the recipiendary seven black wax candles ; at his feet is a vessel of blood with which his body is laved. After this very disagreeable bath, he is made to drink half a glass of the same fluid, and "then," says our author, "he is scarcely able to support himself upon his trembling limbs;" and this we can quite believe. Finally the poor wretch is cast into a necessary but unpleasant cold bath, and is entertained with a banquet of radishes.

M. de Luchet winds up his chapter by calling truth, honour, and heaven to witness that these horrible proceedings have been revealed to him by persons who have actually strayed from the right path into the pursuits of these infamous Illuminati ; but who, having returned to a sense of propriety, have made him the confidant of their experiences—without any fear, it would seem, of the cord, the dagger, or the *acqua Tofana*.

MASONIC DUTIES.

BY BRO. J. R. CHANDLER, P.G.M. OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

To be a good Mason, a simple, unjewelled brother, is to have all the good principles, and to practice all the virtues, which can be imputed to the highest officer of the Craft. Other qualities joined to these, and various circumstances, commend a Mason to official station ; but these make beautiful and useful all of every grade.

1. A Mason must be obedient.—It is one of the first of Masonic virtues to be obedient, to bend to the high authority that is above, to feel that the officer in whose presence he stands is clothed with rights and powers that command respect. The character and worldly condition of the man is merged in the officer, and he sits in the east not to exercise an arbitrary, but a delegated power ; and he is thus in some degree the infallible exponent of the rules and landmarks of the Craft, the impersonation of the genius and the authority of Masonry. The good Mason inquires what are the rules, the prescriptive regulations—what are those customs of the Craft that are to affect the members ? He asks thus that he may adopt them as governing causes, and that he may throw himself into their influences, and thus mould and fashion his Masonic life by all their action, and make it conformable with all their requirements. He may start at exposition of the hidden laws ; but no sooner does he find them obligatory,

than he yields himself up to willing obedience, and sacrifices to the genius of the Craft all of personal predilection in that regard.

2. A Mason must be constant. No man is ever endued with the spirit of our Craft without having that fixed attachment to its principles, its ordinances, and its labours, which makes him a willing attendant upon the Lodges, and induces in him a constantly growing fondness for our assemblies. The man who catches the honours of the Craft, and leaves the Lodge as he hands to his successor the jewels of his place, may have some of the secrets of Freemasonry, but he has none of its principles. His attachments are to the fleeting honours of the officer; he knows nothing of the constancy of the true and faithful brother.

3. A Mason must be faithful. Fidelity implies a strict conformity to all the solemn requirements of a Master Mason; a full, perfect, continued fulfilment of all the obligations of the Craft; obligations deep, strict, unconditional—asseverated, sealed with awful solemnities; obligations to do and to forbear. To some of these I may not, and need not, refer with more distinctness. But fidelity—the fidelity of a Mason, involves a watchful care; a delicate but unwinking vigilance upon all that concerns the Craft. No movement that has a direct bearing upon the Order can escape the faithful Mason's notice; he sees the evil and gives the alarm. Our Order is wounded through the brethren. Her glory is in the pure morals and correct principles of her children. Her shame is found in neglected ordinances, a desolate fraternity. Can, then, a true Mason see a brother falling into errors, lapsing from the path of rectitude, wandering away after the enticements of pleasant vices—and neglect the solemn duty of admonition? Can he admonish, lure, entreat the erring brother in vain, and yet be faithful if he neglect to inform the Craft of the danger they incur by the relaxed morals of the offenders? Surely not. He forgets the letter and the spirit of the Craft; he overlooks the ties that bind him by one link to the brother, and by another to the Order, and cowardly and traitorously lets the enemy of our race get possession of the heart of a brother to whom he should give due and timely notice; and he lets that enemy of our institution find ingress to our Lodges, secreted in the bosom of a vicious brother. Fidelity to the Craft involves the unpleasant duty of rebuking the erring, as well as of admonishing the tempted brother.

4. A Mason must be charitable. Of all the words in our language, there seems to be none so much abused as the term charity. With some, the charitable man is he that gives his thousands of dollars to an object of public benevolence, or who does a small portion to the beggar at the door. Either act may be charitable, or it may be a contemptible ostentation—as undeserving the name of virtue as it is unworthy the approval of heaven. The charity which is the bond of love with Masons, lies deeper in the heart; it is the principle of the act, rather than the act itself; it is the motive sanctifying the movement and giving merit to the deed. True masonic charity finds its expression often in almsdeeds; it is evinced in the small pittance which the brother can spare to the widow and the fatherless; it is evident in the princely liberality with which a Girard endowed the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge.* But it has also other modes of expressing itself; it finds out the object for its exercise; it pours a light on the pathway of the wanderer; it guides him onward in his course, and silently blesses him. True Masonic charity exhibits itself in solicitude for the welfare of all interested in the

* The late Stephen Girard bequeathed to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the sum of \$20,000, which, by his direction, has been allowed to increase to \$30,000—the income of which is distributed to poor, worthy Masons.

benefits of the Order ; it rejoices in the elevation and prosperity of a brother ; and it sympathizes in the humiliation and adversity of the unfortunate. It startles the erring brother that was beginning to fall, and comes not with noisy purpose or ostentatious liberality, which, like the potent storm, tears up the earth which it should enrich, but falls gently and equally, like the blessed dew of heaven that nourishes and invigorates where it rests, and sparkles in the sunlight as if in token of its gratitude.

These are some of the branches of the virtues of our Craft—only some. Who shall count them all? They are the life of social existence—they are of the blessed things of earth that take hold on heaven.

THE CALM OF DEATH.

“The moon looks calmly down when man is dying,
The earth still holds her way,
Flowers breathe their perfume, and the winds keep sighing,
Naught seems to pause or stay !”

CLASP the hands meekly over the still breast, for they have no more work to do. Close the weary eyes—there are no more tears to shed ; part the damp locks—there is no more pain to bear. Closed is the heart alike to love’s kind voice and calumny’s stinging whispers.

O ! if in that still heart you have ruthlessly planted a thorn, if from that pleading eye you have turned carelessly away, if your loving glance, and kindly word, and clasping hands have come all too late—then God forgive you ! No frown gathers on the marble brow, as you gaze, no scorn curls the chiselled lip, no flush of wounded feeling mounts to the blue-veined temples.

God forgive you ! for your feet, too, must shrink appalled from death’s cold river ; your faltering tongue ask, “Can this be death ?” your fading eyes linger lovingly on the sunny earth ; your clammy hand yield its last faint pressure ; your sinking pulse its last feeble flutter.

O, rapacious grave ! yet another victim for thy voiceless keeping. What ! not a word of welcome from all the houseless sleepers ?—no warm greeting from a sister’s loving lips ; no throb of pleasure from the maternal bosom ? Silent all !

O, if these broken links were never, never gathered up ! If beyond death’s swelling flood there were no eternal shore ! If for the struggling bark there were no port of peace ! If athwart that lowering cloud sprang no bow of promise ! Alas for love, if this be all, and naught beyond, O, earth !—
American Freemason.

REAL COURAGE.—I have read of a bird, which hath a face like, and yet will prey upon, a man ; who coming to the water to drink, and finding there by reflection, that he had killed one like himself, pineth away by degrees, and never afterwards enjoyeth itself. Such is in some sort the condition of Sir Edward Harwood. This accident, that he had killed one in a private quarrel, put a period to his carnal mirth, and was a covering to his eyes all the days of his life. No possible provocations could afterwards tempt him to a duel ; and no wonder that one’s conscience loathed that whereof he had surfeited. He refused all challenges with more honour than others accepted them ; it being well known, that he would set his foot as far in the face of his enemy as any man alive.—*Fuller.*

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

Burns as a Mason. A Lecture delivered before the Lodge of Journeymen, (No. 8,) Edinburgh. By WILLIAM HUNTER, R.W.M. of that Lodge. Edinburgh: William Paterson, 74, Princes Street.—The esteemed brother to whom we are indebted for this exceedingly interesting sketch of the career of the poet, commences his address by alluding to what he considers the shortcomings of an article which appeared some time ago in the pages of this magazine, the deficiencies of which he has endeavoured to remedy. The paper in question (one of our "Masonic Biographies") he complains, does not fulfil the natural expectations of the reader, inasmuch as it is somewhat wanting in the particulars of the Masonic career of Burns. The conductors of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, we fear, have long ago found out that it is impossible to please every body connected with the Craft; and though their most strenuous efforts are devoted to give satisfaction to their readers, their journal, like all others, must occasionally meet with adverse criticism. We must candidly acknowledge that Bro. Hunter has well performed the task of supplementing our production; and we can recommend any brother who wishes for more details than were given by us, to refer to this Address for further information. The particulars of Robert Burns's admission to, and connexion with, the brotherhood, were fully dwelt upon in the various speeches that were made at the late centenary, and a repetition of them would be tiresome in this place; but Bro. Hunter's narrative is interspersed with philosophical and well digested remarks which are worthy of attention. He shows that the generous and noble nature of the poet, the warmth of his sympathy for his fellows, and his veneration for all that is good and true, were predisposing causes which combined with the circumstances in which he was placed, to make him a perfect Mason.

"Burns, above all, had a warm and abiding love to the whole brotherhood of man. He entered keenly into their woes, wants, and struggles,—no less than into their joys, amusements, and festivities. Nothing connected with humanity was indifferent to him; but the kind sympathies of his nature were specially drawn to the poor but honest man, maintaining a hard conflict with the world's ills, and needing the helping hand of his fellow mortals. And hence he says—

'Affliction's sons are brothers in distress;
A brother to relieve, how exquisite the bliss.'

A man with a heart so full of love to every object around him, and with a mind elevated and refined by cultivation, and taught to look up with reverence to the Great Creator and Preserver of all, could not fail to be a good and a zealous Mason. He could eagerly enter into an examination of the sublime principles of our Order, and feel a high gratification in practising its beneficent requirements. In the Mason's Lodge he would find an extension of the family circle, and a noble field for the display of those kindly and fraternal feelings which the Almighty had planted in his breast, and which he had been taught to evince and to cherish at his father's fireside. He would enjoy social intercourse with the most generous and intelligent men of the district, and engage in those rational festivities which Masonry sanctions—and which serve to knit the heart of a man more closely to his brother man."

Of the connexion of Burns with several Lodges in the country and in Edinburgh, our lecturer gives a full account, containing many interesting

particulars, and numerous anecdotes, some of which are new, several old, and others hardly worth preservation. The circumstances under which some of his well known Masonic effusions were penned, are alluded to, and an interesting reminiscence is given of "Highland Mary," singularly enough, in connexion with Burns as a Mason. The lovers, at their last interview, exchanged Bibles; in the volume which the bard presented to the object of his love, was written his name and a verse of Scripture, with the addition of his Mason's mark:—

"The use of this mark appears to indicate that Burns had been made a Mark Mason previous to his elevation to the rank of a Royal Arch Companion, and that he attached a peculiar sacredness to the inscription of his mark, regarding it, without doubt, as an additional pledge of truth and fidelity."

At the time when Burns had attained to the zenith of his fame as a poet, the Masonic order in Scotland comprised among its members individuals of high rank, and men of great intellectual attainments. Edinburgh too, at that period, was still the residence of the Scottish nobility and gentry, and its society was brilliant and distinguished. Into this circle, the poet was received with the honours due to his genius; the introduction, in several instances, being effected through the medium of the Lodges, at which he was a pretty regular visitor. Our author gives a not uninteresting list of the celebrities with whom Burns was then associated by the ties of brotherhood; and notices several important Masonic events, in which he was concerned; most of these have been fully described, at various times, in our pages. We will here extract Bro. Hunter's refutation of the assertion that has too often been made (and which we were sorry to see revived in some journals on the late festival occasion), that Burns was rendered an intemperate man in consequence of his connexion with Freemasonry. Bro. Hunter says:—

"His brother, Gilbert, says that his becoming a Freemason 'was his first introduction to the life of a boon companion.' Now this is in direct opposition to what he himself states in reference to this matter. He says that when he was attending the school of Hugh Rodger, at Kirkoswald, for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of mensuration, surveying, dialling, &c., which was four years previous to initiation as a Mason, he 'learned to fill his glass and to mix without fear in a drunken squabble.' We have no reason to believe that the humble members of the Tarbolton Lodge indulged in excessive potations at their meetings. They certainly were not total abstainers. They had no objection to take a swatch of Manson's barrels, and to spend 'the cheerful, festive night;' but there is no evidence to shew that they systematically violated the principles of Masonry by an intemperate indulgence in the use of spirituous liquors. Burns, all the time that he lived in the neighbourhood of Tarbolton, is not known to have been more addicted to drinking than his rustic compeers. Gilbert expressly states that he was a most sober individual, and that he was never once seen intoxicated till the celebrity he acquired as a poet caused him to be much sought after as an agreeable companion and a man of mark. Burns himself, no doubt, says that he was—

'Whiles daizt wi' love, whiles daizt wi' drink,
Wi' jads or Masons.'

But this seems to be nothing more than another example of that poetic license which he employed in his 'Earnest Cry and Prayer,' where he proposes to drink the health of the statesman, Pitt, nine times a week, in Nansie Timnock's hostelry in Mauchline, in which, he says, he was sometimes in the habit of studying politics over a glass of guid auld Scotch drink. Now, Nansie declared, to her dying day, that the chiel Burns had in this matter spoken in a most regardless manner; as, to the best of her knowledge, he had never drunk three half nutchkins in her house during the whole course of his life. After he came to Edinburgh he was much taken out by all classes, as well as by Masons; and yet his friend, John Richardson, the law student, with whom he lodged for some time after his arrival,

was in the habit of stating that he kept seasonable hours, and went soberly to bed, where he would prevail upon his companion, by little bribes, to read to him till he fell asleep. It is not, then, to Freemasonry, it is not to the moderate festivities of the Mason's Lodge, it is not to the example of his Ayrshire Brethren—that we ought to ascribe any deviation from the paths of sobriety of this noble and exalted genius—but to the scenes of dissipation into which he was afterwards led by the wits and choice spirits of Edinburgh, to the unsettled and irregular life into which he was driven by his profession as an exciseman, and to the killing kindness of friends and strangers after he settled at Dumfries, who could see no other way of honouring the bard, enjoying his society, and gratifying their curiosity, than by alluring him into the tavern, and urging him on to debasing excess and the prostration of his intellect."

We will now bid Bro. Hunter farewell, and in conclusion, we must say that we think he has most satisfactorily performed the task which he set himself. He has produced an exceedingly interesting and eloquent narrative, which we cannot doubt will add to his already high and well deserved reputation.

American Quarterly Review of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences. Parts i., ii, and iii., Vol 2. New York: Robert Macoy.—Having missed the receipt of the two last parts of Vol. 1 of this excellent quarterly, we hail its reappearance on our desk with the utmost satisfaction. Its talented editor, Dr. Albert Mackey is assisted by a host of Masonic talent, such as only America can produce; Masonry being looked upon in that country, as possessing something more for study than the mere ceremonies and lectures. The numbers before us contain some admirable papers by the editor, Bros. Rob Morris, Albert Pike, Salem Town, *L.L.D.*, J. F. Adams, *M.D.*, W. S. Rockwell, and others, specimens of which we will from time to time lay before our readers. It may not be uninteresting to our English brethren to know that the work can be obtained through Bro. Richard Spencer.

Universal Masonic Record; or, Links in the Golden Chain of Brotherhood. Philadelphia: Bro. Leon Hyneman.—This is an attempt, and so far as America is concerned, we should think from appearances a tolerably successful one, to produce a directory "containing the name, business, profession, and residence, of subscribers; the name of the Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Encampment, to which each one is attached; and the rank, position, and degree attained in the Order;" to which is added, "a list of Masonic Lodges in America and Europe, and the place where each Lodge is held." Bro. Hyneman is desirous, as far as possible, to extend his record by the publication of the names and addresses of brethren in the United Kingdom, but we do not think that he is likely to be very successful in obtaining support for such a work amongst English Masons. It is however a most valuable work for any brother proceeding to the United States to obtain; for in no part of the world are the true principles of Masonry better understood and practised than amongst our transatlantic brethren.

Freemasons' Calendar and Almanac, for Durham and Northumberland, 1859. Bro. J. Roddan, South Shields.—This is a very useful little compendium of the Lodge and Chapter meetings in the counties indicated; and ought to be in the pocket book of every brother connected with them.

Masonic Album and Remembrancer for 1859.—This is a handy little remembrancer, presented gratuitously to the brethren, by Bro. J. H. Greatrex (No. 25), the photographer, of 70, Regent Street. It contains, in addition to an almanack, the days and place of meeting of the London Lodges and Chapters; Lodges and Chapters of Instruction, with a variety of other useful

matter, of course all made subsidiary to the great object, that of making the brethren acquainted with Bro. GreatRex. Each copy of the Album contains one or more specimens of Bro. GreatRex's talent—the copy upon our table displays admirable portraits in miniature of Bro. Watson, P.M. No. 23 and Bro. Coulcher, W.M. No. 1055; both wonderfully exact.

Scottish Masonic Calendar and Pocket Book for 1859 Glasgow: Bro. John Davidson. London: Bro. Richard Spencer.—Our Brethren in Scotland have long been without a proper annual Calendar—an attempt made to establish one some years since not having proved remunerative, and it not being as with us the property of the Supreme Grand Lodge. The present attempt to resuscitate the publication, which if merit receives its fair award, will be most certainly successful, is made under the patronage of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow; the editor being our esteemed friend Bro. Donald Campbell, Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow. The Calendar not only contains a list of the Scottish Lodges and Chapters but those of England and Ireland, with a variety of other information which cannot prove otherwise than of interest to the Mason. Bro. Campbell has well performed his task, and we trust the work will receive the patronage it deserves.

History of the British Empire in India. By Bro. E. H. NOLAN, Ph. D. Parts 20 and 21. London: James S. Virtue.—We have before us, in these parts, the completion of the first, and the commencement of the second volume of this work, of which we have before spoken in terms of commendation. The first volume closes with what may be called the termination of the supremacy of the Dutch in India, about 1666; for as our learned brother, in concluding his volume, truly says, "Henceforth the history of the Dutch is involved in that of the English and French, who successively became the leading powers amongst European nations in the East; and in the records of their progress, will be found the decline of a power once all powerful, and even felt still, in the East." The second volume commences with the progress of the East India Company, from the establishment of factories in continental India to the first settlement on the Hoogly; and promises to be equally interesting with any previous portion of the work. There is one characteristic of the works published by the Messrs. Virtue, that the engravings are admirably executed, and the author has always the advantage of being placed before his readers in excellent typography. The parts before us are illustrated with a beautiful map of China, and two steel engravings, the Fort of Gwalior, and a portrait of Gholab Singh, which a few years since, it would have been impossible to obtain, excepting at a cost far exceeding that of the work to which they are now only used as accessories.

Hints for the Table; or, the Economy of Good Living; with a few Words on Wines. London: Kent and Co. (late Bogue). This is a most admirable little work which we presume, though it is not so stated, to have emanated from the able pen of our industrious friend, Mr. John Timbs. It is not a cookery book, but a dissertation on the philosophy of good living at moderate cost. Whilst pointing out the peculiar attributes of almost every imaginable kind of dish and drink, the text is most agreeably relieved with anecdotes of the table and of those who have been distinguished as *bon vivants*.

The Advantages of Promptitude and the Dangers of Delay; by Bro. HENRY RISEBOROUGH SHARMAN. London: G. J. Stevensou, Paternoster Row. This

is one of a series of pamphlets entitled "Life Assurance Leaflets by one of the editors of the *Life Assurance Gazette*" intended to point out to all the necessity of Life Assurance as a provision for a family and the danger of delay—life and health being too uncertain ever to rely upon its being to-morrow as it is to-day. Bro. Sharman writes smoothly, and doubtless his "leaflets" will tend to assist Life Assurance agents in increasing their connections.

On the Loss of Teeth; and on the best Means of Restoring them. By THOMAS HOWARD, Surgeon Dentist to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. London: Simpkin and Marshall.—This is a valuable little treatise on all the dental maladies that flesh is heir to, written in plain and intelligible language; and though scientific, is by no means abstruse. The author considers the various causes of tooth-ache, and the best means of preserving the teeth. After some remarks upon their value and importance, he proceeds to notice the injury caused to the general health of the patient by loose and deficient masticators—the necessity of perfect teeth for the functions of the voice—and the chemical composition of the human teeth. He describes at some length, the diseases of these organs, and has a chapter upon the exciting cause of dental caries. Having shown how people lose their teeth, he points out the remedy for their loss, and the philosophical principles upon which artificial teeth are formed. The system of which Mr. Howard is the originator, appears, from the description in this little book, to answer every requirement for mastication, or for the improvement of the personal appearance of the patient, and has the advantage of being unattended with any pain.

NEW MUSIC

Let us try to Meet Trouble Half way. A Song, by W. T. PASSMORE. Music by FREDERICK SPRINDALL. London: Z. T. Purday, 45, High Holborn.—A very pretty melody, though not so original in its phraseology as to strike us with the novelty of its conceptions; yet it is the kind of song that pleases the ear, and tells the words in a manner that does not confound their sense. The accompaniment is simple enough for the most moderately informed player to execute; an attribute of no mean service to the sale of the publication; it aims only to be subservient to the air, and as such is very successful. The sentiment of the song is told by the title, and is subversive of one of the most ancient adages in the language, viz., "Never meet troubles half way." The meeting a trouble on its road, instead of calmly awaiting its advent, seems to us a piece of stoical philosophy which we have no desire to emulate; for our own parts, instead of seeking to meet the "growsome" traveller on his forward journey, we should rather look out for a convenient gap in the bordering hedge, and leaving him the broad path whereon to pace with footsteps heavy and melancholy, content ourselves with a cut across the green field, which, though it might be lonesome, would be much better for us that it were so, than for us to be companioned with one who standing between us and the light would cast over us a shadow of discontent. However, Mr. Passmore may think differently; if so, we wish him joy of his trouble when he meets it, which we trust (for his sake) may be a far distant time.

THE ENGLISH HEARTH.

BY BRO. GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL.*

"O pleasant hour! O moment ever sweet!
 When once again we reach the calm retreat,
 Where looks of love and tones of joy abide—
 That heaven on earth—our dear, our *own* fireside!"

HEAVISIDES'S *Pleasures of Home.*

WHEN Autumn's fruits are gather'd in,
 And trees and fields are bare ;
 When merry birds no more are heard
 To warble in the air ;
 When sweetest flowers have droop'd and died
 And snow is on the ground ;
 How cheerful is an English hearth,
 With friends all seated round.

Then is the time for festive mirth,
 Then is the time for glee ;
 'Tis then the tales of bygone days
 Give pleasure unto me :
 And when the wild storm howls without
 With deep and hollow sound,
 I love the cheerful English hearth
 With friends all seated round.

And when those touching strains are sung,
 Writ by the bards of old,
 How swift the evening seems to fly—
 Unfelt the piercing cold :
 What though the snow-flakes thickly fall,
 And icicles abound ;
 I have a cheerful English hearth
 For friends to sit around.

And when the clouds of worldly care
 Are gathering o'er my brow ;
 When sorrow's frost hath nipt my heart,
 And check'd the blood's warm flow ;
 When grief has in her heavy chain
 My buoyant spirits bound ;
 How cheering is an English hearth
 With friends all seated round.

* Author of "Shakspeare, his Times and Contemporaries," &c.

Though slander's foul, envenom'd shafts
 Should pierce my spirit through,
 There is one smile, one sunlit eye,
To beam upon me now :
 And though my fate should be to roam
 Where strangers all are found,
 I'll think upon my English hearth,
 And friends who sat around.

Then fill each glass of nut-brown ale,
 And smoke the fragrant weed ;
 Our English hearths we will protect
 In every hour of need :—
 Come, let us drink the parting toast,
 Through Europe let it sound ;
 It is—The cheerful English hearth,
 With friends all seated round.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

Hail ! first grand principle of Masonry, for ever hail !
 Thou gracious attribute, descending from above ;
 O'er each corroding passion of the soul prevail,
 And show the social charms of brothers' love.

May thy bright virtues e'er resplendent shine
 Through ages yet unborn—worlds unexplored ;
 Till even rancour falls before thy shrine,
 And malice blushing owns thee for her lord.

This happy union of each gen'rous mind
 Would nobly give to peace eternal birth ;
 Implicit confidence would bless mankind,
 And perfect happiness be found on earth.

From this celestial source behold a train
 Of blooming virtues, emulous to gain
 A genial warmth from each expanded breast.
 Among the pleasing numbers crowding round,
 Whose looks with well meant services are crown'd,
 Relief and Truth superior stand confest.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SUFFOLK.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—I learn from your publication of to-day that the Brethren of the Province of Suffolk, in Grand Lodge assembled, have, after the lapse of very nearly four months, made me the object of a formal anathema, on account of certain terms in which I alluded to what I considered the distinguishing characteristic of the celebrated meeting held at Ipswich on the 24th of September last. If such of your readers as may have seen the report of the Special Provincial Grand Lodge of 16th instant will do me the favour to refer to your number of September 29th, 1858, and peruse the account of the former meeting then given, with minds free from bias and prejudice, I think they must unanimously agree with me as to the strict accuracy of my description, and will share the surprise I feel at "the coil" that has been "made about me." They will then see nearly two thirds of a long account of the banquet proceedings devoted to an elaborate defence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, who had just previously in Grand Lodge, amply vindicated himself, and who we were emphatically told, needed no further defence—to the intense gratification of, and interchange of extravagant compliments between, a select few of the "Masons of eminence from London," to wit, "Donati's Comet" (as described by Bro. Martin, Prov. D.G.M.), and those who constituted the tail of that brilliant luminary on the occasion of his manifestation to the Province of Suffolk; when he certainly shone with most unwonted effulgence—pleasantly mingled with denunciations of a certain so-called "party" and their reputed organ the *Masonic Observer*, and liberally interspersed with praises of your most valuable periodical. Thus, then, I do not attempt to palliate or excuse, but on the contrary I justify that for which I have been called in question. This however, I assert most positively, that I had not the most remote idea of applying the phrase objected to to any member of the Province of Suffolk. As little did I intend it to apply *exclusively* to Bro. Havers; and in a subsequent letter I expressed my surprise that he should appropriate it to himself.

Without arrogating to myself any superior merit, I must respectfully lay claim to a higher appreciation of my Masonic obligation than—judging from their language—appears to be entertained of it by those who were most prominent at the recent Special Grand Lodge at Ipswich. Deeply indeed should I regret to attempt to brand with odium the name of an absent

brother on a supposititious charge, for which no opportunity of explanation had ever been afforded. Had the rules of private society been followed in this instance, and a remonstrance been addressed to me, I should at once have assured those who felt themselves aggrieved—that, however I may have characterised proceedings which took place in Suffolk, I never for one moment thought of stigmatising the resident brethren of that province; while I should not have shrunk from designating those, who, by an ostentatious display of partisanship, invited criticism and remark.

I have no wish to embitter controversy or to aggravate the unhappily existing disputes, or I might legitimately take exception to many of the sayings and doings of the 16th. I forbear—and now that I have done that which I trust will be satisfactory to those against whom I cannot entertain animosity, I take leave of the subject.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,
 London, 23rd Feb., 1859. FREDK. BINCKES.

IMPERIAL TESTIMONIAL.—A very gratifying and complimentary mark of honour has just been conferred on a brother of St. Hilda's Lodge, No. 292, South Shields, for meritorious services, by his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Austria, in the shape of a splendid telescope for sea use, manufactured by Olceseal of Vienna; it is three feet in the tube, and two and a half in the field, and is fitted up with three sets of lenses of various powers, and is enclosed in a beautiful mahogany case. The occasion of this imperial act is a recognition of services rendered by Bro. Captain Strachan, of the brig "Barbarus," of Shields, to the Austrian ship "Furioso," while imperilled at the mouth of the Sulina during the year 1858. The whole of the crew were saved by the unaided exertions of Captain Strachan, although an Austrian ship of war was at hand, whose commander was put to shame by the gallant daring of Bro. Strachan, and his crew. The telescope was forwarded to Shields by Count Apponyi, the Austrian ambassador at London, accompanied by a highly complimentary letter.

HENRY VAUGHAN.—Anthony à Wood happily describes Vaughan as "singular and humourous." He was, in truth, a fantastic writer in a fantastic age. His best pieces are overlaid by the quaintest and baldest conceits. Yet many passages in his writings furnish evidence that he had no want of poetical feeling or of the imaginative faculty. He is neither a rhymers on commonplaces nor a vulgar writer. He possessed both pathos and energy of language. But of wit or humour he had none, and it was perhaps fortunate for his reputation that he early forsook a class of composition for which he had such little aptitude, to become a disciple of the sacred muse. We are led to judge that it was to the influence of "that holy man, Mr. George Herbert," whose poems had then recently appeared (1633), that Vaughan owed the change which seems to have been wrought in his feelings subsequently to the publication of his amatory pieces in 1646. Shortly after this time it is manifest that he abandoned the old objects of his admiration, Ben Jonson, Herrick, Randolph, and others, and went over to the school of Herbert. Those who expect to find in the poems of Henry Vaughan, the grace, beauty, and harmony of rhythm which distinguish the productions of Crashaw or Father Southwell, will experience some disappointment. Nevertheless, it is not to be denied that through his pages are scattered passages of more than average excellence, and one or two in which the vein of poetry places the author on a level with the best minor poets of his day.—*Athenæum*.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

APPOINTMENTS.

Wednesday, March 2nd.—GRAND LODGE, at 7, for S. Lodge, Westminster and Keystone (10), Freemasons' Tavern; Florence Nightingale (1008), Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich.

Thursday, 3rd.—Lodges, Egyptian (29), George and Blue Boar; Strong Mau (53), Falcon Tavern; Good Report (153), Radley's Hotel; Lion and Lamb (227), Bridge House Hotel; St. Andrew's (281), Freemasons' Tavern; Yarborough (812), George, Commercial Road East; Crystal Palace (1044), Crystal Palace. *Chapter.*—St. James (No. 2), Freemasons' Tavern.

Friday, 4th.—*Chapters*, Fidelity (3), London Tavern; British (8), Freemasons' Tavern.

Saturday, 5th.—Lodge, London (125), Freemasons' Tavern. Committee Boys School, at 4.

Monday, 7th.—Lodges, Robert Burns (25), Freemasons' Tavern; Royal Jubilee (85), Anderson's Hotel; St. John's (107), Radley's Hotel; St. Luke's (168), Commercial Hall, Chelsea; Joppa (223), Albion Tavern; Unions (318), Freemasons' Tavern.

Tuesday, 8th.—Lodges, Burlington (113), Albion Tavern; St. James Union (211), Freemasons' Tavern; Percy (231), Ship and Turtle; Israel (247), Bridge House Hotel; St. Michael's (255), George and Blue Boar; United Strength (270), Old Jerusalem Tavern, Clerkenwell; Nine Muses (286), Freemasons' Tavern; Wellington (805), Lord Duncan, Deptford. *Chapter.*—Jerusalem (208), Dick's Coffee House.

Wednesday, 9th.—Lodges, Fidelity (3), Freemasons' Tavern; Enoch (11), ditto; Union of Waterloo (13), Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich; Kent (15), Three Tuns, Southwark; Athelstan (19), George and Blue Boar; Royal Naval (70), Freemasons' Tavern; Vitruvian (103), White Hart, College Street, Lambeth; Eastern Star (112), Old Globe, Mile End; Justice (172), Royal Albert, Deptford; Pilgrim (239), Ship and Turtle; Zetland (725), Adam and Eve, Kensington; Belgrave (1051), Gun Tavern, Pimlico.

Thursday, 10th.—Lodges, Friendship (6), Thatched House; Regularity (108), Freemasons' Tavern; Friendship (245), Ship and Turtle; Bank of England (329), Radley's Hotel; Polish (758), Freemasons' Tavern; Canonbury (955), Canonbury Tavern, Islington.

Friday, 11th.—Lodges, Caledonian (156), Ship and Turtle; Bedford (183), Freemasons' Tavern; Union (195), London Tavern; High Cross (1056), Railway Hotel, Northumberland Park, Tottenham.

Saturday, 12th.—Lodge, Phoenix (202), Freemasons' Tavern.

[The appointments of Lodges of Instruction will appear in the last number of each month.]

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—At a Lodge of Emergency, held on Wednesday, Feb. 23rd, for the purpose of initiating G. M. Neil, Esq., of Ceylon, into the mysteries of the Order, Bro. Burton, P.M., presided in the absence of the W.M. (who was in the country). Through the care and attention of the W.M., the officers are well up to their duties, a requisite without which it is quite impossible the ceremonies can be efficiently performed.

NEPTUNE LODGE (No. 22).—At a meeting held on Thursday, February 24th, at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, Bro. R. Farran, W.M., who for the first time discharged the duties in Lodge, gave proof of his proficiency in initiating Wm. Henry Philpott, and passing to the second degree Bro. Richard Child, most ably. There were among the visitors, Bros. Newton, P.M. No. 830; Stewart and Blackwell.

LODGE OF PROSPERITY (No. 78).—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, February 23rd, at the White Hart Hotel, Bishopsgate-street. Bro. Alfred Day, W.M., presided, and initiated Mr. James Nutt, and afterwards passed to the second degree Bros. Danks and Usher. Bro. J. H. Goodwin, the W.M. elect, was then presented for installation, and was duly placed in the chair in the presence of a full board of installed Masters. Although it was the first time Bro. Day had undertaken the duty, he went through the ceremony in a most satisfactory manner. Bro. Goodwin then appointed and invested the following, as his officers for the year ensuing:—Bros. Day, P.M.; F. J. Prescott, S.W.; O. F. Valentine, J.W.; Bro. H. J. Thompson, Sec.; E. S. Cornwell, S.D.; E. Arnold, J.D.; Saltmarsh, D. Cer.; H. Mills, I.G. Bro. Horace Thomas, P.M., Treasurer, was also invested. The W.M. then addressing his predecessor, said he had the honour of presenting to Bro. Day a P.M.'s jewel, in recognition of his distinguished services. The jewel, which is of the most elegant character, bears this inscription:—"Prosperity Lodge, February, 1859. Presented to Bro. Alfred Day, P.M., as a token of esteem for the admirable manner in which he performed the duties of the Lodge, and the zeal with which he promulgated the genuine principles and tenets of the Order, during the year he presided as W.M." At eight o'clock, the Lodge was called off to refreshment, and between forty and fifty Brethren assembled at a most excellent banquet. There were several visitors, and among others were Bros. George Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Rule, P.G. Purs.; Purdy, How, Kindred, Mobbs, Stean, Mollay, Braithwaite, Hareborough, and Middleton.

LODGE OF TRANQUILITY (No. 218).—The annual installation festival was held on Monday, February 21st, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Bro. Meyer Harris presided, and gracefully closed his year of office by initiating Mr. George Monk, and passing to the second degree Bros. J. Barnett, H. D. Hart, J. Jacobs, E. Jacobs, H. Klaber, and Welfare. The annual election of four members for the management of the Benevolent Fund was also entered on. Bro. Harris then resigned the chair to Bro. Selig, according to the long established custom of No. 218, and presented Bro. Moss Ansell, the W.M. elect, who was duly installed in the chair, in presence of seventeen Past Masters, and afterwards proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees. There were near sixty Brethren present. The W.M. then appointed and invested, as his officers, Bro. Henry Isaacs, P.M. No. 227, and Prov. G. Org. of Herts, S.W.; Maurice Hart, J.W.; Algernon Sydney, Sec.; Robert Cox, S.D.; Moss, J.D.; Benda, M. Cer.; Philip Levy, I.G.; Davis and Pyke, Stewards. Bro. Alexander Levy, who had been re-elected Treasurer, was unable to attend. The W.M., in investing his Officers, with force as well as kindness addressed each on his duties and the necessity of regular attendance, to which they severally replied. Bro. Noah Davies, P.M., then, in the name and on the part of the Lodge, presented a very elegant jewel, which had been voted at the preceding meeting, to Bro. Meyer Harris, as a mark of esteem for his valuable services given in open lodge. Bro. Harris modestly acknowledged the testimonial, and said he was conscious he had endeavoured to do his duty in every office, from the time he was appointed I.G. of the Lodge, and he believed he had never been absent from his post; it would be his pleasure as also his duty to continue his services to the W.M. whenever they might be required. The Lodge was then closed, and this meeting being always a festal one, the Brethren adjourned to the usual splendid banquet that closes the day. There were several visitors present.

INDUSTRY LODGE (No. 219).—This Lodge held its regular meeting at Dick's Coffeehouse, Fleet-street, on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd. Bro. Cotterell, W.M., presided, and in his usual able manner, raised Bro. Bury to the third degree, passed Bro. Buswell to the second degree, and initiated Captain Andrews, of the Gold Coast Artillery, into the mysteries of the Craft. The business being completed, the Brethren retired to an excellent banquet, and the evening was passed most harmoniously. The visitors present were, Bros. Madigan, W.M.; Devereux, S.W.; Palmer, Little, and Brown, of the Castle Lodge, Windsor, No. 1073; Goring, P.M. No. 25; Stewart, No. 189; Thompson, No. 206; Leared, No. 935, &c.

UNITED PILGRIMS' LODGE (No. 745).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was

held on Wednesday, February 23rd, at the Manor House, Walworth. Bro. Farmer, P.M., presided as W.M., (in the absence of Bro. Neates), supported by Bro. Dean, S.W., and Batley, J.W. The Lodge having been opened, and some business transacted, the members proceeded to the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. Dean declining the office, the choice fell upon Bro. Batley, who returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him. Bro. Farmer was re-elected Treasurer. The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren sat down to a banquet. This having been disposed of, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. Bros. H. Thompson and H. Francis responded for "The Visitors." Bro. Cooke, P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and said no words of his could add to the lustre of his name, both as a man and a Mason. The W.M. sincerely thanked them for the honour conferred upon him, and hoped that he should be many years amongst them. The W.M. next gave "The P.Ms. of the Lodge," and alluded to the pleasure he derived from seeing present Bro. Cooke, the father of the Lodge, and also Bro. Pratnell, both of whom had done good suit and service to the Lodge. As to Bro. Thomas, had he the rhetoric of Demosthenes, he could not say enough of him. He could say that he was a true Mason, and that was sufficient. It was to Bro. Thomas, both in and out of the Lodge, that he was indebted for the instruction which enabled him to take the position he then had the honour to hold in the Lodge. He concluded by giving the P.Ms. of the Lodge. Bro. Dean responded, and having alluded to the vicissitudes of the Lodge, said he rejoiced that the great principles of Masonry carried out in that Lodge by many who were now no more, especially their late Bro. Luckings, were continued by those who were still members of the Lodge, as well as of Lodges of Instruction. In the name of the Past Masters, he returned thanks for the honour conferred upon them. The W.M., in giving "The Masonic Charities," denied the imputation that Masons spent all their money in eating and drinking, for the last time they met at their festival, at the Freemasons' Tavern, they collected £2,100, which was a large sum to be collected. Bro. Thomas was the steward on that occasion, for the second time, and the greatest honour was due to him for his services. He would say no more upon this subject, believing that the greatest of all Masonic virtues were the unpublished acts of charity, and doing good to their fellow man, and should at once give them "Their Masonic Charities," which toast was duly honoured. The W.M. said he could not part with them without giving them "The Health of their Secretary, Bro. Thomas," who, whether as regarded keeping their Lodge together—for his assistance in Lodges of instruction—for his actions in private life, not only as a Mason, but in his profession—in every respect; wherever he was known, he was respected. The toast was drunk in the most enthusiastic manner. Bro. Thomas said he would on all occasions do his best, not only to promote the interests of the Lodge, but the welfare of his fellow creatures. The more he saw of Masonry, the more he respected the members of the order. He might be well disposed towards others, but there was that among Masons which claimed his best affection. He was glad to see the able manner in which the charities were conducted, and the response which the Brethren had given to them. As they had four charities, those calls came pretty frequently, but still a vast amount was subscribed, from time to time, and the universal feeling of charity amongst Masons appeared to be on the increase by the increased subscriptions to these institutions. In proportion to the demand, so much greater had been the exertions of the Brethren to meet the demand. He thought the Brethren would not feel satisfied with holding this festival at intervals of two years, and that they would urge the Grand Master to give the Benevolent Institution the same benefits as were now given to the Boys' and Girls' Schools, by holding an annual festival. He hoped they would get rid of the long list of candidates they had before them, and, instead of candidates waiting six, seven, and eight years for admission, that ere long, there would be no necessity for going to a poll, but they would be able to place them at once on the funds, and to say that there was room enough for all. The W.M. said that through the Board of Benevolence more than £3,000, was given every year, in addition to their other charities. The evening's proceedings were closed in perfect harmony.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM LODGE (No. 1,055).—An emergency meeting of

this Lodge was held at the Knights of St. John's Hotel, St. John's Wood, on Wednesday, February 23rd, Bro. Coulcher, W.M., presiding. Bros. Key, Hardey, Woods, and Drummond, were introduced and raised to the degree of Master Mason. Bro. Allen was passed as a Fellow Craft. A ballot was taken for the admission of Captain Hudson, Mr. F. G. Baker, and Mr. King, who were subsequently initiated into the Order, the whole of the ceremonies being admirably rendered by the W.M., Bro. Coulcher. Bros. John Henry GreatRex, W. Hughes, Leopold Kossowski, and Chadwick, were balloted for, and admitted as joining members. Several propositions having been made for the meeting in March next, Lodge was closed, the Brethren retiring to refreshment. Upon the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. The W.M. proposed the health of the initiates, making some pertinent allusions to the newly made Brothers. Their brother Captain Hudson had served in the Crimea, and was still suffering from that service. He had for the present laid by the sword, and it was hoped that it would be long ere the necessity arose for its being used. After a few further remarks from the Master, the toast was received with the usual honours. Bro. Hudson acknowledged the compliment, and assured the Brethren that he and his co-initiates would endeavour to deserve their good opinion. Bro. Watson, P.M., proposed the W.M., making some complimentary remarks on Bro. Coulcher as the founder of the Lodge, and for the excellence of his working. The W.M. briefly responded. Bro. Hardey, S.W., then proposed the health of Bro. GreatRex, who had paid a handsome compliment to the Lodge in the presentation to it of a splendid portrait of Bro. Coulcher. Whoever looked at that portrait must admire the talent of Bro. GreatRex, which had produced such an admirable specimen of the photographic art. Bro. GreatRex tendered his grateful acknowledgments for the toast. Bro. Morbey, P.M. No. 169, returned thanks for the visitors, with his usual eloquence. A happy evening resulted, the Brethren breaking up soon after ten o'clock.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE (No. 1082).—A warrant having been recently granted by the M.W.G.M. to several well known Brethren to form a Lodge under the above title, to meet at Bro. Tull's, P. Prov. G. Organist for Berks, the Rising Sun Tavern, Stamford Bridge, Fulham, the Lodge was inaugurated on Friday last. The hour appointed was two o'clock, and before that time a very respectable muster of Brethren, both members and visitors, were assembled, and as they each entered the Lodge-room, their expressions of pleasure at its cheerfulness, and the necessary ante-rooms were unanimously favourable. A few minutes after the time announced, the business of the day commenced by Bro. William Watson, P.M., of No. 23, and P.G. Steward, opening the Lodge in the accustomed form. In this he was assisted by Bro. William Rackstraw, P.M., of No. 9, who officiated as S.W., and by Bro. Brett, P.M., of No. 206, who kindly undertook the duties of the J.W. Proceeding with the consecration, Bro. Watson was ably seconded by Bro. Matthew Cooke, of No. 29, who presided at the harmonium, and performed the appropriate music. The installation followed, and Bro. Joseph Smith, P.M., of No. 206, and G. Purst, was duly inducted and recognized as the first W.M. of the Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 1082. The following Brethren were also appointed to the respective offices:—Bro. John B. Osborne, first S.W., Bro. George F. Fry, first J.W., both being named in conjunction with the W.M. in the warrant, Bro. Henry G. Buss, P.M. and Sec. of No. 29, Treas. (*pro tem.*) and Sec. of the new Lodge; Bro. Chas. Thos. Sutton, S.D.; the offices of J.D. and I.G. were not filled up; Bro. William Walters, Steward; and Bro. Hammett, Tyler. A ballot was taken, and resulted in an unanimous election for the following Brethren as joining members:—Bros. W. Watson, P.G. Steward and P.M. of No. 25; Wm. Rackstraw, P.M. No. 9; Henry Potter, P.M. No. 11; Henry G. Buss, P.M. and Sec. of No. 29; Chas. T. Sutton, No. 63; Bro. Chas. Renwick, No. 112, and Bro. Wm. Hewitt, No. 597. There were also, seven candidates' names down for initiation if approved of, and four of them appearing, they were admitted into the Order by the W.M. in his usually correct and admirable style, viz:—Bros. Wm. Hale, Wm. Edmund Williams, Wm. Johnson, and Chas. J. Jefferys, the well known author and music publisher. Before closing the Lodge, a vote of thanks was ordered to be inscribed on the minutes to

each of the following Brethren:—to Bro. Wm. Watson, for his kindness in attending and performing the arduous duties of the day, which were done with Bro. Watson's well known skill and faultless precision; to Bros. Osborne and Fry, the S. and J. Ws., for the very handsome pedestals they had presented to the Lodge; and to the W.M. for the most valued gift the Lodge could receive, an excellent and beautifully bound copy of the volume of the sacred law, with its attendant cushion. And although no vote could be so recorded in favour of Bro. Platt, yet his very chaste jewels, columns, perfect ashlar, and the loan of his vessels of classical design, called forth the praise of every brother present. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned for a time to give an opportunity to prepare the room for the banquet. On their re-assembling, that serious business of life, dinner, was done justice to, and being finally disposed of, the W.M., in a few terse and appropriate words, gave the first toast of the evening, which was followed by Bro. M. Cooke's singing the new Masonic song, "The Queen and the Craft," amid general applause. The W.M. then proposed the health of the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, which was most cordially received. Then followed the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Officers, coupled with the name of Bro. Farnfield, the Asst. G. Sec., a brother who was ever ready with his advice to all who chose to seek it. Bro. Farnfield, who on rising to respond, was met by long continued cheers, then said that he returned thanks for the Grand Officers, and for the way in which his name had been received; he was very much obliged to the brethren present—he had been thirty-three years connected with the G. Sec's. office, and although very many eyes were upon his conduct, he believed he had met with as few annoyances as fell to the lot of any person in office, and concluded by saying, that he was ever ready to render any assistance, to all requiring it, when called upon. The worthy brother resumed his seat amid long continued applause. The next toast was "The Initiates," which the W.M. said was always regarded as the toast of the evening, and having gracefully alluded to each of the four then present, the toast was drunk with the usual good feeling, and a brother, whose name we could not catch, sang the "Entered Apprentice." The W.M. in a pithy speech, proposed the health of "The Visitors," of whom there were a large number present, and he hoped that such would always be the case at the Royal Alfred Lodge, for when so many eyes were upon them, it stimulated the members to discharge their duty in the best possible manner and also tended to create good feeling between the members of various Lodges. He could not conclude without thanking the S. and J. Ws. of the Zetland Lodge, for having signed the petition for No. 1082, and bade them a hearty welcome in the name of the lodge. Bro. Jones sang a song in capital style, and Bro. Farmer returned thanks for the visitors. Bro. Rackstraw next proposed the health of the W.M. Bro. Joseph Smith. He had seen the W.M. first enter Masonry, had made, passed, and raised him, and was proud of such a disciple and brother. The W.M. on rising was met by long continued cheers, and, when they had somewhat subsided, proceeded to say that he had some difficulty in speaking for himself—his aim was to do his duty, and encourage Masonry by every means in his power. As Bro. Rackstraw had alluded to his early days he might be permitted to say that he was always happy to acknowledge his obligations to his mother lodge No. 9, and also to add to Bro. Rackstraw's epitome that he was also installed Master of that lodge, and he felt that the older they got the better they liked each other. He said it was his chief desire that his conduct should merit approbation, for it was the obligation of every one in his position as Master of a Lodge, to show themselves zealous for the good of Masonry; and he could assure them that such would be his endeavour, for it must be obvious to all that he had now nothing to gain, in position, and the only ambition he had left was to secure the good opinion and kind wishes of his brethren, by deserving them. The W.M. then proposed the health of three P.Ms., Bros. Watson, Rackstraw, and Potter, and said how gladly the lodge was to welcome the first, after the solemn rite they had seen that day so carefully and fully performed; he could only bear testimony to Bro. Watson's talents by styling him the perfect Mason. Bro. Watson, in returning thanks, disclaimed any extra meed of praise from the brethren—what he was enabled to perform was always at the service of any brethren that asked for it. He was at all times willing to impart what he knew, and he

was proud to say that the members of the craft who had sought him with that view had never been repulsed, or gone empty away; and he believed they were not in number less than some hundreds. Still as a member of the Royal Alfred Lodge, he begged to assure every one that, what with Bro. Smith's talents and his own good intent, he hoped the Lodge would be looked upon and prove a flourishing and correct school of Masonry. The W.M. next proposed the health of Bro. Warren and success to the *Freemasons' Magazine*. He added that Bro. Warren had chalked out for himself an independent line of policy—that he would not give you a lift if you were wrong, but would administer a poke; but if you were right, he would uphold you in all you did—in short, he was sure that it would all come right at last, for Bro. Warren served out, not favours, but justice, and he congratulated him that he held fast to the right, and hoped Bro. Warren might find his account in it. Bro. Warren, whose rising was the signal for considerable applause, said, it gave him great pleasure in attending the first meeting of the Royal Alfred Lodge, and although he was not the tallest member of the company, he hoped to have as large a heart for Masonry as those who exceeded him in stature. He was particularly pleased to attend this Lodge on the installation of Bro. Joseph Smith, for he had known him for the last twenty years, and had esteemed him more and more each year, and he remembered he had frequently heard it said that “as we get old we forget our age,” an axiom that he fully acknowledged to be true as between the W.M. and himself—for he felt that though they might grow in years, yet they still retained all the warmth of their early acquaintance; and he wished to say the same of many others among the brethren, for Masonry had always been to him a subject of the deepest interest and he hoped that in some way he had promoted its interests. He had been connected with the press since he was fourteen years of age, and that connection had resulted in his becoming proprietor of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, and losing some hundreds of pounds by it; but he did not despair, as he had, as the W.M. had told them, chalked out a line of conduct for himself, in which he advocated a perfect freedom of opinion, so long as nothing detrimental to the Order resulted from it; he hoped that this course would meet the approbation of the brethren, and become to him a guarantee against further loss. He also alluded to his present policy, which is to mitigate the severe and sweeping denunciations levelled by certain persons against the Grand Officers, and as there were more than one present, he would take the liberty of saying that, to Bro. Farnfield he was under many obligations; though it frequently happened with regard to himself and others that the second in office was placed in a very delicate position, and must not know what the superior officer would not know. There was also Bro. Buss, who at all times was gentlemanlike and obliging, doing all that his position allowed him to do without trenching on his superior's duties, and he congratulated the Royal Alfred Lodge in securing such a brother as their Sec. In conclusion, he begged to return them his heartfelt thanks for the mention of his name, and he trusted that when the young prince, whose name they had chosen, came to years of discretion, and embraced Masonry, as he sincerely hoped he would, that Prince Alfred would not forget that their Lodge was the first that had assumed his name, and that it would be the first Lodge which his Royal Highness would honour with his patronage. The W.M. next gave “The Officers of the Lodge, the S.W., J.W., and S.D.,” to which each of them replied in neat and appropriate terms. The health of the Sec. was then proposed by the W.M., who characterized him as an excellent Mason, who had done him and the Lodge the honour to accept that office, and from his quiet and gentlemanlike demeanour, would be sure to bring credit to the Lodge, and give satisfaction to each individual member. The W.M. next proposed the “Charities,” coupling them with the name of Bro. Farnfield. Bro. Farnfield, in returning thanks, said the Girls' School was the dearest to all our hearts, and he was proud to see it looked upon as the pet of the Masonic dignitaries and nobly they did their duty by it. He also alluded to the illness of the valued secretary, Bro. Crew, than whom a more indefatigable officer did not exist. He said that they all required the constant subscriptions of the Craft, but more especially the Boys, for they were trying to accommodate the whole number, seventy-five, instead of twenty-five, only as at present. The charities with which he was more immediately connected, the Royal

Masonic Annuity Funds were doing immense good, and at the recent festival the amount subscribed was £2100; £1200 of which had been paid into the bankers, and £150 more collected since. This support in behalf of the aged and widows had enabled the committee at their last meeting to recommend for election twenty male annuitants and six widows, and proved that Masonry was something more than a convivial society. He would not press the matter of subscription of the Royal Alfred Lodge, because he felt every young Lodge wanted time to establish itself, and he was sure that when their body was fully established they would warmly support the charities, for Bro. Smith's heart was in the right place, and he would never let them flag. The W.M. next proposed the health of Bro. Matthew Cooke, the honorary music-master to the Girls' School, to whom they were all under an obligation for his coming forward and giving his valuable services, and Bro. Farnfield begged to add to the W.M.'s remarks, that it was greatly to the credit of Bro. Cooke, who, as a young Mason, gave his time, and when the committee offered him a sum of money to defray his travelling expenses, declined to accept of more than one half of the amount, as that would cover his cash out of pocket. Bro. Matthew Cooke, in reply, begged to return his thanks, but hardly thought his services required such a recognition, as he held that it was the bounden duty of every Mason to contribute towards the charities, and said, if they could not do it in meal they ought to do so in malt; he pleaded his own inability to give money, and he was obliged to offer only money's worth, his time. He also suggested, that as self-denial was a duty among Masons, that those who found it somewhat inconvenient to subscribe, should deny themselves some little indulgence, for a glass of wine less, or a few cigars, daily, would give them the means of befriending the charities; and he hoped that every Mason would either subscribe his money more freely, or reduce his superfluity of expense, and at the end of the year they would find they could be donors of a much larger amount than they expected. The Tyler's toast closed, about eleven o'clock, a very happy and Masonic evening, which was much enhanced by the musical exertions of Bro. Matthew Cooke. Among the brethren present, we recognized—Bro. Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Bros. Wenham, No. 3; Levinson, No. 19; Farmer, No. 25; Baker, No. 206; Doust, No. 725 W.M.s: Bros. Cant, No. 9; Todd, No. 29; Carter, No. 165; Slater, No. 166; Blackburn, No. 769; Nicholson, No. 201; Brett and Elmes, No. 206; Norman and Collard, No. 209; Gurton, No. 211; Bromley, No. 276; Walkley, No. 367; J. S. Cooke and Pratchell, No. 745; Daley, No. 752; P.M.s Durrant, No. 752; Enson, No. 955; J. A. Platt, No. 168; Barnshaw, No. 752; Matthew Cooke, No. 29; Berry and Foord, No. 168; Elliot, No. 201; Wilcox and Dans, No. 206; Lunnov and Brown, No. 219; Clarke, No. 745; and P. H. Jones, No. 752.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKSHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF THE CASTLE LODGE.

WINDSOR.—*Castle Lodge* (No. 1073).—The interesting ceremony of consecration of this newly formed Lodge, took place at the Castle Hotel, on Wednesday, the 16th February. Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.J.G.D., had been announced to perform the consecration, but in consequence of his absence, Bro. Cotterell, W.M., No. 219, presided; and the ceremonial was conducted in a very impressive manner by the Rev. Bro. J. K. Paul, of Eton College, Prov. G. Chaplain for Berks and Bucks. After the consecration, Bro. Madigan was installed W.M. by Bro. Cotterell, in the absence of Bro. J. B. Gibson, by whom it was expected this ceremony would have been performed. It is but just towards Bro. Cotterell to state, that the installation was gone through in such a perfect manner, as to elicit the warm

encomiums of the brethren present. The newly installed Master appointed as his officers, Bros. Devereux, S.W.; Copeland, J.W.; Rev. J. K. Paul, Chaplain; Holden, Sec.; Little, S.D.; Edward Layton, J.D.; John Layton, I.G. Bro. Wigginton was elected Treasurer. Bro. Cotterell initiated five candidates, with that impressiveness and perspicuity which eminently distinguish him in every part which he takes in Masonic services. The candidates initiated were Messrs. William Vansittart, *M.P.* for Windsor; C. S. Voules, Windsor; J. F. Lucas, Temple, London; Thomas Dyson, Cloisters, Windsor; and Henry Dempster, Windsor. Capt. Andrews, of the Gold Coast Artillery, and Mr. George Stiff, were unavoidably obliged to stand over till next Lodge meeting, the constitutions allowing of but five initiations at one time. The former of these two gentlemen being about to leave the country, we find has since been initiated in the Lodge of Industry, No. 219, London. After the business of the Lodge terminated, the brethren retired to refreshment, the banquet being served in Bro. Shirreff's best style. No Masonic entertainment could be managed with better taste, or offered with greater warmth of hospitality. The visitors present were Bro. Cotterell, W.M. of the Lodge of Industry, No. 219, and both his Wardens, Bro. Dr. Nolan, S.W., and Bro. Platt, J.W.; Bro. Orelli, W.M. of the Bedford Lodge, No. 183, and P.M. of No. 219; Bro. Carpenter, P.M. and Sec. of No. 219; Bro. Goring, P.M., No. 25; and Bro. Lang, the author of "Too Clever by Half," &c. The usual Masonic toasts were given by Bro. Madigan, W.M., who presided, with much tact and ability. The brethren were addressed in effective terms by Bros. Vansittart, *M.P.*, Lucas, and Voules, on their initiation. Bro. Dr. Nolan acknowledged the toast of the visitors. His speech derived appositeness from an interesting historical reference to the government of Bengal, by the celebrated Mr. Vansittart, a relative of the honourable initiate. The Doctor's researches in Indian records for his "History of the British Empire in the East," enabled him to relate certain events connected with Governor Vansittart, peculiarly *à propos* to the introduction of his relation into the Castle Lodge. The speech of the evening was delivered by Bro. Cotterell. Most addresses at Masonic banquets are drawn from incidents of the table, or derived from events passing in society at the time, or consist of mere compliments ingeniously expressed. The Worshipful brother set the example of making a strictly Masonic oration, thoroughly interesting, not only by his happy manner of delivery, but by the popular application of Masonic ideas, blended with earnest and eloquent exhortations to consistency and zeal on the part of all the members of the Craft. This happy meeting broke up at a reasonable hour. We cannot conclude our notice without expressing our admiration of the beautiful furniture of this new Lodge. The pedestals are of scagliola marble, and for chasteness of design, and beauty of execution, cannot be surpassed. The working tools, jewels, and the remainder of the paraphernalia, are equally objects of remark, being elegantly and elaborately perfected, reflecting much credit on the taste and skill of the manufacturer, Bro. Platt.

BRISTOL.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Tuesday, March 8th, Jerusalem (936), Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Wednesday, 9th, Royal Sussex (221), ditto, at 7; Friday 11th. *Instruction*.—Ditto, at 7½; *Chapter*.—Thursday, 10th, Clarence (61), Freemasons' Hall, at 7.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Tuesday, March 8th, St. Anne's (863), New Street, Alderney, at 7.

CHESHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, March 9th, Fidelity (623), White Hart, Flowery Field, at 6; Thursday, 10th, Mersey (701), Angel Hotel, Birkenhead, at 6. *Mark*.—Joppa (S.C.), Angel Inn, Birkenhead, at 6.

HYDE.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 465).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their regular meeting on the 17th February, 1859, at the Norfolk Arms Hotel. Soon after six o'clock, the W.M., Bro. Samuel P. Leather, took the chair and proceeded to open the Lodge. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Messrs. J. M. Hetherington, J. H. Waustall, and Edward Parker, who were candidates for the honour of initiation. The ballot

being unanimous, they were severally introduced in due form, and initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the W.M. The charge was very effectively given by Bro. J. H. P. Leresche, W.M. No. 246. The Lodge was then called off to refreshment, and in the course of the evening Bro. Leresche responded to the toast of "The Visitors" in a very able Masonic address, throwing considerable light upon the all engrossing topic of Masonic Halls, and the advantages derived from meeting in private rooms. Amongst the visitors we also noticed Bros. Edge, J.W. No. 246; Nathan, No. 246; John Brierley, P.M. No. 623; Hall, No. 148, and several others. The Lodge was closed in harmony at high twelve.

BIRKENHEAD.—*Mersey Lodge of Instruction* (Nos. 701 and 782).—This Lodge held its usual weekly meeting on Friday last, with a good attendance of members and visitors, indeed it thrives well, and although re-organised, for several months no meeting has yet passed without an accession of members. The chair was taken by the W.M. for the month, Bro. Wade, P.M. of No. 701, and W.M. of No. 1026, and the ceremony of the first degree worked in correct style. The most interesting feature of the evening was the reading, by Bro. Willoughby, J.G.W. for Cheshire, of the conclusion of his translation of a French work on Masonry, by the Count S. de Giorgi Bertola of Rome, and dedicated to his Royal Highness the late Duke of Sussex. The Count, who evidently has both read and thought deeply, and spared no pains in his researches, propounds some startling theories, especially where he gives an entirely different meaning to the ceremonies of the third degree. His theory he works out very minutely, and with great ingenuity. He traces the origin of Masonry as at present practised to the partial resuscitation of that Order on the death of Clement V., in 1319, when the brotherhood reappeared in Portugal under the name of "Knights of Christ." This order soon degenerated, and ultimately became merely a kind of religious brotherhood, entirely subject to the Vatican; this, however, did not occur until the principles of Masonry had spread far and wide over the two hemispheres, where, in spite of persecution and of numberless turns of fortune, it has been advancing with giant strides. According to the Count Bertola, we are the lineal descendants of the old Knights Templar. After the conclusion of this remarkable work by Bro. Willoughby, some conversation ensued, but the hour for closing being at hand, the subject was postponed until next Lodge meeting. Previous to the close of the Lodge, Bro. Henry Bulley, W.M. of No. 782, consented to take the chair for the month of March.

DEVONSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges.*—Monday, March 8th, Harmony (182), Swan Inn, Plymouth, at 7; Fidelity (280), Three Tuns, Tiverton, at 7; Bedford (351), Private Rooms, Tavistock, at 7; Wednesday, 9th, Fortitude (122), Prince George Hotel, Stonehouse, at 7.

DORSETSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Chapter.*—Friday, March 11th, Amity (160), Masonic Hall, Poole, at 7.

DURHAM.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges.*—Monday, March 7th, Wear (618), Lambton Arms, Chester-le-Street, at 7; Union (607), Railway Hotel, Barnard Castle, at 7; Tuesday, 8th, St. John's (95), Phoenix Hall, Sunderland, at 7; Thursday, 10th, Palatine (114), Bridge Hotel, Bishop Wearmouth, at 7; Restoration (128), Town Hall, Darlington, at 8.

ESSEX.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge.*—Wednesday, March 9th, United (988), George Hotel, Colchester, at 7.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Chapter.*—Wednesday, March 9th, Unanimity (97), Freemasons' Hall, Cheltenham.

HAMPSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges.*—Monday, March 7th, Oakley (995), Black Boy, Basingstoke, at 6 Thursday, 10th, Royal Gloucester (152), Freemasons' Hall, Southampton, at 7. *Encampment.*—Wednesday, 9th, Royal Naval, Phoenix Lodge Rooms, Portsmouth.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Royal Gloucester Lodge* (No. 152).—This Lodge assembled at Freemason's Hall, Bugle-street, on Thursday, the 24th ult., at seven, p.m., the W.M., Bro. Perkins, presided, and raised Bro. Klitz to the degree of M.M., in the most efficient and impressive manner. The Lodge then proceeded to consider the communication of Bro. Havers, as President of the Board of General Purposes. Bro. Abraham, acting Secretary, informed the W.M. that he had received from Bro. Havers a very lengthy communication in reply to his letter, in conformity with a resolution, moved by Bro. Sir L. Curtis, Prov. G.M., and seconded by Bro. C. E. Deacon, D. Prov. Grand Master, at the last Lodge meeting, asking for further information with respect to the estimated cost of the alterations. Bro. J. R. Stebbing, P.M., said that as the Prov. G.M. Sir L. Curtis, Bart., had attended the last meeting, and given his opinion on this question, in his unofficial character as a member of the Lodge, and as this communication had resulted from a motion made by that R.W. brother, he would suggest that this discussion be adjourned until the next Lodge meeting, and that this last communication be sent to the Prov. G.M., so that the Lodge might have his opinion thereon; and at the same time a few copies might be made, so that any brother might have one on application. The motion was finally made to the above effect, seconded by Bro. Passenger, S.W., and adopted by the Lodge unanimously. Bro. C. E. Deacon, D. Prov. G.M., read a letter from the Prov. G.M., expressing regret at his inability to be present at this meeting. Bro. Douglas, P.M., referred to a highly finished and beautifully illuminated record of a testimonial presented to Bro. Abraham, P.M., which had just appeared on the walls of the Lodge, and moved that a facsimile of the same be made at the expense of the Lodge, and presented to Bro. Abraham, to hang up in his private residence, which proposition was duly seconded, and unanimously adopted. Bro. Stebbing then alluded in very kind and feeling terms to the illness of the Secretary, Bro. Firmin, a P.M. and most zealous member of the Lodge, and after expressions of regret and sympathy by several brethren, the acting Secretary was instructed to write a letter, conveying to the afflicted brother the feelings of the Lodge, with an earnest wish for his speedy recovery. A candidate for joining, and another for initiation, were proposed. The Lodge was then closed in harmony soon after nine o'clock.

WINCHESTER.—*Lodge of Economy* (No. 90).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge, was held at the Lodge rooms, *Black Swan Hotel*, on Wednesday evening last. The new W.M., Bro. J. L. Hasleham, presided this evening for the first time since his installation. There were present Bros. F. La Croix, S.W.; Larkin, J.W.; S. Everitt, P.M.; G. Oakshot, P.M.; C. Sherry, P.M.; G. P. Jacob, P.M. (Treas.); W. Cowen, Sec.; and Bros. H. Newnan, H. Butcher, A. J. Higgs, E. Sherry, Elson, and H. Huggins. The Lodge having been duly opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary, and confirmed. Bro. Sherry, P.M., gratified the assembled brethren by giving a glowing description of the results of the late festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows. In the course of his remarks, Bro. Sherry expressed the gratification he had felt on learning the conspicuous position occupied by the province of Hampshire in respect to the amount of contributions in the institution's behalf. The Hampshire province had contributed (through Bro. Perkins and himself, as stewards), the sum of £90, a sum far exceeding that sent up by any other province in the kingdom. He believed Somerset stood next, with the sum of £83; and the Isle of Wight was third, £72 10s. There were thirteen Lodges in the province of Hampshire; but the amount he had mentioned was supplied from five of them only, namely, Winchester, Basingstoke, Shirley, and two at Southampton. He had himself taken up to London the sum of £42 10s. The provincial brethren would, no doubt, be happy to learn that it was intended to increase the charity by taking in twenty more men, and six widows. The result would, he hoped, be useful in showing what might be done by undertaking and entering into anything with a little spirit; if the subject was taken up generally in the other provinces with equal ardour, they would hear no more of neglect on the part of provincial brethren generally. Here he must compliment Bros. Binckes, Simons, and Lyall, for having instituted inquiry into the Masonic schools,

and he regretted they had not been allowed to include the Royal Benevolent Institution, knowing that required more support than the schools. The proceedings of those gentlemen led to his moving in the matter, and the result of the late festival, when sixty-three stewards had been obtained in support of the institution, and the amount collected, over £2,053 8s., showed there was a strong feeling in favour of supporting that branch of their charities, and he hoped it would lead the Grand Master to sanction an annual festival. There was one important thing required looking to, and that was the appropriation of money in hand on account of the Fund of Benevolence. He had been looking through some accounts, and he found that the invested capital of the Fund of Benevolence had been increasing in bulk for many years. From the year 1842 to 1846 inclusive, the amount of invested capital was £11,000. He had not been able to ascertain the amounts for the two following years; but in January, 1849, it rose to £11,500; and was the same in 1850. In 1851 it was £12,500; in 1852, £13,300; 1853, £13,300; July, 1854, £14,000; 1855, £15,500; 1856, £16,500; Jan., 1857, £16,500; July, 1858, £17,500; and January, 1859, £18,000. It seemed to him to be almost ridiculous to keep such a large sum as £18,000 for the benefit of Masons not yet born, when there were so many ways in which it could now be usefully employed, and he therefore felt inclined to suggest, that the vested capital should be reduced. He thought it would be wise and advantageous if the vested capital were reduced to £8,000, and the overplus distributed equally amongst the four charities, in sums of £2,500 each—there would then be ample in hand for all the general requirements of the present time, in addition to doing a very great service to their valuable charitable institutions. £8,000 was quite sufficient to be kept in hand for a benevolent fund. In the years 1857, 1858, he found by the returns that upwards of 8,000 new members had joined the Masonic order; it was fair to suppose that 6,000 out of that number would continue subscribing members, and this alone would give £600 a year to be added to the interest of the money invested. He was not then in a position to make any definite motion on the subject, but at the same time he was content merely to call attention to the matter, and he hoped that it would be suggested through some means or other, that at least £10,000 should be taken from the vested capital, and divided equally among the four charities. Bro. G. Oakshott, P.M., said he fully concurred in the observations thrown out by Bro. Sherry. Professing to be, as beyond all doubt they were, a purely benevolent body, wishing to do all they could in acting a brother's part and in good faith with all Masons, it was their duty to see that all funds connected with the honourable fraternity were properly spent. He could see no better way of using the money alluded to than that now suggested. He was exceedingly glad to find there was such a large amount in hand, and hoped always to see a due sum invested as capital; but he did not see the necessity of keeping such a large sum as £18,000 locked up out of use. By reducing the vested amount to £8,000, and equally dividing the other £10,000 between the four charities, they would be, to a great extent, assisting in carrying out the very pith of the great and mighty principles they as a body professed. He hoped to see the subject strongly mooted in every province, and find that all would take it into their serious consideration, so that they might thus lead to a determination in the proper quarter what should be done with the money. The speaker then alluded to the proposition to build a Temple in London for the Freemasons, which he approved of, provided not too costly an edifice was raised. Bro. Gerrard could see no use in hoarding money to the extent of £18,000, as the vested capital of a benevolent fund. Masonry being equally free in all its benefits, and as there were many who did and might require aid, he should approve of a motion for submitting the question to a board of inquiry, why so much money was comparatively lying idle, when there were so many ways in which it could be well and usefully applied. He thought a deputation from the provinces might wait on Grand Lodge, and ask what should be done with the money beyond that amount which it should be decided was sufficient for a rest capital. Bro. Butcher asked if the money in hand on the Benevolent Fund's account was put to any specific use. The W.M. said the amount merely stood in the three per cent. consols. Bro. Newman inquired how

many recipients of relief were relying upon the interest of the Benevolent Fund. Bro. Sherry said there were at present only forty-six. Bro. Larkin, J.W., made some remarks in unison with the former speakers. He asked if the question could not be generally discussed in all the Lodges. The W.M. said they could not exactly tell; but through the medium of the *Freemasons' Magazine* the mooted of the question might become known; and once noticed, other Lodges might be moved to proceed in the matter. Bro. Sherry said the fact was, what was everybody's business, generally proved to be nobody's. He mentioned, as an example of this, that the state of their institutions was anything but creditable to the fraternity, and simply because some one did not call attention to existing faults. Now he had visited the asylum for aged and decayed Masons, at Croydon, on the 26th January, and the 11th February. Here were homes for thirty-four individuals; but the state of the place was anything but satisfactory according to his judgment. The domestic arrangement of the institution was not what it should be, and efficient management and superintendence on the spot was evidently wanting. This was not an exception in the affairs of the Order; there were many cases in which neglect were plainly visible. Bro. Jacob revived the discussion on the appropriation of vested capital. Bro. Sherry said, many parties who had subscribed to the fund for forty years, were not able to get a penny from it. He had only mentioned the subject in order that it might find vent in discussion. Bro. Jacob hoped the members of that Lodge would do their best to induce others to support the suggestion for spending all moneys above what was actually necessary to be kept in hand, and that could be easily known. The provincial Lodges first discussing the point, it would easily soon be brought forward in Grand Lodge. Freemasons were not to be held up as misers, hoarding their funds, and refraining from making a good use of them; it was their principle to spend their money with a liberal hand in relieving the necessitous among their body. Bro. Oakshott said he should be happy to second any motion, if it was thought they could do anything in the matter. Bro. Sherry said he feared they could not do any more at present; the attention of those in London could surely be directed to the fact that the question had been spoken upon. Bro. Gerrard thought it should be directly communicated to the Grand Lodge, that the opinion existed that such a large sum should not lie unemployed. The W.M. said he thought what had already been done, would be sufficient to call attention to, and eventually lead to a general discussion of this important subject. Bro. Everitt was disposed to think that if Grand Lodge were applied to, they would tell us we had no voice in the matter. Bro. Jacob observed that they had a voice in the matter; at any rate they possessed influence in the election of the Board; and the provincial Lodges, by union, could make themselves effective. He did not think it would be out of place for the Lodge of Economy to petition the Board of Benevolence, as far as regarded the matter under discussion. Bro. Everitt—"That might effect our purpose, even if the petition were merely ordered to lie on the table." Bro. Sherry was of opinion, that those in London wished the provinces to be better represented. They might first go to the Board of Benevolence, who in turn might appeal to the Board of General Purposes. He had no doubt something would be done in the matter before long. It was preposterous for the Board to keep so much money out of good use. The subject then dropped. The W.M. then called attention to the business which was entered for discussion at the Grand Lodge, on the ensuing Wednesday, and laid before the Lodge the questions sent down, from the Board of General Purposes, to the provinces, to ascertain the general opinion on various points. The suggestions for enlarging the premises in Great Queen-st., and the various opinions as to its appropriation, were then discussed. Bro. Higgs said it was his opinion, the Masons might have a large building, with a tavern in the centre, to make up a certain number of beds; the houses on either side might be let off for the present time, and be taken to again hereafter when necessary. The Temple, large coffee room, library, &c., all under a Masonic brother to be elected to the post, must of course be exclusively for the use and accommodation of Masons. Bro. Sherry said, when they looked at the receipt of £1300. a year from the letting of part of the property, they (the Masons) must feel it a

sacrifice to entirely appropriate the whole to themselves. He said this:—extend the tavern accommodation, and make a large club room for the use of Masons generally, where they could obtain their wants at club prices. It was the middle class of the people, who principally supported Freemasonry; and there were few professional men and tradesmen but went to London several times in the course of the year. It would therefore be very comfortable and convenient for them to meet at their own club. They would then always find plenty of Masons there, who, meeting together and rubbing their ideas together on the concerns of the fraternity, would bring about much that would eventually benefit the Order; they would be continually moving something for the benefit of Masonry. Since he had in the habit of attending the Masonic meetings in London, he had felt a great deal more interest in Masonry; and, no doubt, there were many others who felt the same. The general opinion was elicited that a library, reading and refreshment rooms, exclusively for the use and accommodation of Masons, was indispensable. Respecting the amount suggested to be expended in increasing the extent of the Masonic buildings, an opinion was expressed by Bro. Everett and other members that a pause should be made before a very large outlay was entered into, or such an expense as would make it doubtful whether an adequate return would ensue. Bro. Oakshott said a larger extent of building accommodation would, of course, bring a larger rent, and hence a larger return would be so far ensured. Bro. Jacob said the present occupant would soon be able to say if he were able to pay more for enlarged means of accommodation. Bro. Higgs asked if it was likely a tenant would pay an increase of rent equal to five per cent. on the money spent in enlargement and improvement. He thought the amounts named for expenditure in this way were too large. The W.M. having gathered the opinion of his Lodge on the questions, other business was proceeded with. The W.M. read an application from a brother of the Lodge, who had met with unforeseen misfortune, and required assistance. The appeal was readily met by the voting of a specified amount from the Lodge funds, and the Brethren present subsequently collected a sum in addition, for transmission to their distressed Brother, the list being left open for contributions from other Brethren present. The W.M. proposed a candidate for initiation in the privileges of Masonry, and the nomination being seconded, it was entered in due course by the Secretary. The immediate business of the Lodge was then suspended, and the proceedings being duly closed, the Brethren were called to refreshment. Having strengthened the inner man with some of the good things provided by Bro. Sherry, the Brethren again assembled in their Lodge room, and spent an hour or so in mutual harmony and conversation bearing on the interests of Masonry in general.

KENT.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, March 7th, Peace and Harmony (235), Royal Oak, Dover, at 7½; Tuesday, 8th, Belvidere (741), Star Hotel, Maidstone, at 7.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, March 7th, Ceecham and Crumpsall (929), Crumpsall Hotel, Manchester, at 6; Wednesday, 9th, Antiquity (170), One Horse Shoe, Bolton, at 7. *Chapter*.—Wednesday, 9th, Rectitude (847), New Inn, Openshaw, at 7. *Encampment*.—St. James of Jerusalem, Bolton.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, March 7th, Harmonic (267), Wellington Hotel, Garston, at 6½; Tuesday, 8th, Merchants (294), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 5; Royal Preston (418), Cross Axes, Preston, at 8; Thursday, 10th, Harmonic (263), Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, at 4. *Chapter*.—Thursday, 10th, Harmony (267), Wellington Hotel, Garston, at 6.

BURY.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 226).—On Thursday evening, February 24th, a Lodge of Emergency was held at the White Horse Inn, Fleet Street, when Mr. George Benson, of the royal navy, was initiated into Freemasonry by Bro. Maiden, W.M., after which Mr. William Agar was initiated by Bro. Joseph Handley; the ceremony in both cases being very creditably gone through. The charge was delivered by Bro. William Binns, P.M., of No. 50, in his usual impressive manner.

The Brethren, having adjourned from labour to refreshment, the usual toasts were given, and a happy evening spent; several excellent recitations being given by Bro. Matthews, the leading tragedian of Mr. Wardhaugh's theatre.

HEYWOOD.—*Naphthali Lodge* (No. 333).—On Wednesday evening, February 23rd, a Lodge of emergency was held at the Brunswick Hotel, for the purpose of raising Bro. Briggs to the sublime degree of M.M. In the absence of the W.M. from indisposition, the ceremony was performed in a very effective manner by Bro. John Redfern, Dir. of Cers., ably assisted by Bro. William Binns, P.M. of No. 50 after which the brethren partook of a sumptuous ropast.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Tuesday March 8th, Harmony (339), Masonic Hall, Boston, at 7.

NORFOLK.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Monday, March 7th, Perseverance (253), Lamb Inn, Norwich, at 8.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, March 7th, Northern Counties (596), Bell's Court, Newcastle, at 7; St. George's (624), Commercial Hotel, North Shields, at 8; Tuesday, 8th, All Saints (161), Sun Inn, Wooler, at 7; De Ogie (919), St. James's School Room, Morpeth, at 7. *Instruction*.—Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle, at 7; Wednesday, 9th, Blagden (937), Ridley Arms, Blyth, at 8. *Chapter*.—Wednesday, 9th, De Swinbourne (24), Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle, at 7; *Encampment*.—Friday, 11th, Royal Kent, Bell's Court, Newcastle, at 5.

OXFORDSHIRE.

BANBURY.—*Cherwell Lodge* (No. 873).—The annual festival of this Lodge was held on the 21st of February, at the Red Lion Hotel, when Bro. R. Havers, of Banbury (brother to the President of the Board of General Purposes), was installed into office by the late Master, Bro. J. B. Looker, who performed the ceremony with great ability and effect. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. appointed his Officers for the year, as follow:—Bros. C. D. Faulkner, S.W.; J. Scroggs, J.W.; J. B. Looker, Sec.; Joseph Gardner, Treas.; Dr. Caparn, S.D.; Dr. Griffin, J.D.; W. G. Coleman, Master of Cers.; H. C. Risley, I.G.; W. Floyd and W. Chamberlain, Stewards; T. Moss, Tyler. On the motion of the Senior Warden, seconded by the Treasurer, it was unanimously agreed that five pounds should be given from the charity fund to the "Old Charitable Society" of Banbury. It was also unanimously agreed to vote five pounds from the charity fund to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. The W.M. undertook to raise five guineas more for the same charity. After the business had been disposed of, the banquet was served in the assembly room; about forty Brethren were present. The W.M. presided, and was supported by Bros. Capt. Bowyer, of Steeple Aston House, Prov. Grand Master of Oxfordshire; Alderman Spiers, Deputy Prov. G.M.; Charles Cottrell Dorrner, of Rousham House; W. Belcher, W.M. of the Alfred Lodge; Bros. Thompson, T. Randall, E. Owen, J. T. Hester, H. Houghton, Cooke, Looker, Macklin, P.Ms.; Bros. T. W. A. Bowyer, R. H. Risley, Cartwright, and Plowman. The W.M. fulfilled the duties of the chair with great ability, and the evening was spent in a most agreeable manner. The visiting brethren from Oxford and Leamington were so gratified with their reception, that they assured the Banbury brethren that they should gladly hail every opportunity of renewing their acquaintance.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodge*.—Monday, March 7th, Royal Sussex (61), Amery's Hotel, Bath, at 7½. *Mark*.—Thursday, 10th, Royal Kent (T.L.), Masonic Hall, Bath, at 8. *Chapters*.—Monday, 7th, Vale of Jehosaphat (367), Highbridge Inn, Huntspill, at 12; Wednesday, 9th, Royal Sussex (61), Amery's Hotel, Bath, at 7½.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, March 7th, St. James (707), New Inn, Handsworth, at 7; Friday, 11th, Honour (709), Old Assembly Rooms, Wolverhampton, at 7½.

SUSSEX.

APPOINTMENTS.—Tuesday, March 8th. *Instruction*.—(Annual Elections), Old Ship, Brighton; Wednesday, 9th, Mariners (878), White Hart Hotel, Littlehampton; Thursday, 10th, Royal Brunswick Lodge (1034), Old Ship, Brighton.

WILTSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Tuesday, March 8th, Elias De Derham (856), White Hart Hotel, Salisbury, at 7½.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, March 7th, *Semper Fidelis* (772), Crown, Worcester, at 6½; Tuesday, 8th, *Royal Standard* (730), Dudley Arms, Dudley, at 6½.

DUDLEY.—*Vernon Lodge* (No. 819).—This Lodge met at the Old Town Hall, Dudley, on Wednesday, Feb. 16th. Lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. E. Hollier, (P.M., 313, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., and mayor of Dudley,) assisted by his Officers. A candidate was duly initiated into the mysteries of the first degree, the ceremony being very correctly and impressively performed by the W.M., who also gave the charge and the eulogium, the latter greatly to the delight of the Brethren, most of whom had not before heard it. The explanation of the tracing board, with the various illustrations, were given by the J.W., Bro. W. Wigginton, Prov. G.S.B. Acknowledgments from the several charities, to which an annual subscription of two guineas each were voted, were read, and the moneys ordered to be forwarded. The Grand Lodge circular, respecting the alterations at Freemasons' Hall, was referred to a committee, consisting of the W.M., P.Ms., Wardens, and Secretary, who are to report thereon to the Lodge on the 16th. The general feeling of the Lodge was clearly in favour of the library, &c., and also for "club" (not "tavern") accommodation for country Brethren. Lodge was then closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

DUDLEY.—*Royal Standard Lodge* (No. 730).—This Lodge assembled at the Dudley Arms Hotel, on the 8th. There were no ceremonies, and the only business transacted was the appointment of a committee to examine and report upon the Grand Lodge scheme for altering the metropolitan Masonic Temple. A similar committee has been formed in Nos. 313 and 838.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, March 7th, Union (237), Masonic Hall, York, at 7; Wednesday, 9th, *Minerva* (311), Masonic Hall, Hull, at 7.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, March 9th, Wakefield (727), Old Rectory, Wakefield, at 7; Thursday, 10th, *Britannia* (162), Music Hall, Sheffield, at 7; Friday, 11th, *Alfred Instruction*, Griffin Hotel, Leeds, at 8. *Chapter*.—Tuesday, 8th, *Fidelity* (364), Leeds, at 7.

MARK MASONRY.

BIRKENHEAD.—*Joppa Lodge* (No. 5), S.C.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on Monday evening, the 21st February, at the Park Hotel, for the purpose of advancing several Brethren to this beautiful degree, Bro. J. P. Platt, R.W.M., in the chair, ably supported by his officers and a very good attendance of Brethren. The Lodge having been opened in due form, the following Brethren were advanced to the degree of Mark Master Masons, viz., Bros. Thos. Onions, No. 328; Richard Patchett, No. 971; William Skining, No. 267; H. B. Gaskell, No. 267; R. Morrison, No. 267; John Woods, No. 267, who expressed themselves much gratified with the degree. The Lodge was then closed and the Brethren separated early.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER.

UNION OF WATERLOO CHAPTER (No. 13).—This Chapter held its meeting on Wednesday, the 23rd ult., at Comp. Allen's, the Red Lion Tavern, Woolwich. The Chapter being opened in ancient form by the Principals—viz., Comp. Laird, P.Z., as M.E.Z., Comp. Fox as H., and Comp. Clerk as J., assisted by their Officers, the minutes of the former convocation having been duly read and confirmed, the M.E.Z. informed the Companions that subsequent to their last convocation the following names had been received for exaltation in this Chapter, due notice of which had been given in the summonses convening this meeting—viz., Bro. J. Cann, of Lodge No. 1,008 and Bro. Jas. Stalford, of Lodge No. 1,008. The ballot was then taken, and declared unanimously in favour of their admission, and, being in attendance, they were regularly introduced, and exalted to the supreme degree. This being the usual period for the installation of Principals and Officers for the year, a board of installed Principals was formed, consisting of the following Companions: Laird, P.Z., 13; Muggeridge, P.Z., 13; G. W. Turner, P.Z., 13; R. Barnes, P.Z., 13; R. E. Barnes, P.Z., 13; H. J. Hinxman, P.Z., 324. The board then installed and invested the following Companions to the offices annexed to their names:—Comps. G.T. Fox, as M.E.Z.; H. Clerk, as H.; Moore, as J.; R. E. Barnes, as E.; Henderson, as N.; Brown, as P.S.; G. W. Turner, as Treasurer; and Allison, as Janitor. Comp. G. W. Turner, P.Z., moved—That the sum of 5*l.* be given from the funds of the Chapter to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Annuity Fund for Aged Masons, the Chapter having previously voted the sum of 10*l.* to the Widows' Fund. All business being concluded, the Chapter was closed in ancient form, and the Companions adjourned to the banquet. The usual toasts having been given and responded to, Comp. Barnes, P.Z., proposed the health of the Principals. Comp. Fox, M.E.Z., in thanking the Companions for the high compliment paid them, assured the Chapter that they must take the will for the deed, that their utmost endeavours would be used to promote its welfare, and it would be their sincere desire to impart the ceremonies they had received pure and unadulterated. The M.E.Z. then proposed "The Health of the P.Zs." He was exceedingly happy to see the past Principals rally round them, and continue that support which, for so long a period; they had rendered, and great merit was due to them for the zeal they had evinced for the welfare of the Chapter. Comp. G. W. Turner returned thanks in behalf of the P.Zs., and assured the Companions that the encomiums they had received at the hands of the Chapter were truly appreciated; and he was delighted, on the present occasion, to have in their midst their highly-esteemed and much-respected Comp., R. Barnes, P.Z., the father of the Chapter, and trusted he might be spared for many years to honour them with his presence; he sincerely trusted that the very efficient manner in which the ceremony of exaltation was at all times performed by the various officers, would prove a stimulus to the junior members of the Chapter to persevere in that excellent working which for many years past had been characteristic of the Union of Waterloo Chapter. "The Health of the Visiting Companions," viz., Comps. Hinxman, No. 324; Cheese, No. 128; Phillips, No. 30; and Walsh, No. 387, was then given.—Comp. Hinxman thanked the Companions in behalf of himself and his brother visitors; he felt convinced their feelings accorded with his in grateful acknowledgments for the truly Masonic manner in which they had been received among them, was much pleased at the very excellent working they had witnessed, and concluded by wishing "Prosperity to the Chapter." The next toast was, "The newly exalted Companions." Comp. Stalford acknowledged his warmest expressions of gratitude in being admitted a member of the Royal Arch, and would use every exertion to make himself proficient in the ceremonies. "The Officers of the Chapter" was next given, and warmly responded to. Comp. R. E. Barnes, P.Z. and R., begged to assure the Companions of his due appreciation of the kindly feelings at all times evinced towards him by the members of the Chapter. From his long association with No. 13, a period of sixteen years,

there were many reminiscences connected therewith, of a pleasing character. He had watched its firm and steady growth, and congratulated the Chapter on its accession of numbers, likewise on the continued zeal of the officers in the assiduous and faithful discharge of their respective duties. After an evening spent in true brotherly feelings, the Companions separated.¹

A M E R I C A.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

WE have just received a very elegantly printed report of the proceedings at the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, held at New York, in September last, from which we extract the following annual address of the Most Eminent Grand Commander:—

Templars of New York,—Another round of seasons, with their varied changes of autumn and winter, seed time and harvest, their encouragements and disappointments, their many and important events, have passed, and we are once more, under an allwise and superintending Providence, permitted to assemble around the sacred altar, to renew to each other our congratulations, and unite in gratitude to Him “who rides upon the whirlwind and directs the storm,” for the many and varied blessings vouchsafed to us during the period of our separation.

The past year has been an eventful one. Although an appearance of general prosperity pervaded the land when last we met, with every encouragement to hope for its continuance in the various branches of commerce, mechanics and manufactures, which unite to support and give employment to the masses comprising this community,—yet but a few short days had passed ere there came a crash, which in its results prostrated many who at that time supposed themselves on the highway to fortune, paralyzing every branch of business, and giving us a year of anxiety and suffering. And although the entire country is teeming with the luxuries and necessaries of life, in an unprecedented degree, and our banks overflowing with the precious metals as never before, yet a general apathy seems to pervade the entire community, in a want of that spirit and energy which has hitherto characterised our people in the prosecution of the various enterprises of life. During this period of depression, have been consummated some of the most important events of the age, among which are the practical demonstration that our canals can be navigated by steam, the successful laying of the Atlantic telegraph cable, the opening of Chinese ports to American and other commerce; events of themselves calculated to give a new impetus, and add new incentives to renewed action to overcome and dissipate the apathy which has prevailed throughout the length and breadth of the land. That such a consummation may be realised, is our earnest desire.

Many new orders or societies are springing up in the land, in this our day and generation, some of them assuming names and emblems calculated, and perhaps intended, to convey the impression that they are allied to Templar Masonry—we can only say of them, “that all that are called by our name are not of us.” Many there are who have no knowledge of the higher and more interior sense of Masonry; with them it is, at best, but a social organization; good, most excellent, but embodying no deeper principles than appear on its surface—possessing no moral power, no help to purification. On these its lessons fall like seed upon stony ground, like water on a rock, rebounding by the force of its own impetus, and leaving no impress behind; jagged stones are these, loosely builded together with no cement, a blot and a blemish to our spiritual temple.

Having no higher aim in Masonry than the mere outward advantages of the system, they purify not their lives, nor beautify their characters. The tools of our

Craft are not found in their hands; they are drones in our hives, clogs to our chariot wheels, laggards impeding the triumphal march of our victorious army. Let such apply to themselves the plummet of righteousness, learning to walk uprightly among men, the square of virtue shaping their character of the pattern of that "stone" which, though rejected of the builders, has become the "chief head of the corner."

When last we met, clouds and darkness were lowering upon the Order in some of our sister jurisdictions; one Grand Commandery had taken incipient measures to separate themselves from the Grand Encampment of the United States, and in other and high places a disposition had been manifested or suggestions made, that circumstances might arise that would render it necessary to dispense with that grand body; but I am gratified at being able to announce to you, that the Grand Commandery having taken such measures, has repented such action, retraced her steps, renewed her allegiance, and now stands out in bold relief, in support of the Grand Encampment.

May we not hope that a similar spirit will prevail in other quarters, that union and harmony may be restored, and the grand objects of our beloved Order be realized! That this great desideratum may be consummated, must be the earnest hope and strong desire of all well disposed Templars throughout our fair land.

During the year just passing away, it has been my misfortune either to be so indisposed, or to have such imperative business engagements, as to render it impossible for me to visit officially the different subordinate Commanderies in the jurisdiction, as my duty as its chief, demanded, or my own inclination would have suggested; consequently I am unable to present to the Grand Commandery, from personal observation, the precise condition of them severally; but from the representation of those in whom I have implicit confidence, I have no doubt that we are at this time enjoying a degree of prosperity which is, and should be, the pride of every Templar in our jurisdiction.

During the recess, I have granted letters of dispensation to Sir Darius Clark, and a constitutional number of Sir Knights, to form and open a Commandery of Knights Templar at Canton, St. Lawrence county, to be called St. Lawrence Commandery, which dispensation will be returnable at this time for the action of this grand body. This Commandery is located at an eligible point, surrounded by an intelligent community, and should a warrant be granted, I cannot for a moment doubt its future success.

The subject of a Templar's costume, just now, seems to be occupying a considerable space in the deliberations of our sister Commanderies, and has, on more than one occasion, been laid before this grand body, and action deferred from time to time, earnestly anticipating that the Grand Encampment would, in its wisdom, adopt a uniform which would be appropriate for the several Commanderies under its jurisdiction; and although at its last triennial conclave it failed to accomplish so desirable an object, yet I shall refrain from recommending the adoption of a Templar uniform by this Grand Commandery, believing when any such is adopted, it should be universal, and that to the Grand Encampment alone belongs the right to regulate the uniform of its subordinates.

I herewith transmit copies of edicts of the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, for the restoration of Columbian Commandery, No. 1, and *Cœur de Lion* Commandery, No. 23, to which I respectfully call the attention of the Grand Commandery.

No other subjects occurring to my mind, requiring the attention or action of this Grand Commandery, calculated to promote the interests of Templar Masonry in this jurisdiction, I most fraternally tender to the Knights, now and heretofore members of this grand body, my grateful acknowledgments for the uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me, as their presiding officer and Commander, during the period I have had the honour of holding that high position; and Sir Knights, believe me when I say, that should we never meet again as commander and commanded, the recollection of the happy hours passed in the society of my Companion Knights, will, to the latest hour of my existence, occupy a prominent place in my memory.

LE ROY FARNHAM.

The following ceremonies and charges to be observed upon the constitution and dedication of a new commandery and the installation of its officers, have been published under the authority of the Grand Commandery of New York:—

CEREMONIES AND CHARGES UPON CONSTITUTING AND DEDICATING A COMMANDERY,
AND INSTALLING ITS OFFICERS.

The Knights will assemble in the room where the ceremonies are to be performed, and open a Commandery. The jewels are then placed on the altar. An ode is then sung, succeeded by prayer.

The Grand Marshal will then say, "Right Eminent Grand Commander, a constitutional number of Knights Templar, duly instructed in the sublime mysteries of our Orders, and being desirous of promoting the honour of the same by aiding the cause of humanity, knowledge and virtue, have applied to proper authority for a warrant or charter to constitute them a regular Commandery of Knights Templar and the appendant Orders. The prayer of their petition having been granted, they are now assembled for the purpose of being legally constituted, and of having their officers installed in due and ancient form."

The Grand Commander will then direct the Grand Recorder to read the charter, which being done, he will ask the members if they still approve of the officers named in the charter; if they assent, the Grand Commander will declare:

"By virtue of the high power and authority in me vested, I do now form you, my worthy brother knights, into a just and regular Commandery of Knights Templar. Henceforth you are authorized and empowered to form and open a Council of Knights of the Red Cross, a Commandery of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and to perform all such things as may appertain to the same: conforming in all your doings to the laws and constitution of the Grand Commandery under whose authority you act, and to the constitution and edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States. And may the God of your fathers be with you, guide and direct you in all your undertakings!"

The jewels are now uncovered to solemn music, when the Prelate rises, and says:

"From time immemorial, it has been customary for the Masonic Fraternity to dedicate the different departments of our institution to different patrons. We dedicate our Lodges to St. John the Baptist, or the Evangelist; our Chapters to Zerubbabel, and our Commanderies to St. John the Almoner. We do this, not in that superstitious sense in which the heathen employ the term when they set apart their temples for the worship of their imaginary deities, nor in that high and solemn sense in which Christians dedicate their churches to the great Jehovah; but we do it simply to testify our respect and esteem for the character of those who have been so eminently beneficial to our institution, and that their examples may stimulate us to imitate their exalted virtues.

"To our most eminent and worthy patron St. John the Almoner I do now solemnly dedicate this Commandery, by the name and title of — Commandery; and may the God of all grace abundantly bless you in your laudable undertaking, and may each one of his members so redeem his time that he may receive the joyful invitation, 'Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!' 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men!'"

Response.—"As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

[The crowded state of our pages compels us to defer the completion].

THE WEEK.

THE Queen and the royal family are still at Buckingham Palace, and are all in good health. Her majesty visited the Haymarket Theatre on Thursday and the Photo-

graphic Institution on Monday. The first levee of the season was held on Wednesday, at St. James's Palace, and was very numerously attended. The Princess Frederick William, will, it is believed, visit this country in May next.—War is so much resolved on by the French government that the corps which are to commence the campaign have already been designated, and orders have been given to the minister of war to frame a plan of operations. It is contemplated to attack the Austrians simultaneously in front, flank, and rear; the Piedmontese, supported by a large French army forming the main division, while another will march northward from the Papal states, and a third will seize on Trieste or Venice. Remonstrances of ministers, and deputations of manufacturers and merchants, have endeavoured to stay the emperor's martial ardour in vain. In spite of all resistance, the formidable preparations for war are not discontinued. All the preparations are on a scale suited for an army of 120,000 men. Marshal Cambrert is designed for the command of the army of Italy, under the orders of the emperor. Admiral Parseval Deschênes will command the squadron in the Mediterranean. It is rumoured that the imperial government is much disturbed by an unwonted movement which has for some little time been observed among the leading members of the Orleans party. Louis Napoleon, it is generally believed, fears these opponents much more than any other, whether they be republicans, legitimists, or socialists. The Orleanists are a small but influential party. They count in their ranks men of decided liberality, intelligence, and honesty. Many, too, have wealth at their command. A very large class of the *bourgeoisie* have not forgotten that, during Louis Philippe's reign, they enjoyed a sensible amount of political liberty, and that at the same time, the law protected their lives and their property.—The students of Berlin University have celebrated the birth of the infant Prince Frederick by a torchlight procession; and a deputation of their number, with a congratulatory address, was received by the prince and princess. Berlin letters describe the reception of the new marriage law by the liberals as very favourable, while the conservatives observed a gloomy silence. Its main provision is the establishment of a permissive or optional civil marriage, and the abolition of impediments to marriages between nobles and commoners.—Our Madrid advices are to the 22nd instant. The journals state that no fewer than three "reform bills" had been brought into the chamber of deputies. It was remarked that the *Fénix*, Queen Christina's organ, from being friendly to, had become the opponent of the O'Donnell cabinet. A letter states that the government had indefinitely postponed the recognition of the securities called English coupons. The chamber of deputies has granted 2,000,000,000 reals for public works and other purposes.—At Vienna an official order appeared on Wednesday, prohibiting the exportation of mules and the transit of horses. A letter from Milan states, that trade in Austrian Italy is in a complete state of stagnation, no business being at present transacted. A despatch, dated Milan, Wednesday, runs as follows:—"On the occasion of the funeral of Signor Dandolo, an opposition demonstration of the nobility took place in the churchyard, but subsided quietly without further disturbance. Continual quarrels occur between the Austrian, Modenese, and Piedmontese sentinels, stationed along the frontier. The *Nord* states that Prince Frederick William of Prussia was expected at Vienna on a special mission. The Austrian circular to the lesser German states had received replies, some of a simply affirmative nature, while others are willing to accept the propositions made to them, provided it be made in the joint names of Austria and Prussia.—With regard to the election riots in the Swiss canton of Ticino, it does not appear which party was guilty of the first attack. The elections seem to have turned slightly in favour of the Radicals as against the Ultramontanes, but many returns are protested against. In Paris it is believed that Mazzini is in the canton, and that he is endeavouring to hatch a conspiracy in Lombardy.—"I am informed," says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, "on what I consider credible authority, that Russia has intimated her determination to resist any attempt to prevent the union of the principalities by force."—Lisbon letters inform us that there have been several secret sessions in the Cortes on ecclesiastical questions, and on the long disputed subject of the right of presentation to the Indian bishoprics.—A young lady, daughter of Admiral Cayendish, who has been staying at Rome with her family for

some time, was inveigled by the Rev. Mr. Northcote (a pervert from the Church of England) into a convent, where she allowed herself to be baptised; and there she would probably have remained for life, if her father had not gone to the convent and insisted on her being delivered up to him. The Austrian government is ready to withdraw its troops from Bologna and Ancona, as soon as the French troops shall evacuate Rome and Civita Vecchia. But it will not in any case abandon its right to occupy Ferrara, Commachio, and Placentia, in conformity with treaties. Such is the spirit of a communication which the imperial government has sent to different courts, and it is the basis of an arrangement which it is desired to bring about between France and Austria.—The second chamber of Hanover has unanimously resolved upon requesting government to obtain from the federal diet resolutions calculated, by their unanimity and energetic execution, to avert the threatening danger of war, but, if necessary, to repel, with the united federal power, attacks on Austria or Germany.—A telegram, dated Corfu, February 19th, says that Sir Henry Storks issued a proclamation on the 17th ult, announcing his assumption of office.—The hereditary prince of Schleswig-Holstein-Augustenburg, eldest son of the Duke of Augustenburg, has placed on record, in a letter addressed to the King of Denmark, the formal reservation of his right of inheritance in the duchies. The letter was brought before the cabinet on Saturday last.—There is a rumour current in Paris of a letter from Victor Emmanuel to the Emperor Napoleon, complaining of the probable abandonment of Italy by France, in which case the king would have to follow the example of his father after the battle of Novara, and abdicate. He adds, that if thus driven from the throne he shall feel himself obliged to communicate to the world the causes which obliged him to make such a sacrifice. The Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, just arrived in Paris from Turin, whence he was recalled by telegraph, brings the most deplorable accounts of Piedmont. He represents it as a country lost in debt, and scarcely able to pay the taxes. It will be impossible for Piedmont, according to what the French minister says, to pay the interest on her loan.—The special correspondent of the *New York Times* at Washington, says it is currently reported in well-informed circles that Lord Lyons will remain in the country for a few months only, when he will be succeeded by Sir William Gore Ouseley, Lord Napier has, as yet, received no official intimation of the fact.—A telegram from Toronto, Canada, under date of the 11th of February, says the Queen's decision in favour of Ottawa as the seat of government of Canada, was carried in the Legislative-Assembly last night by a majority of five.—The Cape mail has arrived with dates from Table Bay to the 21st January. The Cape colony is reported as very prosperous, and at entire peace. At Natal, the council had refused to pass the estimates, and had been dissolved by the Governor. Small-pox had disappeared from Cape Town, but was still prevalent in some country districts.—From Mexico we learn that Miramon intended marching on Vera Cruz with a strong force. The liberals had routed General Negrette, near Jalapa. The *Picayune's* correspondent says that the Mexican war schooner Iturbide had been captured by an American and six foreigners, who killed five of the crew, and escaped with the vessel. Advices from Southern Mexico, to the 26th, mention it as not improbable that San Luis was in the hands of the liberals.—Advices from Alexandria, of the 16th inst, speak of Prince Alfred, as having arrived; on that day he went to Kafrelzayat on a hunting expedition. From Kafrelzayat he will continue his journey to Cairo and Suez. The Turkish commissioner in the Jeddah affair has arrived at Alexandria with the prisoners who have been condemned.—The following telegraphic Chinese news has been received:—Lord Elgin having reached Hankew (?) return to Shanghai on the 1st of January. A small combined naval and land force was despatched from Canton on the 8th of January, to punish attacks made upon parties of European troops outside the city. The position of the enemy was taken without loss, and a village destroyed. The disturbances are believed to have been instigated by the Imperial government.—At Cardiff docks, on Tuesday, occurred a fearful steamboat explosion; the steamer was blowing off at a high pressure, and in order to hear the instructions of the captain, the man at the engine placed his hand on the safety valve to keep it down. Immediately afterwards she blew up, and immense pieces timber, and six poor fellows (four of whom are since dead), fell among the general

crash that ensued. Hundreds of persons at that period of the day were standing about the locks, and seven bystanders were wounded more or less; the master of the steambot is among the dead; he has left a wife and a large family.—On Saturday morning, between two and three o'clock, a sad calamity occurred, in which six persons lost their lives by fire. The scene of this awful event was in the premises of Mr. John Rufus Reeves, confectioner, Great James-street, Paddington. Not long after the fire was discovered, and before any effectual assistance could be rendered, the interior of the building fell in, burying in its ruins those who had failed to make good their escape. The unfortunate sufferers were Mr. Reeves, with four of his children, and the nurse. Several persons also were seriously injured by falling, and others were severely burned.—Another arrest has been made in County Kerry, of a man, a master of a national school, on the charge of being a member of the Phoenix conspiracy; and at the Westmeath assizes, the jury have convicted a prisoner of having the passwords of an illegal secret society in his possession. The prisoner had been to America, and he said he brought the passwords from the States.—At Chatham, Lieutenant Ballie, of the East India Engineers, has been detected in robbing his brother officers of money and valuables. Suspicion at first rested upon servants; but a watch being set, all doubt was removed as to the identity of the culprit. He was placed under arrest, but contrived to escape, and has not since been heard of. He is connected, we are told, with families of wealth and respectability.—At Pemberton colliery, near Sunderland, resides a pitman named Hodgson. To Margaret, the daughter of this man, a miner named Binning was paying his addresses. On Monday night he visited Hodgson's residence, and had an interview with Margaret. He accused her of walking with another young man. She had told him that she would have nothing to do with him (Binning), and he replied that he would take care that she should have nothing to do with any one else, and drawing a pistol, shot her in the head and ran off. The girl lies in a very dangerous state. Binning has not been heard of since, and it is feared has destroyed himself.—The "nursing" system pursued by London General Omnibus Company, with regard to any other omnibus that dares to ply on the roads which they have appropriated to their own use, has received a check at last. Mr. Hughes, who established some exceedingly well appointed omnibuses between Islington and Brompton, was called upon by Mr. Macnamara, the manager of the General Omnibus Company, to surrender his plant and stock at their valuation, and to give up driving on "their" roads. Declining to do so, he was told that he should be "twoed," that is to say, "nursed," at the company's expense. By keeping one omnibus continually before Hughes's and another always behind, his passengers were taken from him, and he was of course ruined in a short time. He brought an action against the company in the court of common pleas, and was awarded compensation in damages to the amount of four hundred pounds.—The case of Gardner *v.* Godfrey occupied the whole of Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, last week. The plaintiff keeps a public house in Whitechapel, and the defendant is a physician. In the year 1857 Mrs. Gardner was dying of consumption, and Mr. Godfrey attended her during her illness, which resulted in death. It was alleged that he abused the confidence reposed in him as a medical attendant, and that the ruin of the plaintiff's daughter was to be attributed to him. The plaintiff now sought to recover damages for the alleged seduction of his daughter. Mr. Montague Chambers, in an eloquent and impassioned address to the jury, urged that Dr. Godfrey was the victim of a foul conspiracy, and pledged himself to prove that he was as pure as a man could be. The learned judge having summed up the case with great care and excessive feeling, the jury retired, and after a short absence returned a verdict for the defendant.—The proceedings at the meeting of Venezuelan bondholders, held on Wednesday, resulted in the adoption of the amended terms obtained from the Venezuelan Minister, through the initiative assumed by a number of bondholders.—On Thursday the ceremony of consecrating Dr. Hills, late incumbent of Great Yarmouth, to the bishopric of British Columbia, took place in Westminster Abbey, in the presence of a large number of bishops, clergy, and former parishioners of the new prelate.—On Wednesday was announced the decease of Mr. Abel Smith, the head of the banking firm of Smith, Payne, and Co. Mr. Smith was in parliament

for upwards of thirty years, and sat for a greater part of that time for Hertfordshire. —Mr. W. Baker, coroner for the eastern division of the county of Middlesex, died at his residence in the *Regent's-park* on Tuesday. His duties, for a time, will be transferred to Mr. Wakley. Mr. Pritchard, the High Bailiff of Southwark, also died last week. —In the House of Lords on Tuesday, the Duke of Argyll commented severely on the recent regulation of the Post Office, with regard to the pre-payment of letters. On Thursday, Lord Colchester announced its withdrawal. On Monday, the Lord Chancellor's bill for amending the law of debtor and creditor, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed. The business before the House of Commons during the past week has been of the greatest importance. On Thursday, Mr. Fitzgerald's motion for a committee on Roman Catholic oaths was carried after a warm discussion. On Friday, Lord Palmerston, according to notice, questioned the government on their foreign policy. Mr. Disraeli in reply, had the satisfaction of informing the House, that government had received a communication, which induced them to believe that the Roman States would be evacuated by the French and Austrian troops, with the concurrence of the Papal government, and Lord Cowley had repaired to Vienna on a mission of peace and conciliation. On the same evening, Sir John Pakington made his statement in reference to the navy, from which it appeared that the present government had found the navy in a very inefficient and imperfect condition as compared with that of France; measures have been taken however, to place this country in a satisfactory position in that respect. On Monday, a very crowded house assembled to hear Mr. Disraeli's exposition of the government measure of reform. After alluding to the gravity of the subject, he said there were two classes of parliamentary reformers. One of these schools would apply ancient rules to modern circumstances, and preserve, while they improved the constitution. In this class are her Majesty's ministers. It would be impolitic to overlook the existence of another—a new school of reformers, who insist upon subjecting representation to the rules of a numerical majority. The desire for the franchise is a natural feeling which ought not to be confounded with disaffection. In their consideration of this subject, the government have taken no thought either of enlarging or diminishing the constituencies, but simply to confer the franchise upon all fitted to possess that high privilege. One means of extending the borough franchise is, the introduction of the element of personal property. It is proposed, therefore, to confer the suffrage on persons having property in the funds or stocks to the value of £10 per annum, persons who have had £60 in a savings' bank for the same period, public servants, military, naval or civil, enjoying a pension of £20 per annum, and lodgers paying £20 a-year. An educational suffrage it has been found impossible to construct; but as an assimilation to it, the borough franchise is to be conferred upon members of learned societies, and of the learned professions, graduates of all the universities, ministers of religion, and certificated schoolmasters. It is proposed not only to lower the county franchise to £10, but to confer the borough franchise on the possessors of 40s. freeholds within their borough boundaries. It has become necessary to revise those boundaries, and this may be done by the Enclosure Commissioners, their conclusions being embodied in a Bill. The authors of the bill had carefully studied what places were insufficiently represented, and eight additional county members would by their plan be created, and also seven additional constituencies, to obtain which fifteen boroughs now returning two members, were to be deprived of one each. The right hon. gentleman concluded with a terse and eloquent peroration, which was followed by loud and prolonged applause. In the discussion which followed, Sir G. C. Lewis and Lord Palmerston contented themselves with asking explanations. Mr. Baxter moved, as an amendment, his resolution touching Scotland and Ireland, but did not press it. Mr. Fox, Lord John Russell, Mr. Roebuck, and Mr. Bright strongly condemned the measure for its exclusion of the working classes. Mr. Newdegate Mr. Bentinck, and Mr. Drummond spoke from the Conservative point of view. Mr. Disraeli, in his reply, announced the second reading for Monday, the 21st.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Monday night was an eventful one in the theatrical annals of London; almost every theatre had some novelty worthy of notice. Some of these we must defer remarking upon to-day, and of the remainder our space will only allow a very brief notice. At Drury Lane was produced a new ballad opera, entitled "William and Susan," the plot of which is taken from Douglas Jerrold's "Black Eyed Susan," and not improved in the transforming process. The music by Mr. Tully was much relished by the audience, the various songs being well given. Messrs. Haigh and Rosenthal, and Mdles. Huddart and Lucetta sustained the principal characters. In the first act alone there were no less than three encores; to say nothing of the chorus and hornpipe with which the act terminates, and which were probably re-demanded for the sake of the young ladies in marine pantaloons who figured in the dance. Much of the success of the piece was due to the extraordinary beauty of Mr. Beverley's view of the Downs, with the fleet riding at anchor in the distance. — At the Haymarket, a feeble translation from the French, entitled, "The Young Mother," was produced for Miss Emily Allen, a *debutante*, who has a graceful figure and pleasing presence, who acted with considerable intelligence and *naïveté*, but who is too evidently a novice to warrant any serious criticism on her performance. — Mr. Falconer has written a slight sketch for the Lyceum, called "The Leprecham," with the object of affording a field for the talents of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams. It was quite successful, in a rather thinly attended house. — Mr. Wright has appeared at the Adelphi, in the admirable part of *John Grumley*, in "Domestic Economy," and on Monday, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan made their *rentrée*. The popularity earned long since by these favourite comedians, was sufficient to insure them a cordial reception from a London audience.

NOTICES.

THE Brethren and others are requested to notice, that George W. Bower has no connection with the *Freemasons' Magazine*; and all persons are cautioned against paying him anything on our account.

Advertisers will oblige by forwarding their favours at the latest by 12 o'clock on Monday morning.

We shall be happy to receive essays or lectures on Masonic subjects returning them (should they not be accepted) if desired.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"P.M."—We look upon the office of a Director of the Ceremonies as a most important one, which certainly cannot be held by the Tyler of a Lodge.

"P.M., 412."—We cannot give up the names of our correspondents.

THE MARK DEGREE.—The right of jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Scotland has recently been brought under the consideration of the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and communications were, twelve months since, ordered to be made to the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland on the subject, but we do not know the result. Perhaps some of our Scotch friends will inform us.