

TO OUR READERS.

WITH our present number we close, not only the first volume for 1859, but the octavo series of our *Magazine*—and in doing so we are happy to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and the kindly expressions of appreciation of our labours with which we have been honoured, and which have sustained us in our efforts to maintain for the Order a truthful and independent organ of the opinions of the Craft. Our next number will appear in an enlarged form, in which we shall, from time to time, introduce such improvements as will, we hope, render us worthy of the increased support and assistance of the brethren. As we think performances at all times better than promises, we shall not now enter into any details as to the future, but simply thanking the brethren for their past support, trust that we may continue to deserve their confidence and approbation.

GRAND LODGE.

WE had hoped that with the discussion at the Grand Lodge on the 1st instant, party feeling would have died away, and the brethren comprising that august assembly have devoted themselves to the endeavour to promote the best interests of the Craft and the important business relative to the disposal of our property, which must, within the next few months, come under our consideration. But we have been disappointed; and at the Special Grand Lodge held on Thursday last to complete the business of that of the 1st instant, the Club party met in full force and poured forth their rancour to the uttermost.

The first subject of discussion was that for raising the salary of the

Grand Secretary, in pursuance of the last report of the Board of General Purposes, in which appeared the following paragraph :—

“The Board have had their attention directed to the present duties of the officers in the Grand Secretary’s department; and they are of opinion that the salary of the Grand Secretary is inadequate, and is not a sufficient remuneration for a gentleman who, owing to the increase of work, is compelled to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office; and they recommend to Grand Lodge that the salary of the Grand Secretary be raised to £400 per annum. The Board further recommend that the salary of the second clerk (Bro. Buss) be raised to £150 per annum, and that such increase of salaries shall take place from the 1st January, 1859.”

That this recommendation, however founded in justice, would be allowed to pass unchallenged or without protest, we did not expect, but we were not prepared for the strong expressions of opinion on Thursday last—which we feel were directed, not against the man so much as against those who, rightly or wrongly, were supposed to have been the authors of the paragraph above quoted. The increase to the salary of the Grand Secretary was formally moved by the President of the Board of General Purposes; leaving it to Bro. Joseph Smith, G. Pursuivant, the proposer of the increased salary in the Board of General Purposes, to state the grounds upon which he founded his proposition. This Bro. Smith did, by stating that Bro. Clarke was no party to the motion—that he had never spoken to him, or, so far as he knew, to any other person on the subject; but that he (Bro. Smith) had originated it from a feeling that a gentleman who devoted the whole of his time to the duties of his office—not only his whole time in office hours, but frequently five or six hours in the evening after quitting the office—was but inadequately remunerated at £300 a year. In support of his motion, he urged that two years since a committee of the Board of General Purposes had taken into consideration the duties of the officers, when it had been unanimously resolved to recommend that the Grand Secretary’s salary should be £400 per annum; that of the Assistant Grand Secretary £300; and a proportionate addition made to the allowance of the other officers. Two brethren were afterwards added to the Committee, and a division of opinion took place which led to the Board of General Purposes recommending that no alteration be for the present made in the salaries of the officers. He knew that it might be answered that the late Grand Secretary never had more than, £400 a year, and that for a long period he only received £300. But, they must recollect, that *Very Worshipful brother did not devote the whole of his time to the business of the office, whilst Bro. Clarke did so, and was at all times accessible to the brethren whenever they wanted to see him.* He based the resolution on the justice of his position, and trusted it would be unanimously supported—the more especially as Grand Lodge had overruled the former decision of the Board of General Purposes and increased the salary of the Assistant Grand Secretary; that of the junior clerk in the office having been also increased.

These were plain and intelligible grounds on which to base the resolution, and such as we had foreseen must at some time be brought before Grand Lodge; as will be proved by a reference to our number of June 23rd, 1858, where, after expressing our concurrence in the increase of salary granted to Bro. Farnfield (though as a rule we disapproved of Grand Lodge taking the details of financial arrangements into its own hands) we wrote:—"One thing is now clear, the Board of General Purposes must reconsider the whole question of remuneration in the Grand Secretary's office; for it certainly will be a most curious anomaly for the superior officer to be paid less, or even as little as his assistant. Should the Grand Secretary's salary be raised, another question will arise—one which cannot be passed over in silence. Three Officers will have had their salaries raised; the fourth may fairly ask are not his claims to be considered also?"

In the words we have italicised lay the whole gist of the question—and not only did we then prepare the brethren for the early consideration of the question of Thursday last, but it is clear from the speech which Bro. Whitmore made at the Special Grand Lodge, on June 16th, 1858, in moving the addition to Bro. Farnfield's salary, that he also foresaw, if his motion was carried, that of Thursday last would follow as a natural sequence—for he then said, in explaining the reasons which might be urged against the vote,

"One was, that should they agree to the vote, the Assistant Secretary's salary would be greater than that of the Secretary; but the question they had to consider was, not how much the Secretary received, but what the Assistant Secretary deserved."

On the motion for increasing the Grand Secretary's salary on Thursday last being put, Bro. Stebbing opposed it on the ground that the Grand Secretary had been but recently appointed; that the late Grand Secretary and the present Assistant Grand Secretary did not get their salaries increased until after having been many years in office, and then not in consequence of increased duties, but for many years of continued and zealous services. But what said Bro. Whitmore upon this point last year?

"It would be well to consider what had been the past and what were the present duties of Bro. Farnfield. He held in his hands a table which showed that within the last twelve years the business of Grand Lodge, in the mere registration of those who joined either particular Lodges or Masonry in general, had increased threefold, and there was, of course, a corresponding increase in the accounts of Grand Lodge; and although Bro. Farnfield had for many years kept the cashbook, no one could ever say that he had kept a farthing of the cash. Another circumstance, which had tended to increase the business of the Grand Secretary's office, was the interest in Masonic affairs which the *Freemasons' Magazine* had created among the Brethren generally, and which had led to a vast deal of correspondence between the country and colonial Lodges and the Grand Lodge."

It is true that he added that it was not so much for the present as for the past services of Bro. Farnfield that he asked for the increase

of salary—those services being “entitled to a grateful recognition at their hands.” Bro. Stebbing also objected to the vote, on the ground that it would limit the powers of Grand Lodge in their charitable donations; apparently forgetting that the increase of salary to the officers would come, not from the Benevolent, but from the General Fund of Grand Lodge, which at the present moment is in excess of the demands made upon it by upwards of £2000 a year. Bro. Synmonds, in supporting the original motion, stated that Bro. Stebbing had not urged that £400 a year was more than the Grand Secretary ought to have, but that as Bro. White only had £300 per annum for many years, so should the present Grand Secretary be content with the same amount, forgetting how largely the business of the office had increased; for whereas the number of certificates for new members issued in 1842 only amounted to 1,403, they had gradually increased, until in 1856 the number was 3,821; and the revenue of Grand Lodge had increased in the same period from £2,774 to £5,809 per annum. The Grand Secretary therefore now had to devote his whole time to the duties of the office, whereas the previous Grand Secretary had in addition to that office held a lucrative situation apart from Freemasonry. We need not follow the discussion at any length beyond stating that after Bro. Cooper, the Prov. Grand Master for Kent, had supported the original motion, Bro. Mason, in a speech marked for its good taste and absence from passion, moved that that part of the report which recommended the increase to the salary of the Grand Secretary, be not adopted. On this a long and animated discussion followed, in which Bro. Binckes supported the amendment on the ground that twelve months since the Board of General Purposes had recommended that there should be no increase in the salaries—twelve months since Bro. Binckes voted for setting that report on one side so far as regarded Bro. Farnfield; and Bro. Whitmore (who entertained the highest respect for Bro. Clarke) for the most comical of all comical reasons—that as Bro. Clarke had not asked for any increase of salary, they had better wait till he did so. Whilst one or two other speakers, to carry out this excellent joke, argued, that if they raised Bro. Clarke’s salary now, they would deprive themselves of the power and pleasure of doing so five or seven years hence. The case in support of the increased grant having been well argued by Bros. Le Veau, Gregory, and Savage, Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal rose, and with the amenity and charity which so distinguishes him, imported the first spice of personality into the discussion by calling attention to the circumstance, that in the correspondence on the late Canadian dispute, Bro. Harington wrote, “Your letters are so personal as very much to embarrass matters,” &c., thereby showing the want of efficiency and courtesy of the Grand Secretary. Bro. McEntyre followed Bro. Portal, but upon the opposite side, and was followed by the Deputy Grand Master with a crushing answer to Bro. Portal, declaring that the letters complained of, were in fact written by direction of the Grand Master—letters of which the Grand Master

was substantially the author, and with the cognisance of himself (the Deputy Grand Master), Bro. Clarke being no more responsible for them than the pen with which he wrote them. The President of the Board of General Purposes having exercised his right of reply, the question was put, and the amendment negatived, not more than two hands beyond those of the speakers being held up for it—or about ten in all—and the original motion carried amidst loud cheering.

We certainly approve of the decision, on more grounds than one ; first, on that which we alluded to last year ; secondly, because we believe that it is better to pay even five or six hundred pounds a year for the undivided and efficient services of a gentleman, than half the amount for those of one, who, however efficient, cannot give his whole attention to our business ; thirdly, because we believe that an ill paid will be sure to become a discontented and careless officer ; and, fourthly, because we are convinced that Bro. Clarke has, by the great attention he has paid to the duties of his office, deserved the consideration of the brethren ; and we express this opinion with the less reluctance, because we were amongst those who, at the time of his appointment, looked upon it with suspicion, if not with misgivings as to his qualifications for it.

This question settled, that of increasing the salary of Bro. Buss, from £115 to £150, was brought forward by the President of the Board of General Purposes, and seconded by Bro. Whitmore, both of whom bore testimony to his efficiency, courtesy, and value as an officer of the Craft ; an opinion which was unanimously and deservedly endorsed by Grand Lodge.

The next question brought forward by the President of the Board was, the appointment of a professional accountant as a paid auditor of Grand Lodge accounts. A proposition so reasonable, and of such importance, looking at the amount of our income, which is annually growing, that we should have thought it would not have met with any opposition—the more especially by any one who knows what a perfect farce the present system of audit is. Once a year some eighteen or twenty brethren, being Masters of Lodges, taken in rotation, are called together at seven o'clock, a large number of books laid before them, and intimation given them that supper will be ready at nine. A balance sheet is produced, perhaps one or two add it up ; the Tyler announces that supper is upon table—a few brethren append their signatures to the balance sheet, and the audit is complete. We put it to the brethren, whether any rational man in business with partners—whether any public company, with a surplus income, growing in importance from year to year, would be content with such an audit ; and we need not stop to inquire what would be the answer ? It is no reply to say that the system has gone on for years, and there has been no defalcation in the accounts : it is no argument, that because we have been hitherto blessed with honest officers, that therefore we shall always be so. The prudent man locks his stable before the horse is lost, and it is now, whilst there is no room to doubt as to every

thing being in a good condition, that we should take every precaution for keeping them so. We cannot say that we have any experience in the manner of conducting the audit; it has not fallen to the turn of the Lodges in which we have passed the chair to come in the list to send an auditor during our year of office; but it did happen that during his mastership, Bro. Binckes—who it must be admitted, is a good man of figures—was called upon to act as auditor; and bearing testimony to the inefficiency of the audit, he seconded the motion for employing an efficient accountant. Here then was every appearance of a second unanimous decision; but no—Bro. Whitmore could not approve of the motion, the more especially as he saw a chance of casting a reflection on the Board of General Purposes elected at the last meeting, and through them on the brethren who elected the Board and passed a vote of censure upon him for giving a notice of motion impugning the conduct of the Grand Registrar—or allowing it to be given in his name whilst he had not the hardihood to propose or support it. He proposed that the present system of audit should be continued—more time, however, being given for the performance of the duty, and the supper postponed until another evening—believing it less liable to abuse than the proposed alteration, as he could conceive that a time might arrive when a Board of General Purposes less *pure* than the present might so *cook the accounts* as to deceive any professional accountant. Anything more gratuitous or unbecoming than the sneer with regard to the *purity* of the Board of General Purposes could not be well conceived, the more especially when taken in connection with the opposition of Bro. Whitmore's friends to the election of that Board less than a month since. It is impossible to believe in a period arriving when thirty gentlemen, one half of whom are nominated by the Grand Master, and the other half elected by the free suffrages of their brethren in Grand Lodge, could combine with the paid officers of the Craft, to “*cook the accounts*,” for the purpose of deceiving the auditors and the Craft; and if such a thing could take place, it would certainly be more likely under the present system than that of a paid auditor, who after all will be only another check on the accuracy of the accounts, as the audit committee is to be continued as heretofore, and the balance sheet prepared by the official auditor, submitted to their consideration, instead of the unvouched balance sheets such as they have hitherto had laid before them. Bro. Stebbing also opposed the motion, but on the fairer ground that he objected to adding to the expenses of Grand Lodge, and he had no confidence that the £20 now asked for might not in some future year be increased to £50. We do not sympathise with Bro. Stebbing in his fears. Indeed we hope that the time will arrive, and that, too whilst Bro. Stebbing continues a member of Grand Lodge, when the Order shall have so risen in importance, and our revenue so increased in amount, as to render it absolutely necessary, as an act of justice, to raise the amount of remuneration given to the auditor. The motion was carried and some formal business transacted.

We now approach a period of the evening, the recollection of which we wish, for the honour of Freemasonry, we could altogether blot from our minds and abstain from noticing—but that our duty to the Craft forbids; and in speaking of it we shall do so most dispassionately, and “more in sorrow than in anger.” Bro. Binckes brought forward a motion which has, for some time, been standing on the agenda paper: “That it is inexpedient to publish the discussions in Grand Lodge in the printed minutes of proceedings of the quarterly communications, as issued from the Grand Secretary’s office,”—basing his argument in its support solely upon the ground that in those reports certain expressions of his had been “suppressed” or “garbled” by the executive. Anything more absurd it is difficult to imagine; for that is a charge which Bro. Binckes is in the habit of making against every report of his speeches, and which was made against ourselves last week—as though all the world were engaged in a conspiracy to disparage the oratorical abilities of Bro. Binckes. The worshipful brother concluded his address by asking to be allowed to withdraw his motion; but having made his statement, it was then too late; and it being ruled that without the consent of the Grand Lodge he could not do so, the President of the Board of General Purposes rose to reply, and doubtless, smarting under the continual insults which have been cast upon him by Bro. Binckes and his friends, spoke with undue warmth—a warmth which we can pardon under the provocation, but which we think would have been better avoided.

After disclaiming for himself and colleagues having anything to do with the preparation of the reports, and expressing his opinion that they were not “garbled,” but were fairly reduced from the shorthand writer’s notes by the Grand Secretary, Bro. Havers “hurled back the charge with contempt, and pronounced it a wicked and baseless fabrication.” The applause which followed this somewhat injudicious observation, showed that Grand Lodge fully sympathised with the brother under the provocation on which he was speaking; but Bro. Whitmore, as if to add fuel to fire, rose and said that in the early part of the evening he had stated that he pitied Bro. Havers—he now “despised” him. This was followed by loud cries of “Order,” and the Grand Master called upon Bro. Whitmore for a retraction of the word, on the ground that it was unmasonic—and some light sparring ensued as to what was unmasonic, which resulted in mutual explanations, and which, we hope, will put an end to the matter. But Bro. Binckes and his friends must be taught that they must not be permitted to continually occupy the time of Grand Lodge with offensive and unsupported charges against any body of the brethren, be they in office or not, and though an occasional hasty expression or even improper remark in the heat of debate may be excused, a continuance in an habitual indulgence in imputing unworthy motives and dishonourable conduct to any brother, will bring down upon them the well merited censure of Grand Lodge. Bro. Binckes is a type of a class of men, of whom in the course of our career as public journalists

we have met with many specimens—the most notable, perhaps, being the late John O'Connell, who, speaking upon all and every subject at an intolerable length, felt himself aggrieved if his speeches were not reported in full. And we have a vivid recollection of the period when that gentleman, to revenge himself on the press, raised the point of privilege (of strangers being present) night after night, to exclude the reporters from the gallery—to the gratification of those gentlemen for the time being, and ultimately to cover himself with ridicule and contempt. The fact is—absolutely full reports of the proceedings either in parliament, Grand Lodge, or elsewhere, it is impossible to give in any journal at present existing; and, were it possible, the life of man would be too short to enable him to wade through such reports, unless he were to forego all other pursuits, and give up the time required for necessary rest and refreshment. We pride ourselves on the accuracy of our reports; but we admit that they are necessarily abbreviated, and for the reasons we have stated. Indeed, we believe that the public have very little conception of what reporting really is, and look upon it as a mere mechanical employment of transcribing the words of the speakers; whilst it really requires considerable mental and discriminative powers in giving the thoughts of others clothed in closer and terser language than that originally used. To give an example of what close reporting would be, we may state that a verbatim report of the proceedings of Thursday last would, in the small news type of the *Times*, occupy from thirteen to fourteen columns of that journal; and that a “double debate,” as it is called, i.e. a debate both in the Lords and in the Commons—one say of eight hours, and the other of ten hours duration (no very uncommon event on parliamentary Fridays), would fill from fifty-five to sixty columns, or something like a *Times* and a quarter, whilst the actual reports rarely exceed from twenty to twenty-five columns.

To return to the subject before us, the Deputy Grand Master explained that the proceedings of Grand Lodge were first published in consequence of unfair reports which used to appear in unauthorized publications, and defended the usefulness of the authorized reports. We are not going to deny the usefulness of the reports; but we may be pardoned for expressing an opinion—that the original reason for their publication by Grand Lodge no longer exists; and we take credit to the present managers of the *Freemasons' Magazine* for having introduced a fair and honest system of reporting (through professional reporters) into Grand Lodge; and publishing those reports, as we now do with the sanction of the Grand Master, we should justly subject ourselves to his censure, and the ruin of our property, were we to fail to render them as accurate as possible. That the quarterly reports are looked forward to with interest in our distant possessions, we are well aware; and upon that ground their publication should be continued; one of the great causes of complaint against a late officer of the executive, who all highly respect, being that they were rendered perfectly useless by delay—three, four, or five quarters' reports being

simultaneously issued ; but as by-gones are to be by-gones, we shall say nothing further on that subject.

In conclusion, we may observe, that "the party" having seen the inutility of attacking the Grand Master, supported, as late events showed him to be, by almost the unanimous voice of the Craft, have determined to make a dead set against every officer of Grand Lodge, and more especially against the President of the Board of General Purposes, whose talents they fear, and of whom they complain for his want of patience and forbearance. Let them cease their continuous and unfounded attacks, and we will warrant they will have no reason to complain of the want of forbearance of Bro. Havers, who now fills the office of President of the Board, which, notwithstanding it is one of the most laborious in the Craft, confers no rank ; and Bro. Havers receives through it no honours beyond those long since conferred upon him. Whilst, therefore, he honestly and efficiently performs his duty—and if he does it not, let some member of the Board of General Purposes, or Grand Lodge, arraign him—the Craft are bound to support him, and secure him from those personal attacks which the *Observer* party so lavishly make upon him. It is clear that, thwarted at every point, that faction—for it is unworthy the name of a party—are now bent only upon obstructing the legitimate business of Grand Lodge and vilifying the executive—thus reflecting, through his officers, upon the Grand Master himself ; a system which must be put down by the expression of the opinion of the Craft acting through its representatives in Grand Lodge. If dishonourable conduct can be proved against any member of the executive, let it be brought boldly forward, and let the penalty which he will have deserved fall upon him ; but if he be not guilty, he must be supported by the Craft, and his traducers consigned to the contempt they so richly deserve.

SECRET SOCIETIES OF THE MIDDLE AGES.—V.

THE VEHIQUE TRIBUNAL (CONCLUDED).

THE French romance, which we have already so copiously quoted, describes a fortress of the Vehm in the Julian Alps. A traveller, we are told, on a journey of pleasure in Carniola, discovers a narrow winding pass in the Alps, which his curiosity leads him to explore. The path is most difficult, and accessible to only one man at a time ; by which means it was impregnable even to an army. At last he arrives at the door of the stronghold, and is pounced upon by the myrmidons of the association, who, finding his explanations satisfactory, with pretended hospitality offered him refreshment and wine, so drugged as to throw him into profound sleep.

When he awoke, he found that he was lying in a meadow, and be-

held the Julian Alps in the distance, but they were in the north, as he found from observing the position of the sun; whereas, were he in Carniola, they should stand in the south. The green fields, moreover, the trees, the richly cultivated land, all showed him clearly that he was not in cold and comfortless Carniola; and finding on inquiry in a peasant's cottage, much indeed to the astonishment of its inmates, that he was in Italy; that the day was only the day after that on which he had entered the building above described; and, above all, that the journey from Italy into Carniola could only be made by a circuitous and difficult road, in three days at the very least—his amazement at the fact that he had positively passed from Carniola into Italy in one day knew no bounds. To the astonishment, we said, of the inmates of the cottage—of all but one—for the father of the family, on hearing the account given by the traveller, recognized all its particulars, having travelled the same journey himself, with adventures nearly identical. Both were warned never to allow their curiosity to tempt them again to penetrate the secrets of that "*terra incognita*;" secrecy, under the most dreadful penalties, was imposed upon both of them. But in spite of these threats, our traveller and his new friend, the peasant, determined on again exploring this mountain stronghold; for, on comparing notes, they found that an interval of six years had elapsed between their visits, and that they had both been entreated, while in the building, in the most piteous tones, to release a very unwilling prisoner, who they found must be one and the same individual. Both agreed that it must have been to conceal the road by which they left the building, that their wine was drugged; and that from this fact, in addition to the accomplishment of a three days' journey in one day, this fortress must be the centre of some marvellously short cut from Carniola into Italy.

Both having regained consciousness in about the same spot, they determined to continue their researches in that quarter; and accordingly, ascending an eminence close to the field near the peasant's cottage, they proceeded four or five miles into the mountains, and at length entered a narrow gorge, bounded by overhanging rocks and tremendous precipices. About a quarter of a mile along this gorge they found, after a long search, a path, so concealed as almost to elude observation, leading through a cavern, at first not above a yard in width, and scarcely five feet in height, but after about the first hundred paces, of more enlarged dimensions, and gradually increasing in size till they emerged on the brink of a precipice, along which ran a ledge nearly four feet wide. Entering on this ledge, they proceeded without interruption for upwards of half an hour, when the ledge joined a path which wound its circuitous way between the mountains. Through this they continued to advance till they arrived at a chapel, from which the road branched off in two different directions. As neither of these paths gave any indication whether it led in the direction they wished or not, they determined to explore both, each taking one, and returning to the chapel to report progress to each other.

The peasant discovered nothing of consequence; but after losing himself he was only enabled, with the most arduous toil, to retrace his steps. His companion, after pursuing his road for about two hours, found that it grew gradually narrower, and at length led to a dark cavern about six yards in length. Entering this, and stretching out his arms to guide himself, his hands came in contact with the wood-work of a door in a partition, and he felt convinced that the object of his search was attained; but being alone, he dared not carry his investigations further. He returned to the chapel, and was rejoined by his companion the peasant. They then retraced their steps to the door in the cavern, and with great labour and difficulty they noiselessly forced a passage through this door, finding themselves in a passage between the outer wall of a building and the panelling of a room. They were just about to hold a whispered consultation as to what further steps were to be taken, when they were saved the trouble of further deliberation by an unforeseen accident. The foot of the traveller suddenly slipped, and he fell against a panel, which gave way and burst into the apartment dragging his companion with him just as an elderly female entered it. For one to rush to the door to secure it, while the other with an uplifted dagger summarily compelled her to silence, was the work of an instant. Both instantly recognized the apartment in which they had been previously to the administration to them of the drugged wine, and were, therefore, thoroughly convinced that they had attained the object of their search.

"Silence, as you value your life," exclaimed the traveller, to the terrified woman, who they soon found was the matron of the convent. "No harm shall befall you, if you will truly answer a few questions which we have to put to you; but I declare most positively, that you will bitterly repent any attempt to create an alarm, or to summon assistance. Moreover, such a course, even if it did succeed in bringing hither the cut-throat myrmidons of your superior, would be unavailing, for in the cavern with which that panel communicates, are twelve of our friends, all well armed, and ready to enter this accursed den at a moment's warning. Tell me, is there not a prisoner confined within the walls of this convent?"

"There is, sir," replied the terrified woman; "but pray do not injure me, and I will tell you all I know."

"Speak freely. What is his name?"

"I never heard it, nor indeed have I ever seen him; he is confined in the covered court, and my occupations do not lead me thither. But I have heard that he is a German nobleman."

"Ah! and how long has he been a prisoner here?"

"About eight years," was the answer. "He was brought here in the night time, and with great secrecy, and I have never been able to hear very much about him."

"Are you aware upon what pretence the man is confined here?"

"Surely," she said, "the gentleman of whom you speak, is mad, and is placed here by his relatives."

"I believe, good woman," said the traveller, "that he is no more mad than yourself, but is the victim of a vile conspiracy. Now, who is the superior of the convent?"

"Father Anselm; a stern, harsh, reserved man, and who, they say, is very fond of gold."

"Now, listen! Our object is to release the prisoner of whom I have been speaking. We have competent aid close at hand, and were I to admit my followers, they would, if necessary, sack and fire the convent, and murder every one within its walls. Beware how you deceive us."

A plan was hastily determined on. The matron, if the plan was successful, was to be the partner of their flight, to avoid the inevitable vengeance which must overtake her, should she attempt to remain. The peasant was to return to their coadjutors in the cavern; so as to be ready to pour in their reserved force, and take summary vengeance, in case of any attempted treachery, while the matron was to guide the traveller forthwith to the place of confinement of the prisoner.

The matron had mentioned a report, that the superior was a man of extraordinary power and influence, so much so, that all the south-western part of Carniola trembled at his name, and that he was a chief of some terrible association, whose means of detecting and punishing enemies were hidden but sure. The traveller now understood that the unfortunate prisoner was in the custody of one of the chiefs of the Vehm tribunal, and that he himself was within the walls of a stronghold of the holy Vehm, which he must take care became not his living tomb.

All was going well, until just as they were nearing the chapel, a tall figure confronted them, exclaiming, "Who goes there?"

"Father Anselm, the superior!" ejaculated the terrified matron, losing all her presence of mind at this sudden and inauspicious encounter.

Not a moment was to be lost; another minute and the convent had been alarmed.

"What!" exclaimed the superior. "You are meditating some treachery? Else why—and you, sir—who—"

But in an instant the powerful young man had hurled the monk to the ground, and bound his arms to his side with the cord which he wore as a girdle.

"You will not murder me?" muttered the superior, in a low tone, for the traveller muttered threats which alarmed him.

"Not if you remain quiet; but if you utter another word, save in answer to any questions that I may ask you, I will plunge this dagger into you."

He then dragged him, as he was, into the chapel. There he gagged him, stripped his hooded cloak from his shoulders, locked the chapel door upon him, and accompanied the matron towards the prisoner's place of confinement.

The two now descended a spiral staircase, the steps of which our hero carefully counted. They were seventy-seven in number, and he

felt perfectly convinced that he was retracing the very way by which he had been conducted a prisoner, and with eyes bandaged, on the first occasion of his entrance into the convent. We need not now retrace this path with him, as our readers are already acquainted with it, and the covered court in which the prisoner dwelt, was close to the door through which the traveller was so unceremoniously dragged, when first perceived by the inmates of the convent. In his hasty progress he could not help admiring the ingenuity with which human hands had availed themselves of the natural advantages of the position of the convent among the rocks and mountains, in adapting its works to the defences already fashioned by nature—combining them in such a manner, as to make it an impregnable fortress.

The escape of the prisoner need not be circumstantially described. He was speedily clothed in the monkish garb taken from the superior, whom they found in the chapel on their return, as they had left him, impotent as to motive power. The traveller told him that he regretted that he could not release him, but that his own safety and that of others demanded that he should remain bound; and that perhaps his misdeeds demanded a more signal punishment, but that it was not for him to anticipate the decrees of justice. They accordingly left him there, locking the chapel door and carrying off the key as before. Retracing their steps to the cavern communicating with the panelled chamber they rejoined their companion, the peasant, when the matron, doubtless, wondered where their twelve armed coadjutors had disappeared to, but was too thankful for her own escape and promised reward, to inquire.

The reader will now understand the summons to the Vehm tribunal, which the traveller had received and disobeyed, in consequence of which Anselm sought his life, as before related, at the Black Swan at Kemberg; and the conversation between Cæsar Borgia and Father Anselm, in Vienna, in which Cæsar explained to the latter his reasons for taking advantage of his connection with the Vehmique association, to imprison the now liberated prisoner in the Capuchin convent between Carniola and Italy. Now also will be understood more fully the anxiety of Father Anselm to see the inside of the despatches sent by the Emperor, from Vienna, to the governor of Laybach. This town was not many miles distant from that part of the Julian Alps in which the stronghold was situated, and furnished with a plan of the fortress and a map of the surrounding country, drawn by the young traveller who had enabled the baron to effect his escape, the governor of Laybach would have had little difficulty in investing, and so, by cutting off supplies of food, in reducing by famine that fortress which could have withstood any amount of violence. The reader will also see Anselm's motive in placing the cord and dagger, together with the warning notice before-mentioned, on the person of the murdered courier, as also in having the dagger, with the single word "beware!" struck in the emperor's dressing table by the page, who happened to be a member of the association—by killing his messenger and avowing it

to be the work of the Vehm, showing the emperor that the Vehm had the power of finding its way even into his own palace, and so to magnify the power of the tribunal as to paralyze him, or at least to terrify him into making no further attempts to check its proceedings.

The same work from which we have so largely borrowed, gives a graphic description of the degradation by this terrible Father Anselm, in accordance with the decree of the "Blessed Vehm," of a certain count, who, in our former paper was described as having, by his negligence, allowed the escape of one Charles, a traveller who had been sentenced by the Vehm to death. This Charles we learn was a German prince, and a nephew of the emperor. Anselm insists that the count had let him off on account of his exalted rank. Count indignantly denies the imputation, but Anselm cuts short the discussion by handing him the rescript of the supreme council of the Vehm, which runs to this effect :—

"The Supreme Council of Westphalia is at length convinced of the utter incapacity of Count ———, of ———, to execute the high and important office of free count of the holy Vehm-Gerichte, and does depose him to the grade of simple district-ruler accordingly."

The nobleman read it with respectful attention; and swallowing his resentful feelings as best he could, he kissed the document in a deferential manner, saying at the same time, "Blessings on the holy Vehm! The holy Vehm's decree be obeyed! Blessings on the holy Vehm!"

In the course of the tale Father Anselm comes to grief, and falls into the hands of the emperor, who instead of hanging him (as he ought properly to have done), puts him in durance vile. In order to obtain his release from confinement, the worthy monk offers to furnish a complete list of the head and members of the Vehm and of their haunts, by means of which the emperor could crush the association at his pleasure.

For another scene, describing a trial before the Vehmique tribunal, we refer our readers to Sir Walter Scott's delightful novel, "Anne of Geierstein," in which a traveller is represented as being lowered from his bedroom, in his bed, bedstead and all, by ropes and pulleys, to the place of meeting of the tribunal, there severely interrogated as to some remarks which he had made upon the Vehmique association, and thus warned in respect of his future conduct with regard to the Vehm :—

"Child of the cord, thou hast heard thy sentence of acquittal; but as thou desirest to sleep in an unbloody grave, let me warn thee, that the secrets of this night remain with thee, as a secret not to be communicated to father or mother, to spouse, son, or daughter; neither to be spoken aloud, nor whispered; neither to be told in words, nor written in characters; neither to be carved, painted, or otherwise communicated, either directly, or by parable, or emblem. Obey this behest, and thy life is in surety. Let thy heart then rejoice within thee, but let it rejoice with trembling. Never more let thy vanity persuade thee that thou art secure from the servants and the judges of the holy Vehm. Though a thousand

leagues lie between thee and this red land, and thou speakest in that where our power is not known; though thou shouldst be sheltered by thy native island, and defended by thy kindred ocean, yet, even there, I warn thee to retain thy thoughts within thy bosom, when thou dost so much as think of the holy and invisible tribunal, for the avenger may be beside thee, and thou mayest die in thy folly. Go hence, be wise, and let the fear of the holy *Velm* never pass from thee."

Sir Francis Palgrave gives the following account of the place of judgment, the Free Field Court of Corbey, and of its consecration :*—

"It was always established in the open air, and on the green sward; and consisted of a plot of land sixteen feet square, in the centre of which a grave was dug, into which each of the free chevins threw a handful of ashes, a coal, and a tile.

"When a criminal was to be judged, or a cause decided, the graff, or senior member, and the free chevins, or *schöppfen* assembled around the *königstuhl*, as this plot of ground was called, and the *frohner* or summoner, having proclaimed silence, opened the proceedings by reciting the following lines :—

"Sir graff, with permission,
I beg you to-day,
According to law, and without delay,
If I, your knave,
Who judgment crave,
With your good grace,
Upon the king's seat, this seat may place.

"To this address the graff replied :—

"While the sun shines with equal light
Upon masters and knaves, I shall declare
The law of might, according to right.
Place the king's seat true and square;

'Let even measure, for justice' sake,
Be given in sight of God and man,
That the plaintiff his complaint may make.
And defendant answer, if he can.'

"In conformity with this permission, the *frohner* placed the seat of judgment in the middle of the plot, and then continued—

"Sir graff, master brave,
I remind you of your honour, here
And moreover, that I am your knave;
Tell me, therefore, for law sincere,
If these mete-wands are even and sure,
Fit for the rich, and for the poor,
Both to measure land and condition;
Tell me, as you would eschew perdition.'

"And so saying, he laid the metewand on the ground. The graff then tried the measure, and was followed by the chevins, according to seniority.

* Rise and Progress of the Commonwealth: Vol. II, Part ii. Proofs and Illustrations, page 144.

The length of the mete-wand being proved, the *frohner* spoke for the third time:—

“ ‘ Sir graff, I ask by permission,
If I, with your mete-wand may mete
Openly and without displeasure,
Here, the king's free judgment seat.’ ”

“ To which the graff replied:—

“ ‘ I permit right,
I forbid wrong,
Under the pains and penalties,
That to the old known laws belong.’ ”

“ Now was the time of measuring the mystic plot; it was measured by the mete-wand *along and athwart*, and when the dimensions were found to be true, the graff placed himself on the seat of judgment, and gave the charge to the assembled free echevins, warning them to pronounce judgment, according to right and justice.

“ ‘ On this day, with common consent,
And under the clear firmament.
A free court is established here
In the open eye of day,
Enter soberly who may.
The seat in its true-place is pight,
The mete-wand is found to be right;
Declare your vote without delay;
And let the doom be truly given,
Whilst yet the sun shines bright in heaven.’ ”

Sir Walter Scott has transferred a portion of this judicial dialogue from the free field court of Corbey to the Vehmique Tribunal, in his “*Anne of Geierstein*,” though the two courts, judging from the above brief account of the court of the abbey of Corbey, must have been of a somewhat different nature.

Frederika Bremer, in her “*Episoden aus Reisen durch das Südliche Deutschland*,” gives an account of a Vehm court beneath the castle of Baden, the vaults of which extend to a considerable distance. Those who were brought before this tribunal, were not conducted into the castle vaults in the usual way, but were lowered into the gloomy abode of the Vehm by a cord, in a basket, and restored to the light, if so fortunate as to be acquitted, in the same manner; so that they could never, however inclined, discover where they had been. The ordinary entrance was through a long dark passage, which was closed by a door consisting of a single stone, as large as a tomb-stone. The hinges on which this door revolved, were concealed from view, and it fitted the frame so exactly, that when it was shut, it could with great difficulty be discovered. It could only be opened from the outside by a secret spring. Proceeding along the passages in which this door opened, you reached the torture room, which it is not necessary to describe here, and further on to the vault in which the tribunal sat, a long spacious quadrangle, hung with black. At the upper end was a recess in which were an altar and a crucifix; near

this sat the chief judge ; his assessors had their seats on wooden benches along the walls.

So severe had become the judgments of these courts, that it was at one time a common saying that the course of a Vehm court was, first to hang the accused, and then to investigate the charges against him.

Another scene of the secret tribunal, may be found in Sir Walter Scott's "House of Aspen, Act v.)* We need not, however, quote it here, as it much resembles several scenes which we have already presented to our readers.

Having thus collected together, or given references to, all the available information on the subject of the Vehm-Gerichte, we will take our leave of it, not without some regret, as it has led us into much historical research, of no little interest.

It is, however, at least a pleasing reflection, while investigating this subject, that we live in a country in which the courts of justice are all public, in which trial by jury exists, and in which the judges are by so many circumstances, no less than by the especial one of the high honour and respectability of their position, placed above corruption. That these valuable blessings may long continue in full force, and be transmitted in their purity and integrity to far distant posterity, must be the wish of every true lover of our happy constitution.

X.

* Keepsake for 1830.

THE NIGHTINGALE.

SWEET bird, that sing'st away the early hours
Of winters past or coming, void of care,
Well pleased with delights which present are,
Fair seasons, budding sprays, sweet-smelling flow'rs;
'To rocks, to springs, to rills, from leafy bow'rs,
Thou thy Creator's goodness dost declare,
And what dear gifts on thee he did not spare :
A stain to human sense in sin that low'rs.
What soul can be so sick, which by thy songs
(Attired in sweetness) sweetly is not driven
Quite to forget earth's turmoils, spites, and wrongs,
And lift a reverend eye and thought to heaven.
Sweet artless songster, thou my mind dost raise
To airs of spheres, yes, and to angels' lays.

Drummond.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

BRO. BINCKES AND OUR REPORTER.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—What, in heaven's name (to use a favourite phrase of his own) does Bro. Binckes mean by stating that his speech in support of Bro. Whitmore's motion; is unfairly reported in the *Magazine*? Is it (he will pardon me if I again borrow his high sounding phraseology) an *ad captandum* attempt to represent himself to the Craft at large as the incarnation of injured innocence? If this be the case, the attempt will, I am sure, fail. At all events the members of the Order will be able to appreciate the candid, open, and manly conduct which he has displayed towards myself. He states that my report is unfair. He fails to give an instance of its unfairness. The brethren who heard his lofty eloquence know that it is a correct report of his meaningless nothings; but lest those who were not there might be led away by his representations and believe the charge, I here state, in the strongest terms "consistent with the laws of good breeding," that it is utterly and entirely false—one of Bro. Binckes's assumptions. I received no orders from you to treat him differently from any other member of Grand Lodge, nor had I myself any wish to do so. Bro. Binckes states, moreover, that his arguments, as reported, are positively absurd—I do not venture to deny that; indeed it would be bold of me to do so in contradiction to the "*ipse dixit*" (Bro. Binckes's vocabulary again) of such a perfect master of absurdity as the worthy brother himself appears to be. In conclusion, however, I would remind him that the absurdity in question lies not at the door of the reporter, but of the orator—not Orator Mum, but Orator Binckes.

I am, Sir and Brother, faithfully and fraternally,
YOUR REPORTER.

THE JERSEY MASONIC TEMPLE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It has been often remarked that it is well the *Freemasons' Magazine* has no circulation out of the Craft, because its

pages show so great an amount of bitter feeling and animosity among the brethren, as to render it questionable whether the fraternal bond is so strong as its advocates represent it to be, and thus to invalidate the whole system. It is not my intention to discuss whether such an allegation is just, but merely to state my strong conviction that it is not. Though there are a few discontented spirits who like to display their importance, and to attract attention to themselves, the amount of kind feeling, of charitable disposition, of Samaritan benevolence, of christian charity, of brotherly affection, of genuine piety, which is silently but surely engendered, and not less actively promoted, is incalculable, though it do not court the public gaze. Let it be remembered, that the scum always rises to the surface with noisy ebullition, and that its easy removal serves to purify the mass.

Notwithstanding, I am about to bring before you some observations on a Masonic dispute, which may appear at variance with what has just been said. In this case, however, it involves principles which you, and I, and many others, have long been endeavouring to instil and establish; namely, the desirability of erecting Masonic temples, and thus of avoiding temptations, and of escaping unfavourable animadversions, to which the general practice of holding our meetings elsewhere renders us liable. It affords an exemplification of what I have said in a former communication—that promoters of such schemes must expect to meet with obloquy, reproach, and opposition, founded on motives open to grave suspicion, and they will thus be aided in guarding against them.

Though there are six Lodges and two Chapters in Jersey, only one has ever been named by me; the proceedings of which I have frequently reported. The reason is, that on my arrival here a year ago, I endeavoured to render service to one of the others, and at the same time to advance the interests of Freemasonry generally, by steps which I took at the especial request of its members, involving great labour and much sacrifice of time. That I to a great extent succeeded, is shown by the kind and favourable review which you gave me in the number of January 5th. Petty jealousies and misunderstandings arose, however, in consequence; and such misstatements were made in my absence, not only to the brethren of that Lodge, but also to some members of other Lodges, that my position became uncomfortable, and I was compelled to withdraw from all intercourse with them. I shall not enter on the details; I have designedly endeavoured to forget them, after having in the first instance committed them to writing, and laid them by, to be called forth in case of future necessity. The hostile feeling to which I have alluded has not been exhibited, as far as I am aware, by any members of the Lodge *La Césarée*, and therefore, though not a member, I have availed myself of the kindness of the brethren who belong to it, by frequently holding intercourse with them in the performance of Masonic rites.

It may be remarked by some, that your readers ought not to be troubled with so personal a matter. The reply is, that wherever attempts are made to erect Masonic halls, the old leaven is sure to rise, and opposition may be expected from some who pertinaciously adhere to the system which has so long prevailed. It is right, therefore, that the innovators, as they are called, should be put upon their guard, so as to be prepared for all the difficulties which they may have to encounter in the pursuit and accomplishment of their laudable projects.

A week or two ago, a report was given in your *Magazine*, which had been presented to Lodge *La Césarée*, by a Committee specially appointed to make arrangements for the erection of a Masonic temple in Jersey. About the same time, an initiation took place in this Lodge of a gentleman, who, with his wife, has been delighting the inhabitants of the island, by the per-

formance of his "Drawing-room Operas," which have gained the good opinion of all classes of the community. I refer to Mr. (now Bro.) Henri Drayton. Animated by the enthusiasm which characterizes reception into the Order, and desirous of evincing his gratitude for the benefits conferred upon him, he offered, after the close of his season, to give an extra public evening for the benefit of the projected temple, to which he hoped to be able to add a few stones. The proposition was heartily and thankfully received, and all necessary preparations and announcements were made, when, lo! on the morning of the appointed day, the following letter appeared in one of the local papers:—

"THE 'MASONIC BENEFIT.'

[To the Editor of *The Independent*.]

"SIR,—In your journal of to-day, I perceive that Bro. Drayton is about to give a gratuitous entertainment for the benevolent fund of the new Masonic Temple; for which I tender to that brother my best thanks. But, as the announcement calls on the public to give their aid to the proposed erection, I think it my duty to lay before them what Masonry is. In the first place, Masonry is universal all over the world, which it ought, in its spirit and practice, to be here. To erect a temple devoted to Masonry in this island, is highly commendable, and no one would be more ready than myself to give my mite to such a laudable undertaking. But I must inform the public that there are five Masonic Lodges in this island. I have the honour to represent one. It appears the Lodge 'La Césarée' wishes to take the lead in this affair of the 'Temple.' If it is intended for Masonic purposes, how is it that the other Lodges have not been consulted by the Lodge 'La Césarée?' I suppose it would not answer their purpose. They appeal to the public to get their money, for the Lodge 'La Césarée' is building. I wish to inform the public that the other Lodges have not been consulted on this matter. I am quite satisfied that, if consulted, they would have given their utmost support to such a project. At the Masonic festival that took place last year, I found all the Lodges in the island did their best to promote the benevolent object then in view. My Lodge gave £20 to that fund; and I may add, that our charitable contributions last year amounted to £47 14s. I, therefore, as the Master of the Royal Sussex Lodge, wish to inform the public that we have not been consulted in this matter; and as the public is now solicited by the Lodge 'La Césarée,' I should recommend them to let the Lodge provide and pay for a building which will be exclusively the property of 'La Césarée.'

"I remain, your obedient Servant,
 " Gloucester-street, June 11th, 1859. " S. JEWELL, W.M., No. 722."

"Of course Mr. Jewell intends no reflection on Mr. and Mrs. Drayton, whose talents and liberality will command the public's appreciation, notwithstanding any differences in the Masonic brotherhood. Mr. Drayton, as a newly initiated Mason, cannot be held as at all concerned in the question between 'La Césarée' and the other Lodges.—Ed. *Independent*."

It is asserted that, though desirous of being himself consulted, Bro. Jewell did not think it necessary to consult the members of his Lodge as to the course he considered it right to pursue on their behalf. Next day, in the *Independent*, appeared the following brief reply:—

"THE FREEMASONS.

[To the Editor of *The British Press*.]

"SIR,—The insertion of the following, which is a copy of the bill exhibited in a window of the Freemasons' Hall, Grove-place, will, I believe, be the best answer that can be given to the article signed 'S. Jewell,' which appears in this morning's number of your excellent paper:—

“ ‘This Hall to be sold. May be viewed daily, from two to three. Apply to S. Jewell, Gloucester-street.’

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ June 13th, 1859.

“ AN ADMIRER OF THE CRAFT.”

On the same evening, another paper, *The British Press*, contained the following :—

[To the Editor of *The Independent*.]

“ Sir,—A non-Masonic friend has this morning pointed out to me a letter in a local paper of yesterday (which otherwise I should not have seen) signed ‘S. Jewell, W.M., No. 722,’ accompanying it with the remark, that ‘if anything could lower Freemasonry and the writer of the letter in public estimation, that would effect it.’ The motives by which this letter has been dictated are too evident to require any explanation of them. I merely desire to direct attention to the matter, so far as to disclaim on my own part, and I trust that I may add, on that of members of the Craft generally, any participation in the sentiments thereing expressed. I would also say, that it is most unseemly, and contrary to Masonic rule and practice, thus to bring before the public, affairs with which none can be concerned but the various Lodges, and which ought most strictly to be confined to them. The impropriety of the course pursued is in this instance the greater, because, though the writer must have been aware for several days of Bro. Drayton’s kind intention, he delayed the publication of his letter till yesterday morning, when no opportunity for reply could be given till after the performance, the attendance at which it was intended to influence and injure. The W.M. of the Sussex Lodge is respectfully reminded, that ‘those who live in glass houses should not throw stones;’ and that if disputes among members of the Craft were commonly made subjects of public animadversion, he himself might have been subject to severe strictures in more instances than one, by those who have higher regard for what is Masonically correct than he appears to have, and who trust to time and circumstances to show who and what is right. The impropriety of comments in the public print, restrains me from following a bad example, by entering on the points mentioned by the writer, which may easily be contravened; indeed they are so palpable, even to a profane, that such a step is perhaps unnecessary.

“ The generosity of Bro. Drayton cannot but be worthy of all praise; and it is most unfortunate, that immediately after his initiation into the Craft, anything should occur to diminish his respect for it; and that, too, arising from extraneous circumstances in which he has no concern. Wishing Bro. Drayton every success on the other side of the Atlantic, and hoping that more extended knowledge of Freemasonry will tend to remove any unfavourable impression now received,

“ I am, yours respectfully,

“ A FREEMASON,

“ Jersey, June 14th, 1859.

“ Not a member of Lodge La Césaire.”

[“The letter to which our correspondent refers, has been sent to us for publication, but we see no object to be gained by giving it a place in our columns—indeed, we think that the writer will afterwards see reason to thank us for not inserting it.—Ed.”]

Last evening a private meeting of nearly thirty Masons and others was held, in order to express to Bro. Drayton their sympathy under this very vexatious occurrence, and to offer to him an address, inscribed on vellum, which may serve as a memento of their gratitude and estimation of the value of his services. Bro. Ratier, the Orator, was deputed to make the presentation, which he prefaced by an eloquent speech. Bro. Drayton replied most feelingly, and assured his friends that he should at once endeavour to discard the matter, as far as possible, from his recollection.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,
 Jersey, June 15th, 1859. A. P. M. AND PAST PROV. S. G. W.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

A *PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE* of West Yorkshire is to be held at Cleckheaton on the 6th of July, when the new Lodge of Friendship (No. 1052) is to be consecrated. There surely must be some mistake in the circular which states "that the Lodge will be opened in the three degrees by the W.M. and Officers of the Lodge of Friendship, No. 1053, when the D. Prov. G.M. and Prov. Grand Officers will enter;" after which Grand Lodge is to be opened and the consecration proceeded with. It is bad enough to open a Grand Lodge within a subordinate Lodge; but to do so within a Lodge not yet consecrated, is to render the proceeding a perfect absurdity.

ADMIRAL SIR LUCIUS CURTIS, Bart, Prov. G.M., has appointed Tuesday, the 19th July, for the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire.

SPECIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Thursday, June 23rd, 1859, an especial Grand Lodge was held, to proceed with the business proposed and intended for consideration at the last quarterly communication, but which time did not permit of being then brought forward.

The M.W. Grand Master the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland presided on the throne; and among the Grand Officers present were the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Lord Pannure; Lord de Tabley, S.G.W.; Bros. Frederick Dundas, P.G.W., as J.G.W.; S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Roxburgh, G. Reg.; W. G. Clarke, G. Sec.; Savage, S.G.D.; Slight, J.G.D.; Rev. Wentworth Bowyer, G. Chaplain; Jennings, G.D.C.; Woods, Assist. G.D.C.; Pocock, G.S.B.; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; C. P. Cooper, Prov. G.M., Kent; Col. Ramsay, Prov. G.M., Bengal; Col. Brownrigg, P.G.W.; Pattison, P.G.W.; W. H. White, P.G. Sec.; Rev. J. E. Cox, P.G. Chaplain; Havers, P.G.D., President of the Board of General Purposes; Wilson, P.G.D.; King, P.G.D.; Ll. Evans, P.G.S.B.; Geo. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Breitling, P.G.S.B.; Walmisley, P.G.S.B.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; Udall, P.G.S.B., &c., &c.; with as visitors, Bros. C. Walmisley, Asst. G. Sec., Ireland; and Elisha D. Cooke, Kentucky; besides about eighty or one hundred brethren below the dais.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, and with solemn prayer,

Bro. W. Gray Clarke, Grand Secretary, read the notice convening the meeting, and then said—M.W. Grand Master, as the first business to come before Grand Lodge is personal to myself, I have to request permission to retire while the discussion is going on, as my presence might interfere with the freedom of discussion.

The M.W. Grand Master having granted the requisite permission, Bro. Gray Clarke withdrew.

THE GRAND SECRETARY'S SALARY.

Bro. Havers, President of the Board of General Purposes, resumed the debate upon the report of that Board, commencing with the following paragraph:—"The Board have had their attention directed to the present duties of the officers in the Grand Secretary's department, and they are of opinion that the salary of the

Grand Secretary is inadequate, and is not a sufficient remuneration for a gentleman who, owing to the increase of work, is compelled to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office, and they recommend to Grand Lodge that the salary of the Grand Secretary be raised to £400 per annum. The Board further recommend that the salary of the second clerk (Bro. Buss) be raised to £150 per annum; and that such increase of salaries shall take place from the 1st January, 1859."—My lord, as the President of that Board, I shall content myself with simply moving, as a formal resolution, that the salary of the Grand Secretary be increased to £400. I shall leave it to the worthy brother who took up the matter, who brought it before the Board, and who carried it at the Board, to state the reasons why this vote should be agreed to. I shall move, therefore, that the Grand Secretary's salary be increased from £300 to £400 a year; such increase to take effect from the 1st of January last.

Bro. Smith, G. Purs., seconded the motion, and said—Before I state the reasons for this vote, I think it right to state that the Grand Secretary himself has been no party to this arrangement, in any way whatever. (Hear, hear). He has not in any shape influenced me, or any of the brethren at that board, although, if Grand Lodge should adopt this resolution, he will be pleased then to become a party to it (hear, hear, and laughter), by participating in it (renewed laughter). On the appointment of Bro. Gray Clarke to this office, it was contemplated to increase his salary, and I was consulted on the subject. I thought it should come before the Board of General Purposes before it came before this Grand Lodge. I consented to bring it before the Board of General Purposes, and I did so. I moved for a committee of that Board something like two years ago, and on that committee were Bros. Dobie, Havers, John Harvey, S. Barton Wilson, White, and Henderson (Grand Registrar). I found that the Grand Secretary did not receive the same salary as the late Grand Secretary, and I thought that if he was worthy to be honoured with the appointment, he was worthy also to receive the salary, and the committee agreed to a recommendation to that effect. Bro. Dobie, the President of that committee, thought £500 a year would not be too much for the salary of the Grand Secretary of Freemasons, but we eventually were unanimous in recommending £400. The matter was referred back to the committee by the Board of General Purposes, and two brethren were added to it. We had a discussion again, and in bringing up the report the committee was not unanimous, some thinking it not prudent to make any such recommendation to Grand Lodge just then. However, when the report came to this Grand Lodge, it thought proper not to agree, and Bro. Farnfield and the junior clerk had their salaries increased, while Bro. Gray Clarke and Bro. Buss (two excellent brethren) were passed over. The matter was again brought before the Board of General Purposes, and in doing so I showed that I thought a great act of injustice had been committed towards our Grand Secretary, seeing that our Assistant Grand Secretary received a larger salary than the Grand Secretary. That I could not understand, although the Assistant Secretary's addition was made for long and faithful services. (Hear, hear). Perhaps I may be told that although the present Grand Secretary receives only £300, while the late Grand Secretary received £400, that £100 of the £400 was a gratuity for lengthened services. (Hear, hear). Still, it was nevertheless £400 for services rendered to the Craft; and if Bro. White had asked for £600 or even £800, he would have got it (oh! oh! "order," and "question"). What I mean is, that if he had wanted more he could have had it. Now we have not heard any brother find fault with the present Grand Secretary (hear, hear), and if he is worthy to fill the late Grand Secretary's office, he is worthy to have the late Grand Secretary's salary, although I fear we shall not be unanimous on the subject (hear, hear, and a laugh), because, owing to certain circumstances we have not been so unanimous lately as we might have been. He does not hold any other appointment; everyone knows where to find him, for he is always at his post. As Masonry is fast increasing, so his labours have vastly extended, so that he has often to take some of his work home and go on with it till ten or eleven o'clock. Every brother who has had occasion to call upon him must admit how ready he always is to give his assistance, and his time is greatly taken up by the calls which are made. I hope Grand Lodge will accede to this motion, although I could have wished that the matter had fallen into abler hands than mine. (Applause).

Bro. Stebbing said he was sorry this matter had been brought forward so prematurely. He hoped Bro. Havers would withdraw the motion and not let them pay so poor a compliment to Bro. White, as to give to Bro. Gray Clarke, after eighteen months' service, the same salary which Bro. White had after thirty-five years. He was sure that the poorer brethren would see with regret such a motion passed, as it would consume a sum which would suffice for five annuitants. As to Bro. Farnfield, his salary had not been increased, but a gratuity of £100, in addition to his salary, had been granted him for lengthened service. He would have no objection to give Bro. Gray Clarke some extra salary when—he hoped the day would be very far distant—it might please the G.A.O.T.U. to take Bro. White. (Loud cries of "Oh, oh!") At any rate he ought to serve five or ten years, and then be rewarded; it was rather too early, after eighteen months, to ask for an increase of twenty-five per cent. on his salary; and if they granted it he thought they would excite great dissatisfaction, especially as Bro. Clarke took office on the understanding that £300 was the salary.

Bro. Symonds—Bro. Stebbing has not ventured to say that he thinks £400 a year to be too much for any gentleman who devotes the whole of his time to the duties of his office; his only argument is, that Bro. White received only £300 a year up to the point of his retirement. But he has not stated that Bro. White had another appointment, the secretaryship of the Artillery Company. It was an appointment worth his holding, and of course it prevented his giving the whole of his time to the duties of the Grand Secretaryship. Bro. Stebbing has urged that by adding this £100 to the salary of our Grand Secretary, we should be taking it from moneys which are devoted to charity; but our Bro. Stebbing, if he considered for a moment, must know that this is not the case, inasmuch as all the salaries are paid out of the funds of the Board of General Purposes, and not out of the funds of the Board of Benevolence. He urges also that Bro. Gray Clarke took office on that salary; but I believe it was never clearly explained to Bro. Clarke that he would have only £300 a year; I know that there were other brethren anxious to be appointed to the office, and they thought that they were to receive £400 a year. But the question is, whether £400 is too much for a gentleman who devotes the whole of his time and attention to the matter, and not what, in times gone by, we have given as salaries to our officers. The business of the office has very much increased; for, whereas in 1842, there were issued 1,403 certificates, in 1856 the number was 3,721. In 1842 the amount of money received was £2,774, and in 1856 it was £5,809. Now we must be well aware that there could not be that additional number of certificates and that additional amount of money, without involving a large increase of labour in the Secretary's office; (hear), and it is on these grounds that the Grand Secretary has been required to give up his whole time to the duties of his office, and that he should not be allowed to undertake any other appointment. Under these circumstances, I cannot but think Bro. Stebbing's observations ill-timed. We must not consider how long Bro. Clarke has been in the office, but whether or not £400 is too much to give to a gentleman who devotes his whole time to the duties of his office and to our service. I trust, therefore, that Grand Lodge will support the recommendation which the Board of General Purposes has felt it its duty to make. (Hear, hear).

Bro. E. Purton Cooper brought forward as an analogous case the librarian of the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn, with respect to whom a similar question had recently been raised, and the result was, that they had increased his salary from £300 to £400, and they had had reason to be satisfied with the result.

Bro. Mason said, for thirty-five years Bro. White had only £300 a year. In fact, at the time of the union, the joint Secretaries only had £150 a year each, which, with fees, was increased to about £270 each; when, however, it was thought proper to pension Bro. Hartland, and do with one Grand Secretary instead of two, Bro. White had £300 a year. They must bear in mind also that although there had been an increase in the business of the office, there had at the same time been an increase in the staff. (Hear.) He had yet to learn that the duties of the office of Grand Secretary required so much talent and so much skill, or that so much talent and so much skill had been displayed, as to warrant the money now asked in addition. It was certainly not a pleasing task, but he felt it a matter of duty to

move the following amendment—"That so much of the report as recommends the increase of the salary of the Grand Secretary to £300 a year, be not adopted."

A Brother, whose name we could not learn, seconded the amendment, on the ground that it was premature to raise the Grand Secretary's salary so short a time after his entrance upon the duties of his office; and that the present salary was sufficient, judged by what was paid elsewhere, such as to secretaries of clubs, who rarely get over £100 a year. In fact, he believed he was correct in stating that that was the highest salary paid to the secretary of a club, and the duties of the Grand Secretary's office had decreased instead of increasing.

In reply to Bro. Hearne, Bro. Havers said that the Grand Secretary received only £50 a year as Grand Scribe E.

Bro. Le Veau—I feel sure that every member of this Grand Lodge, and every brother throughout the Craft, will agree with me when I say, that the responsible office of Grand Secretary to our important body, should be filled by one who is in every sense of the word a gentleman. (Hear, hear, and applause). By those cheers I learn, that in this point you agree with me. (Hear, hear). My next point is, that the brother filling such a situation should be amply repaid for his services. (Hear, hear). The proposer and the seconded of the amendment tell us that the duties of the office have not been increased, but that they have been decreased; but I think I shall be able to show you that such is not the fact—that not only have those duties not decreased, but that they have greatly increased. The gratuity of £100 a year to our late Grand Secretary was made partly for the lengthened services to the Craft, but partly also on account of additional labours devolving upon him. (Hear). That gratuity was passed by a vote in 1838 or 1839; and has that vote ever been taken since? If not, how can it be said that the £100 did not substantially form part of the £100 a-year? (Hear, hear). Our late respected Grand Secretary also received £50 as Grand Scribe E., which made his salary £150 in 1839, when the Lodges were 669, and all we ask is, the same allowance for Bro. Gray Clarke, in 1859, when the Lodges number 1,094, instead of 669, or nearly double. (Hear.) I will now call your attention to another important point, which entails great labour upon the Grand Secretary, and that is, that he answers every letter himself—(hear, hear)—be it long or short. (Hear). In 1842, the first year in which they were numbered, 1,030 letters were received by post and by hand; but in 1858, the number was 3,381; and in the first six months of the present year, there had been received 2,147; and if they came in in the same ratio for the rest of the year, the number will be 4,294 for 1859. Now, I ask you, whether that does not entail a vast amount of labour. (Hear, hear). I ask any brother here, who will sit down and answer four thousand and odd letters during the year, whether it is not a work of labour; and then the Grand Secretary has other letters to write by command of the Board of General Purposes, and other boards and committees connected with Grand Lodge. Then he has the minutes to prepare, and to give attendance upon the Grand Master, and on other parties connected with Grand Lodge, so that his duties engage him many an evening when he ought to be taking repose. Instead of his labours being confined to the office hours, from nine till five, he often labours at home for four or five hours in the evening. The Colonial Board has also added to his labours very materially, and therefore I feel sure that the brethren here will agree with me, that they would not wish any gentleman who gives up the whole of his time for the benefit of the Craft, and the promotion of its welfare, to work not merely during office hours, but also at home during the evening, without being amply repaid. I call upon you, therefore, in the name of justice, and in the name indeed of all that is honourable, to vote this extra £100 a year to Bro. Gray Clarke's salary, and to enhance the value of it by voting it unanimously. (Applause).

Bro. Binckes had not intended taking part in this debate—(laughter)—in fact he had fully determined not to do so. (Renewed laughter, and ironical "Hear, hear.") He was at a loss to understand the risibility of which he was the innocent cause (laughter), for he did not know that he had so far stultified himself as to render what he said unworthy of the attention of Grand Lodge. He admitted, in replying to Bro. Symonds, that the salaries were paid from the Board of General Purposes, and not from the funds of the Board of Benevolence; but at the

same time they must not forget that it was from the funds of the Board of General Purposes that, rightly or wrongly—he could not then stay to inquire—£1000 had been granted to the Crimean Relief Fund, and £1000 to the Indian Mutiny Fund (hear, hear); and if any brother proposed, as he had a perfect right to do, that a contribution should be made from this fund to our charities, he would now be met with the objection that the Grand Secretary's salary had just been raised, and that, at any rate by £100 a year, the resources of the fund had been diminished. (Hear.) In 1858, the Board of General Purposes, in a report signed by Bro. Havers and Bro. Roxburgh, were against the salaries in the grand Secretary's office being raised; and nothing had been shown to have occurred since that report which would justify the change of opinion which had taken place in that Board on this subject. He would be the last man in the world to grudge any man a fair reward for the work done; but this request was made prematurely and unjustly; when, however, the proper time came, he had no doubt but that Grand Lodge would unanimously award to the Grand Secretary some recognition of his services.

Bro. Stebbing next rose, but was assailed with loud cries of ("Spoke; spoke!") Bro. Jennings, Grand Director of Ceremonies, said: The brother has a right to speak to the amendment.

Bro. Stebbing (inquiringly)—Eh?

Bro. Jennings (emphatically)—I said you have a right to speak to the amendment.

Bro. Stebbing (complacently)—Of course I have. (Loud laughter). I have a right to speak on every resolution. It is absurd. (Renewed laughter). The brother went on to say that Grand Lodge ought to be consistent in disposing of its funds, and they ought not to give to Bro. Clarke, after eighteen months' service, the salary they gave to Bro. White, after a service of more than a quarter of a century. It would have a bad effect out of doors, particularly amongst the poorer brethren.

Bro. Gregory—M.W. sir, the eloquence of some of the brethren has rather diverted our attention from what is really the subject before us. I think, my lord, that arguments merely derived from precedent, should not be suffered to weigh with Grand Lodge in this matter. What we want to say is, that the services of the Grand Secretary's office should be efficiently performed, and, being efficiently performed should be duly compensated. (Hear, hear). We are told that Bro. White's salary was only £300 a year, and that the other £100 was merely a gratuity; but gratuity or salary, it was given year by year; the thing we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, and if you only give Bro. Gray Clarke this £100 a year, I don't suppose he will care a great deal whether you call it a gratuity or an addition to his salary. (Hear, hear, and laughter). Let us not forget, moreover, the fluctuation in the value of money. £300, some years ago, was worth as much as £400 now ("Oh, oh!" and hear, hear). Even assuming what I believe not to be the case, viz., that the business of the office of the Grand Secretary has not increased, still, I say that the fact of our having underpaid Bro. White is no reason why we should underpay our present Grand Secretary, (hear, hear), especially when, from necessity or choice, he devotes so much more time to the duties of the office. I do not wish for a moment to depreciate the services of the Past Grand Secretary, but I can say, from my own knowledge, that when the poorer brethren come for charity, or any of the brethren for business, Bro. Clarke is always to be found at his post; and we know how much more satisfactory it is to see the head of an office than to transact business with any of the subordinates. (Hear, hear). The secretary of a club does not present an analogous case at all; for I know how some of those gentlemen transact their business. (Hear, hear, and laughter). The duties of the secretary of a club are far inferior in importance to those of our Grand Secretary; and I have seen the secretary of my own club come quietly in at eleven o'clock in the morning, and when I have looked for him at three or four o'clock in the afternoon, he was not to be found. (Hear, hear, and laughter).

A voice—What club is that? (Laughter, and cries of "Not fair".)

Bro. Gregory—Instead of looking to the clubs for a parallel case, Grand Lodge ought to look to the great commercial companies, and if you do this, you will find that £500 is about the minimum, and that the maximum ranges from £1,000 to

£2,000. I ask those brethren who have alluded so eloquently to their own duties, whether they would like to discharge those of the Grand Secretary.

Bro. Stebbing—Yes. (Laughter and applause).

Bro. Gregory—But not for £300 a year. (Hear, hear). I speak as a practical man; I have been connected from early youth with the administration of large sums of money and the management of considerable numbers of men, and the result of my experience is, that if you pay men low, you will have bad services; whereas, if you wish to keep men honest and vigilant you must pay them—at any rate—liberally. (Hear). However great the claims of charity may be, they ought not to lead us to forget what is due to those whose faithful services we enjoy. Nor is the fact that we have not acted liberally in the past, any ground for our acting unfairly for the future. (Applause).

A brother whose name we did not learn, said the secretaryship of great commercial companies did not present an analogous case, inasmuch as the revenues of those companies were often immensely greater than that of Grand Lodge. £500 a year would be a far more gentlemanly salary (laughter), and on a future occasion they would probably find their Grand Secretary asking for that sum.

Bro. Cottrell (No. 14), said they had been told that they ought not to be generous before they were just—(hear)—still they might be just (hear). The majority of the members of Grand Lodge were incapable of judging of the work which the Grand Secretary had to do, but the Board of General Purposes was conversant with his duties, and it was from them that the recommendation for an additional salary had come (hear); and unless they had good reasons for a contrary course, which had not yet been brought forward, the recommendation of that Board ought to be adopted.

Bro. Whitmore agreed that the Board of General Purposes ought to be best able to judge as to what were the claims of the officers of Grand Lodge; but when he found that Board introducing in 1859 a recommendation quite opposite to that which they introduced on the same subject in 1858, he thought they had fair grounds for doubting their judgment. (Hear.) He knew the Grand Secretary, who some years since was a Past Master of a Lodge to which he belonged, and he had a very high respect for him; it was only therefore from a high sense of duty that he opposed the proposition before Grand Lodge, because the only circumstance which to his mind could justify the increase did not exist, viz., the request for an increase on the part of the Grand Secretary himself. (Oh!) The case of the librarian of Lincoln's Inn was not analogous, inasmuch as although the Grand Secretary required, and no doubt possessed, that average intelligence, gentlemanly deportment and manners, which constituted the chief requirements of his office, yet there was no need for that vast learning and varied ability required in such a post as that of the librarian referred to. Again, if they gave him this increase thus unasked for, they would prevent his getting it in a manner far more honourable to himself, namely, by coming up and asking for it, after he could plead, say, five years' service as justification for asking it. (Laughter.) He was glad to see the dryness of the discussion enlivened (hear, and a laugh), but if he did not succeed in making himself understood to Grand Lodge, he was thoroughly intelligible to himself. (Renewed laughter.)

Bro. Savage said the main point seemed to be somewhat overlooked; it was not what they had done thirty or forty years back, but—was the sum of £300 adequate or inadequate as the Grand Secretary's salary? (hear), that was the question. (Hear, hear). He should, therefore, on this occasion support Bro. Havers, although it was sometimes his misfortune to disagree with that brother. [Bro. Barratt—"You'll never do so any more."] (Loud laughter). The Grand Secretary was capable of all that Bro. Whitmore said, and more.

Bro. Whitmore—I never for a moment insinuated that there was any lack of information on the part of the Grand Secretary (hear, hear), I merely spoke of the abilities required in his office.

Bro. Savage enlarged on the advantages they enjoyed by reason of the Grand Secretary's knowledge of continental languages, in addition to his mother tongue, by which means he was enabled to correspond with brethren in various parts of the world.

Bro. Wyma thought it would be much better to leave it to his lordship to make some such proposition at some future time. (Oh, oh !)

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal—My lord, before this matter comes to a vote, I think it is very important that, if possible, we should arrive at a unanimous decision; because, if the matter is settled by anything like a narrow division, Bro. Gray Clarke will be robbed of a very great part of the gratification which such a vote ought to give him. (Hear, hear). I am certain there is but one wish on the part of Grand Lodge, viz., to act kindly to Bro. Clarke; and I can assure those who have brought forward this motion, that Grand Lodge will not be anything like unanimous when it is pressed to a division. Bro. Savage has not put the point quite fairly when he says that the question for us to consider is, whether this £300 or £350 is a fair remuneration for a gentleman of Bro. Clarke's abilities and demeanour. The question is, whether, what was enough eighteen months back is not enough now? If the salary is insufficient, why did he accept it? (Oh, oh !) Is the Board of General Purposes to say (only one year ago), that after thoroughly investigating the nature and extent of the duties of the Grand Secretary's office, they are of opinion that it is neither "necessary nor desirable that any increase should be made in any of the existing salaries," and now to contradict it? They did not make that report in ignorance of the subject, but after careful investigation they reported that all the officers were sufficiently paid. What then has happened between that time and this which can justify them in now saying that Bro. Clarke is not well paid? Is there some newly discovered mine of efficiency in him, or some arduous duties not before thought of? I need not recall the past, but I may remind Grand Lodge that Bro. Clarke in his correspondence with Bro. Harington, of Canada, so wrote as to induce that brother to reply—"Your letters to me are so personal as very much to embarrass matters, &c. (Hear, hear! and cries of Order, order! Question, question!) This is the question—is it a proof of Bro. Clarke's efficiency that the only way in which he conducts a delicate correspondence is to offend those whom we ought to be solicitous to conciliate. (Cries of Oh, oh! Question, question!) This is the question, and I shall take care that it shall not be burked. (Laughter). For myself, I attach more credit to the carefully drawn report of twelve months ago than to that of three months ago, and I shall put my confidence in the former rather than in the latter. (Hear, hear).

Bro. McIntyre said it was unfair and unandid to oppose both these reports—that which said a year ago that the salaries ought to remain as they were, and that which now proposed to increase them. As to depriving Bro. Clark of the opportunity of "asking" to have his salary raised, he thought it would not press very heavily on his feelings if they raised it now instead. (Laughter). One brother who complained now of the increase as diminishing the funds available for charities, told them on the last occasion that they ought to be just before they ostentatiously gave their money to charities. For his own part, he would let their justice and generosity go hand in hand together.

Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Pamure, D.G.M., said—My lord, I am not going into the merits of this question, but I wish to notice one point which was raised by Bro. Portal. Every other brother has borne testimony to the high and honourable character of the Grand Secretary, and no one, with the exception of Bro. Portal, has attempted to cast any slur on the conduct of Bro. Clarke, in the execution of his duties. (Hear, hear). I must say, that I am surprised at the grounds on which Bro. Portal has blamed the Grand Secretary. (Hear, hear). He has blamed him for letters written in a controversy which is now, I am happy to say, dead and buried—(applause)—in a controversy in which, though the letters were penned by the Grand Secretary, they were letters written by the desire of the Grand Master himself—(hear, hear)—letters of which the Grand Master was substantially the author, and of which the Deputy Grand Master also was cognizant, and of which Bro. Clarke is no more to blame than the pen with which he wrote them. (Hear, hear). If there is anything to blame in these letters, let Grand Lodge visit it on those who were the authors of them, and responsible for them. (Hear, hear). Let the blame rest on the proper shoulders. Having made this explanation, I shall not enter into the merits of the case, though perfectly satisfied that the motion to increase Bro. Clarke's salary is not only a proper motion in itself in

regard to the duties which he has to perform, but it is a motion by passing which Grand Lodge will be consulting its own dignity. (Hear, hear).

Bro. Havers, in reply, spoke as follows—After the long and wearisome discussion which has taken place, I shall occupy your attention but a short time. We are accused of grave inconsistency in having stated our deliberate opinion that no change should be made in the salaries of the Grand Secretary's department. But having now examined most carefully into the matter, and taking into consideration another matter—to which, in the presence of our respected Bro. White, I need not more particularly allude—we came to the conclusion that if any increase of salary were made, the Grand Secretary should participate therein. We did report that it was not then desirable to charge the Grand Secretary's department with any further salary; but Grand Lodge overruled our decision, and took out of our hands that decision. (Hear). By their decision to raise the salary of the chief clerk £100 a year, they relieved us from our decision. (Hear, and a laugh). We were bound to bear in mind that these salaries were taken into consideration twenty-one years ago, (hear, hear), that the salary of the Grand Secretary was then fixed at what the Grand Secretary was receiving now, (hear, hear), that you then increased Bro. White's salary not merely for his extended services, "but in consequence of the increasing duties he will have to perform, and you have doubled the salary of the head clerk. (A voice—"Assistant Secretary"). Well, you have doubled the salary of Bro. Farnfield the Assistant Secretary; you have added a new clerk to the establishment, but you have left the Grand Secretary himself without any increase. (Hear). We therefore come to the conclusion that it would be only fair and right to put the Grand Secretary himself in at least as good a position as the subordinates in his office. Bro. Whitmore has told us that ordinary intelligence, ordinary capacity, and ordinary politeness, will suffice for the Grand Secretary. But, with all deference to Bro. Whitmore, I think the Grand Secretary of a great, extensive, and most influential institution like ours, should be a gentleman not only perfectly acquainted with our work, capable of giving something more than mere cut and dried replies to the letters addressed to him, but able by his skill and judgment often to prevent matters becoming grave and important (hear, hear); understanding the best method by which evil passions may be allayed in 1,090 Lodges, and amongst a membership of the 100,000 Masons arranged under our banners. (Hear, hear). I think we should have a gentleman who will devote himself entirely to our service (hear), body and mind being employed to keep our society working on its proper basis. (Hear). Now do you remunerate a gentleman of that class, and can you secure his services at the sum of £300 a year? (Hear, hear). It has been urged that doubling the salary of the Assistant Secretary was in payment for his past services; but is it a sufficient reason that because you pay one brother for his past services you should not pay another for his present services? (Hear, hear). I do not ask you to give this as a matter of generosity, but of justice. Your head clerk receives £300 a year (justly enough after thirty years' service), and your Grand Secretary receives the same. But does not the Grand Secretary receive £50 from Grand Chapter? Yes; but your head clerk receives £60. (Hear, hear.) The duties now are double those of Bro. White, who, in addition to his salary here, had £210 and a house, as Secretary to the Hon. Artillery Company. He had as Grand Secretary £300 as salary, and £100 as gratuity; £50 from Grand Chapter; £210 and a house from the Artillery Company; total, £660. And surely there is no reason why £400 a year should be too much for Bro. Gray Clarke, whose duties take up all his time. Will you place him in a worse position than his clerks, or the late Grand Secretary? (Hear). A brother has stated that the work of the Grand Secretary's office has not increased since 1856; it may not materially have increased since 1856, but it certainly has increased greatly since the year in which £300 a year was considered sufficient for the Grand Secretary's salary. It has increased largely year by year since that time, when the receipts of the Board of General Purposes were only £1,700, whereas last year they were £4,000. It was true there had been an addition to the staff, but that did not diminish the labours of the Grand Secretary in connexion with his letters, which are ever on the increase; and through his courtesy and kindness you have matters put to rights every week,

which might have been fanned into a flame to the detriment of the Craft. I believe that the value of such services is incalculable to Masonry. As to this allowance diminishing the resources at your disposal for charity, I have told you that your surplus income is £2,500 a year; and do not be over generous to some charities, while you underpay your Grand Secretary. I shall make no appeal to your feelings in favour of Bro. Clarke; and as to the only charge brought against him, I shall only add to the words of the Deputy Grand Master, that Bro. Harrington, whom Bro. Portal quotes, is to Canada what Bro. Portal is to England, and that but for these two men the question, now happily settled, would never have arrived at the height it did. (Cheers).

The M.W. Grand Master then put the amendment, which was lost by a vast majority. The question for increasing the Grand Secretary's salary was then put as a substantive motion, and carried with less than a dozen dissentients.

INCREASE TO THE SALARY OF BRO. BUSS.]

The President of the Board next moved, that the salary of Bro. Buss, who had been in the service of Grand Lodge some four years, be increased to £150 a year. He said—I shall not be doing my duty unless I pay Bro. Buss a tribute which is justly due to him. A more zealous and useful officer no body ever had than Bro. Buss.

Bro. Whitmore—I am happy to agree with the mover of this motion, and—

Bro. Havers—How about the charities, now? (Laughter, and cries of oh, oh!)

Bro. Whitmore: From my heart, I pity the brother who could make such an observation. (Oh, oh! laughter, and Order, order!) I was going to say that I have some opportunity of knowing that Bro. Buss is a faithful servant, inefficiently remunerated, and I have great pleasure in seconding the motion. Carried *nem. con.*

PROFESSIONAL AUDITORS FOR GRAND LODGE ACCOUNTS.

The President of the Board then read the next paragraph of the report, which was as follows:—"The Board have under their consideration a plan for simplifying and improving the system of keeping the accounts of the society, which they believe will be of advantage. Considering the magnitude of the accounts and the impossibility of carrying out any systematic or efficient audit under the present regulations, the Board are of opinion that (without interfering with the present audit by the Masters of Lodges), it would be desirable and advantageous that the accounts should be audited once at least in each year, by professional accountants, who should have free access to all such books and documents as they may require. The Board believe that brethren thoroughly competent to undertake such work may be found; and that a sum of twenty guineas per annum will be an adequate remuneration, they therefore recommend to Grand Lodge to empower the M.W. Grand Master to appoint two such professional accountants as auditors."

He moved a resolution in accordance with the above, except that he substituted the word "one" in the place of "two," on the ground that though twenty guineas might be enough for one good professional auditor, it would not suffice to secure two auditors of that standing and competency which the urgency of the case demanded. The present mode of audit was unique. (Hear, and a laugh). The Masters of twenty Lodges in succession were invited to the Grand Secretary's office at seven o'clock, to audit the accounts, an immense mass of books was put before them, and they were told that supper would be ready at nine o'clock. (Laughter). Twenty men could not audit the accounts at all, none could audit them in two hours. He proposed that the professional auditor should submit his statement and report to these twenty Masters, whom he neither wished to deprive of their privilege or their supper. (Laughter).

Bro. Binckes said he seconded the motion with pleasure (laughter), well knowing from experience that the present audit was most inefficient.

Bro. Whitmore opposed the motion, and thought the present plan would work if they put off the supper till another occasion. He opposed the appointment of a professional auditor, believing that the present system might be so improved as to render it unnecessary; and though he did not suppose that such a case could occur whilst the Board of General Purposes was as pure as it was at present, he could

conceive that a time might come when, with a less scrupulous Board, the accounts might be so cooked as to deceive the most experienced professional auditor. (Hear, hear, and "Shame!")

A Voice—Then you would only get them there on the supper night. (Laughter.) Bro. Stebbing also objected to the motion on account of the £20 expenditure it involved. He thought "Grand Auditors" should be elected; the honour would be valued; but for £20 they could not secure the services of a first rate man. It was these reckless additions to their expenditure which raised up their Haringtons and Portals. (Oh, oh! and laughter.) He implored the Grand Master to let this be an honorary distinction, and then some worthy and distinguished Mason would do it for nothing, and would value a seat on that dais, which he (Bro. Stebbing) did not, and, if he did, he should never get it (laughter), at greatly more than £20, or £50, or even £100. (Laughter.)

Bro. Symonds supported the motion, and as to £20 being inadequate, he knew of his own knowledge that the accounts of the commissioners of sewers, which were very voluminous, were audited by a thoroughly competent professional auditor for £15, although it occupied him three whole days. (Hear.)

The motion was put and carried.

THE SO-CALLED GRAND LODGE OF TURKEY.

The President of the Board called attention to this illegal Masonic body, with which, he regretted to say that several highly respectable persons had connected themselves. It was stated that a Captain Atkinson, who was at Smyrna at the end of the Crimean war, said that he was (there is no proof that he was) in possession of an Irish warrant. He made twenty Masons, divided them into three Lodges, and they declared themselves the Grand Lodge of Turkey. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) A number of gentlemen had been innocently entrapped into joining it. The Master of the regular "Oriental" Lodge had done the best he could, and deserved much credit for the discreet and zealous manner in which he had acted, though he fell into some errors at first. Bro. Havers concluded by asking Grand Lodge to agree to a motion calling upon all regular Lodges to discountenance this so-called grand body, and to lead back its members into the right path by means provided for in the Book of Constitutions (page 77).

Agreed to.

COLONIAL BOARD.

The report of this Board was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The report was received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

THE PRINTED MINUTES.

W. Bro. Frederick Binckes, P.M., No. 11, moved—"That it is inexpedient to publish the discussions in Grand Lodge in the minutes of proceedings of the quarterly communications as issued from the Grand Secretary's office." The reason Bro. Binckes wished to have the printing and circulation of these minutes discontinued, appeared to be—because some year or so ago, he had been, as he conceived, inaccurately reported in them. What Bro. Binckes was then (June 16, 1858) reported to have said was, that he "supported the motion, and said that the report of the Board of General Purposes did not represent the report of the committee." Bro. Binckes would have been, it seems, content had the summary added the grounds on which he contended that the report of the Board did not represent the report of the committee, namely, "that he had been informed that the report of the committee bore testimony to the efficiency of the services rendered by the officers of Grand Lodge." Another point in the minutes, referred to by Bro. Binckes as being inaccurate, was in a subsequent passage, in which Bro. Havers is represented as having charged Bro. Binckes with saying, that the report in question was come to by a "narrow majority," which Bro. Binckes denies having said. He protested generally against what he called "the unfair and

garbled manner in which those reports are presented to the Craft." The official reporter he believed to be a most able man, who had been connected with the *Times* for thirty years, and he felt that any report which he gave would be always fair and impartial. Without specifying any one by name, Bro. Binckes insinuated that some Grand Officer or Officers garbled these reports before they were sent out to the Craft. Having "vindicated his character," he said he should withdraw his motion.

In reply to Bro. Gregory, the Grand Master said it was not competent for Bro. Binckes to withdraw his motion without permission of Grand Lodge.

Bro. Havers said he had examined the report in question, and it contained not one single word which was not to be found in the shorthand writer's notes. (Hear, hear, hear). He hurled back upon Bro. Binckes the insinuation which he threw out of "garbling" with respect to these reports, on the part of the executive, as a base-fabrication, (Sensation). Neither himself nor any Officer of Grand Lodge, except the one who had charge of these reports, had at all interfered with them. (Hear, hear).

Bro. Whitmore—In reply to an unseemly interruption on the part of Bro. Havers, at [an earlier stage of our proceedings, I said that I pitied him for the observation he had made; but now I would say, if it be not unmasonic, that I despise him. (Oh, oh! and loud cries of Shame! and Order!) If a brother gets up in this Grand Lodge, I have a perfect right to reply to his observations.

The Grand Master—Not unless you withdraw your unmasonic observations. (Cheers).

Bro. Whitmore—May I ask your lordship if "base fabrication" be a Masonic observation? ("Hear," and two cheers from the *Observer* party).

The Grand Master—Any assertion that cannot be substantiated, is unmasonic. (Cheers).

Bro. Whitmore—And if I can substantiate what I say, shall I be equally in order?

The Grand Master—You can never be in order in saying that you despise Bro. Havers.

Bro. Whitmore—If you say it is irregular, of course I withdraw it.

The Grand Master—I say it is more than irregular, it is disorderly and unmasonic. (Hear, hear).

Bro. Whitmore—I am quite sure his lordship gives me no indulgence, but as the expression is declared to be unmasonic, of course I withdraw it. (Hear, hear). Bro. Whitmore then came to the question, and said, his own observations having been grossly misrepresented in the minutes alluded to, he should support Bro. Binckes, as he would rather have no report at all than a garbled one.

Bro. Roxburgh having been present on the occasion alluded to, and having read the passage to which objection had been made, declared that the report was fair and accurate, and that there was no garbling or misreporting whatever in the case. If they were to report all Bro. Binckes's observations, these minutes would fill volumes instead of sheets. (Laughter). Such motions ought not to be allowed to be put upon the paper, unless it could be shown that the executive had in some way violated their duty.

Bro. Stebbing deprecated these gross personalities, which were highly discreditable to them in Grand Lodge, and would appear still more so when they got into print. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the authorities would consider the propriety of prohibiting any publication whatever of the proceedings of Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Lord Pamure, D.G.M.—My lord, I wish to make a few remarks on the motion of Bro. Binckes, and the speech of the brother who has just sat down. I am old enough to remember when the authoritative publication of our proceedings under the sanction of Grand Lodge was first adopted by Grand Lodge; and I think, if my memory fails me not, it was adopted in consequence of garbled reports which appeared in spurious publications, giving rise to much internal disputation within the walls of Grand Lodge. It was then determined that a report, on the authority of Grand Lodge, should go forth of all its proceedings, and that that should be the means of rectifying any evil complained of by the Craft at large, viz, that they were in ignorance of what passed within these walls. I believe that up to the present

time the plan then adopted has worked very well. If Bro. Binckes had taken the proper course, such a notice as this would have been unnecessary. The misrepresentations of which he complains took place, on his own showing, twelve months ago. (Hear, hear.) Now I apprehend, in the first place, it is not a very easy matter, but a very invidious task, to curtail discussions in Grand Lodge so as to bring them within the compass of an ordinary paper to be transmitted into the country, but on no one occasion since this system existed has there been a well grounded complaint brought before Grand Lodge. Such a motion as this is not the manner in which the complaint should be made. The publication in question is sent forth by authority, and if any brother is misrepresented, his duty and business is to appear at the next quarterly communication in his place, and appeal to Grand Lodge on a question of breach of privilege. (Hear, hear). That is the course the brother should have taken to state his complaint, and he would doubtless have met with ready redress at the hands of Grand Lodge. But to abolish the publication of these minutes, by means of which the brethren in the country can procure Masonic information in a Masonic manner, would cause great discontent. I hope, therefore, Grand Lodge will not agree to the motion of Bro. Binckes—(hear, hear)—and that for the future, if any brother shall have reason to complain of being misrepresented, he will come forward in a manly manner, and I am sure he will be heard with attention. (Applause).

GENERAL APOLOGY TO GRAND LODGE.

Bro. Whitmore said that a few minutes reflection had convinced him that the observations which had escaped him were highly improper, and he begged to withdraw and apologize for them; he wished that he could come to the conclusion that the observations which provoked his were as regular as his expressions were irregular.

Bro. Binckes in reply said that he regretted deeply that anything he might have said should have been offensive to Grand Lodge. It was not his wish to attack or offend any brother. He wished he could hear Bro. Havers express himself as Bro. Whitmore had done.

Bro. Havers said that if anything had been said by him which was considered offensive either by the Grand Master or by Grand Lodge, he withdrew and apologised for it. If he had spoken with undue warmth in repelling what he believed to be an imputation on the honour of the executive, he regretted it; but brethren must bear in mind that it was not in human nature to be always forbearing, and that no opportunity was lost in Grand Lodge and out of Grand Lodge, in print and in writing, to impute unworthy motives or dishonourable conduct to the subordinate members of the executive. He endeavoured to guard himself from it, and regretted if he had used too strong an expression.

The M. W. Grand Master said, he partly took the blame to himself for any inaccuracy in these minutes, it having been his custom to read them through before publication. He found them fairly and honestly written. He would not now shrink from the responsibility, though he had deputed the task to others. *Qui facit per alium facit per se.* (Hear). He was extremely sorry that these things should occur.

The motion was then put, and negatived unanimously.

Grand Lodge was then closed in ancient form, and with solemn prayer, shortly after eleven o'clock.

METROPOLITAN.

APPOINTMENTS.

Wednesday, June 29th.—Encampment.—Frederick of Unity, London Tavern.

Thursday, 30th.—General Committee Boys School, at 12.

Saturday, July 2nd.—General Committee Girls School, at 4.

Monday, July 4th.—Lodges, St. Luke's (163), Commercial Hall, Chelsea; Joppa (223), Albion Tavern. *Chapter.*—Old King's Arms (30), Freemasons' Tavern.

Tuesday, 5th.—Lodges, St. John's (196), Holly Bush, Hampstead; La Tolerance (734), Freemasons' Tavern. Colonial Board, at 3. Audit Committee Girls School, at 12.

Wednesday, 6th.—Lodges, Westminster and Keystone (10), Freemasons' Tavern.

Thursday, 7th.—Lodges, Yarborough (512), George, Commercial Road East; Crystal Palace (1044), Crystal Palace.

Friday, 8th.—Lodge, High Cross (1056), Railway Hotel, Northumberland Park, Tottenham.

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

PANMURE LODGE (No. 1,022).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Swan Tavern, Stockwell, on Monday, the 20th. The W.M., Bro. W. Charnock, after raising Bro. Church, of the Temple Lodge, to the degree of M.M., very ably initiated Messrs. G. Ball and G. Roberts into the Order, and passed Bros. Howitt and Brice to the degree of Fellow Craft. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and the proceedings of the evening terminated in an agreeable manner, at an early hour. It is proposed to establish a Lodge of Instruction in connection with this Lodge.

INSTRUCTION.

CRYSTAL PALACE LODGE (No. 1044).—At a meeting held on Monday evening, June 20th, at the City Arms Tavern, West-square, Lambeth, about twenty-five brethren were present, to hear from Bro. Elisha D. Cooke an exposition of the Masonic practice in the United States of America. The Lodge was opened by Bro. S. B. Wilson, P.S.G.D., as W.M., Bro. Crawley being S.W., and Bro. Anslow J.W. Among the brethren present were Bro. Hyde Pullen, D. Prov. G.M., Isle of Wight, Bros. How, Moss, Thomas, and other P.Ms. Bro. Wilson resigned the chair to Bro. Cooke, who commenced with showing the American mode of opening, which differs considerably in practice, but not in principle, from our own. Nearly all the Lodges in the States use music in aid of their ceremonies, and in each ceremony an ode or hymn is sung. The badge used in American Lodges is of lambskin on initiation, but afterwards of plain white linen, which is provided by the Lodge. Bro. Cooke informs us that, save for state occasions, as processions, &c., no Mason thinks of purchasing a badge unless he is going to Canada or Europe. Bro. Cooke went through the lectures, and we remarked that the Lodge is dedicated to the holy St. John, and principles of an exclusively christian tendency are recognized. At the end of the first lecture, Bro. Wilson remarked that the general principles of American Masonry were the same as ours, but he could not avoid remarking on some great differences, which showed that their Masonry was decidedly christian, whereas we say Masonry is universal, and admit into its portals all who acknowledge a supreme being. He asked, how could Jews become Masons in the United States? Bro. Cooke in answer said, that a discretionary power was committed to the W.M. and Lodge to alter the ceremonies if a Jew were present. In the second degree the sacred volume is opened at the 7th chapter of Amos; and in the third degree, at Ecclesiastes, ch. xii. Bro. Newell inquired, at the end of the first lecture whether a charge was not given. Bro. Cooke misunderstanding him, was about to explain the charge given to the E.A., when Bro. Wilson in explanation said, in America drinking was not allowed in Masonic Lodges at any time, hence the charges Bro. Newell alluded to were not required. In the third degree all the working tools are presented. There is in the practice of this degree considerable variance with English Masonry, and the variations are not improvements, especially with regard to the points of fellowship. An exhortation at the close of the third degree is couched in eloquent language. A period of four weeks, as with us, is necessary between each degree, and Bro. Cook tells us, that unless the brother has mastered the degree he has obtained, he is not eligible to go further. We are pleased to learn that our American brethren lament the improper haste with which persons have at times been received into our Order, and many Lodges have determined on admitting none but such as they would admit to their own private

circle or considered desirable to present to their own family. Bro. Wilson, who had been previously proposed and admitted as a member of the Lodge of Instruction, moved a vote of thanks to Bro. Cooke for the very clear elucidation he had given them of the practice of Masonry in America, and hoped that ere he returned he would meet with opportunities of taking home a favourable report of the Craft in England. A brother present said, that as a Scottish Mason, he could vouch for the practice being identical with that of his own country, and seconded the motion for a vote of thanks to Bro. Cooke, who in reply said, that young as he was in Masonry, he could not but feel flattered in having a vote of thanks moved by so eminent a Mason as Bro. Wilson, and he received it as a great honour. He referred to his being a pupil of Bro. Robert Morris, a man who had devoted his whole life to the study and cause of Masonry. He thanked the brethren for the patient hearing, and should carry back to his own country the remembrance of his visit to their Lodge. Some brethren present were proposed and admitted members, and the Lodge was duly closed.

PROVINCIAL.

BRISTOL.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Tuesday, July 5th, Beaufort (120), Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Wednesday, 6th, Moira (408), ditto, at 7. Friday, 8th, *Instruction*.—Ditto, at 7½. *Chapter*.—Thursday, 7th, *Hospitality* (221), ditto, at 7.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, July 6th, Hammond (820), Masonic Hall, Guernsey, at 7½. *Chapter*.—Tuesday, 5th, Hammond, Masonic Hall, Guernsey, at 8.

JERSEY.—*Lodge La Césarée* (No. 860).—Some unpleasant circumstances having arisen out of a dramatic representation given by Bro. Henri Drayton, for the benefit of the Building Fund of this Lodge, in which Bro. Drayton was lately initiated, a meeting of the brethren was called to express to him their sympathy under the unpleasant circumstances which had attended, or rather followed, his reception into the Craft, and to present him with a written testimonial for the services he had rendered to the Lodge. The document having been presented with appropriate remarks from various members of the Lodge, Bro. Drayton returned thanks in a very eloquent speech, which we regret our space does not permit us to give at length. He said he had not imagined that he could be thought worthy of such honourable mention, but he trusted to the indulgence of his friends, and hoped that they would not consider his remarks as a true indication of the condition of his heart, which he assured them was overflowing with gratitude and affection towards those from whom he had received the benefit of admission into an Order, which he had not joined blindly, or without due consideration, but with a full appreciation of the advantages, both moral and intellectual, which it was capable of conferring. True, he was but a young Mason, and therefore his knowledge was as yet very limited, but he had seen enough to be aware that he had much to acquire, and he pledged himself that he would not only become a Master Mason, but that he would persevere, and that it would be his ambition and determination to reach the highest position of which he may be found capable. On the night after his initiation, when retiring to rest, he found a copy of the sacred volume placed on his dressing table, and a mark within it at the seventh chapter of the 1st Book of Kings. He was induced to examine the portion indicated, and he did not leave it till he had read to the end of that book. Hence he had ascertained his present deficiencies; hence he had acquired a more extended knowledge of the science; hence he had made up his mind to pursue it to the end, and not to rest satisfied.

till he should have acquired all that can be known of the subject. It is well understood that in the minds of the ladies there exists a prejudice against Freemasonry, from which he confessed that the partner of his life was not free: no sooner however had she met with Masons, as such, since her husband's initiation, than all her preconceived notions were extinguished. In reference to the occurrence of the last few days, he wished to say that he at first imagined that he could display his sense of the obligation conferred upon him only by his future career as a Mason, and by carrying out the principles which he had been taught at his initiation; yet, hearing that a Masonic temple was projected by the Lodge in which he had been enrolled, he thought he might leave a *memento* in the form of a few stones buried in the building, hidden in the mass, but not useless or unfelt. Little was he aware, however, that he might thus be sowing the seeds of dissension. He still hoped that his motives would be considered as good, and trusted that he should depart from among them, conscious of having endeavoured to do his duty towards them, and retaining a most lively recollection of the kindness he had received. Bro. Drayton concluded by assuring his friends that he should at once endeavour to banish the matter from his thoughts.

On the evening of Saturday, June 18th, an emergency meeting of this Lodge was held chiefly for the purpose of passing to the second degree, Bro. Drayton, who had remained a few days longer for this purpose. The W.M., Bro. Le Cras performed the ceremony of the second degree with his accustomed care and accuracy to four Entered Apprentices, Bros. Lefeurre, Le Gros, Galliehan, and Drayton, receiving some assistance from Bro. Schmitt, P.M., who afterwards gave the explanation of the second degree by the usual illustrations, with the aid of the tracing board. The Orator, Bro. Ratier, gave an able extempore exposition of the leading principles of Freemasonry, and especially of the philosophical tendency of the symbols of this degree. During the evening at least sixty brethren were present, including several gentlemen connected with the newspaper press of the island. Some excellent speeches were made at the collation which followed the Lodge, among which that of Bro. Drayton was marked by both good taste and feeling.

[The circumstances alluded to above are given in ample detail in a letter from our correspondent "H. H."—Ed.]

CHESHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Chapter*.—Saturday, July 2nd, Industry (465), Norfolk Arms, Hyde, at 3.

DEVONSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Bedford (351), Harmony (182), Swan Inn, St. Andrew Street, at 7; Fidelity (280), Three Tuns, Tiverton, at 7; Bedford (351), Private Rooms, Tavistock, at 7; Tuesday, 5th, St. John's (83), Masonic Hall, Plymouth, at 7; Wednesday, 6th, Brunswick (185), Masonic Hall, Plymouth, at 7; Perseverance (190), London Hotel, Sidmouth, at 7.

DORSETSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Wednesday, July 6th, Amity (160), Masonic Hall, Poole, at 7; Thursday, 7th, Unity (584), Town Hall, Wareham, at 7.

DURHAM.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Wear (618), Lambton Arms, Chester le Street, at 7; Union (687), Railway Hotel, Barnard Castle, at 7; Tuesday, 5th, Granby (146), Freemasons' Hall, Durham, at 7; Wednesday, 6th, Phoenix (111), Phoenix Hall, Sunderland, at 7; Thursday, 7th, Tees (749), Black Lion, Stockton-on-Tees, at 7; St. Helen's (778), Masonic Hall, Hartlepool, at 7½; Friday, 8th, Lambton Lodge (521), Lambton Arms, Chester le Street, at 2.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Tuesday, July 5th, Sherborne (1004), George Hotel, Stroud, at 5½; Wednesday, 6th, Royal Union (307), Freemasons' Hall, Cheltenham, at 6.

HAMPSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Oakley (395), Black Boy, Basingstoke, at 6; Thursday, 7th, Pamure (1025), Royal Hotel, Aldershot, at 6. *Chapters*.—Wednesday, July 6th,

Royal Sussex (423), Freemasons' Hall, Portsea, at 7; Southampton (555), Freemasons' Hall, Southampton, at 7; Thursday, 7th, Royal Gloucester (152), ditto, at 7.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Lodge of Twelve Brothers (No. 1087).—This Lodge held its regular meeting on the 25th June, under the presidency of Bro. J. Rankin Stebbing, W.M., at the Royal Hotel, when Bro. G. W. Clarke, the Secretary, handed in the warrant from the Grand Lodge, received since the former meeting. It was resolved the W.M. do consult and arrange with the Prov. G.M., Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., for the constitution of the Lodge, on or before the next stated Lodge night. Bro. Charles Ewens Deacon, D. Prov. G.M., was elected a joining member. Proceeding to the consideration of the by-laws, it was resolved that no brother should be eligible to be elected or to continue a member unless he was at the same time a subscribing member of one of the other local Lodges. It was further resolved on the proposition of the W.M., seconded by Bro. Dr. Clark, P.M., that every Brother elected to the office of Master should pledge himself to become a steward of one of the Masonic Charities, and the W.M. agreed to do himself. One of the visitors was Bro. Gaugain, P.M., an eminent artist.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

APPOINTMENT.—Lodge.—Wednesday, July 6th, Yarborough (809), Lodge Room, Ventnor at 7.

KENT.

APPOINTMENTS.—Lodges.—Monday, July 4th, Peace and Harmony (235), Royal Oak, Dover, at 7½; Tuesday, 5th, Adam's (184), Masonic Hall, Sheerness, at 8; Wednesday 6th, Royal Naval (821), Royal Hotel, Ramsgate, at 7; Invicta (1011), George's Hall, Ashford, at 8; Thursday, 7th, United Industrious (34), Freemasons' Tavern, Canterbury, at 8.

CONSECRATION OF THE WELLINGTON LODGE, NO. 1086.

DEAL.—The Wellington Lodge, for which a warrant or charter of constitution had been obtained, was opened on Saturday, June 18. The brethren met at the Walmer Castle Hotel, and proceeded thence in procession to the assembly rooms, where the ceremony of opening and consecrating the Lodge was fixed to take place, under a dispensation from the R.W. the Prov. G.M., instead of the Walmer Castle named in the warrant. The Lodge was opened by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, Prov. G.D., the officer appointed by the Grand Master for that purpose, in the presence of the R.W. Bro. Charles Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M.; Bro. Harvey Boys, P.S.G.W. as D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. T. Hallows, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. G.O. Phipps, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. E. Jones, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Bro. Saunders, Prov. G. Treas.; Bro. Chas. Isaacs, Prov. G. Sec.; Bro. S. Beeching, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; and several other Prov. Grand Officers; Bro. Edwin Ransford, P. G. Organist; Bro. Sir Jas. Fergusson, Prov. G.M. for Ayrshire; Bro. Hyde Pullen, D. Prov. G.M., Isle of Wight; Bro. Major Burney, and several brethren of the different Lodges in the province.

The charter or warrant of constitution from the Grand Lodge of England, was read by the Prov. G. Sec.; also the authority of the R.W. the Prov. G.M. for opening and consecrating the Lodge at the Assembly Room instead of the house named in the warrant, and the ceremony of consecration was then proceeded with. The Director of Ceremonies presented Bro. E. C. Hayward, P.M. of No. 149, the first Master named in the warrant. The installing Master inquired if the brethren approved of the officers nominated to preside over them, and this being signified in due form, an oration, written for the occasion, was delivered by Bro. Hyde Pullen, who officiated as Grand Chaplain, in a very impressive manner, and was listened to with marked attention.

The Lodge was next consecrated with the accustomed ceremonies.

The new Master was then examined, and found to be well skilled in our noble science, and duly instructed in the mysteries of the Craft; and being vouched for as an installed Master, was then regularly inducted into the chair, and after receiving due honours and making his acknowledgments, proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follow:—Bros. Pembroke, S.W.; Apps, J.W.; H. D. Reynolds, Sec.; Holmes, S.D.; West, J.D.; Norris, Dir. of Cers.; Rogers and Norris,

Stewards; Newton, I.G.; Bros. Ralph, who was elected Treas., and Payne, Tyler, were also invested.

Propositions were made for several candidates, both for initiation and joining. A vote of thanks was recorded on the minutes of the Lodge to Bro. S. B. Wilson, for the excellent and effective manner in which he had conducted the ceremony of consecration of the Wellington Lodge, and he was requested to become an honorary member. The Lodge was then closed in due form.

The brethren adjourned to the Town Hall in the same order of procession to the banquet, at which the R.W. Bro. C. P. Cooper, Prov. G.M., presided, but was compelled immediately afterwards to leave for London.

Bro. Harvey Boys, P. Prov. S.G.W., then took the chair, and disposed of the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. In reply to that of the Grand Officers of England,

Bro. S. B. Wilson said, it could not but be gratifying to any officer to have his name associated with that of the D.G.M.; and his name having been mentioned on the occasion, it became his duty to say a few words with respect to Lord Panmure, whose zeal and ability entitled him to the esteem of the brethren. With respect to himself, as the consecrating officer, and the instrument of adding another Lodge to the province, they were indebted for that to the selection of the Prov. G.M., who, he was proud to say, conducted the business of his province to the satisfaction of the brethren generally. A circumstance has occurred which he felt compelled to refer to, that of having been proposed and accepted as a member of the Lodge. He begged to assure them he fully appreciated the compliment, and should consider himself called upon to advance the prosperity of the Lodge, and trusted he should ere long see it second to none in the province in carrying out the great principles of Freemasonry.

The health of the Prov. G.M. was then proposed by Bro. Harvey Boys, who dilated on the many excellent qualities of Bro. Cooper.

Bro. Boys then proposed the Grand Masters of Scotland and Ireland, and Bro. Sir James Fergusson, Prov. G.M. for Ayrshire, in reply, expressed his extreme gratification in having been present at the interesting ceremony of the day, which had been so ably conducted, and trusted he should have other opportunities of attending the meetings of the Wellington Lodge. He asked permission to propose the health of the brother then presiding over them.

Bro. Harvey Boys replied, and in the course of the address referred to the benefits derived from his own experience in the Isle of Wight, and that of the Tyler of their Lodge while on the Continent.

Bro. Boys then proposed the health of the Master of the Wellington Lodge, who replied in neat and brief terms.

In proposing the Visitors, Bro. Boys especially mentioned Bro. Hyde Pullen, who he was much pleased to see present, that worthy brother having conferred on himself the degree of M.M., and whose merits as a Mason had placed him in the high position he then held.

Bro. Pullen, in responding to the toast in suitable terms, asked permission to propose the Prov. Grand Officers of Kent, coupling with the toast Bro. Charles Isaacs, Prov. G. Sec., of whose industry and application to the duties of his office every brother was sensible. Bro. Isaacs briefly replied.

Bro. Hyde Pullen, before the closing toast was proposed, desired permission to give one which ought never to be omitted at a Masonic meeting, which was "Success to the glorious institutions which dispensed relief and assistance to the Aged, the Widow, and the Orphan;" and then made an earnest appeal to the brethren of the Wellington Lodge to make their Lodge and themselves individually life governors of the institutions as speedily as possible, and that one of their members should be deputed to act as Steward at the next festival for the Benevolent Institution. The forcible appeal of Bro. Pullen had the desired effect, for the members promised him that the charities should have the support of the Lodge and, they hoped, every individual member.

Several other toasts were then given, and a concluding glass to all poor and distressed Masons finished the proceedings.

The furniture and paraphernalia of the Lodge are all new, and the arrangements

most complete, reflecting the highest credit on the Master and brethren of the Lodge. There were nearly one hundred brethren present.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Cheetham and Crumpsall (928), Crumpsall Hotel, Manchester, at 6; Thursday, 7th, Affability (399), Cross Street, Manchester, at 6½; Friday, 8th, Anchor and Hope (44), Swan Hotel, Bolton, at 6. *Encampment*.—Friday, July 1st, St. Joseph, Bridge Inn, Bury; Friday, 8th, St. George's, Angel Inn, Oldham.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Harmony (267), Wellington Hotel, Garston, at 5½; Tuesday, 5th, Alliance (965), Stanley Arms, Roby, at 4½; Merchants Instruction (294), Masonic Temple, at 5; Wednesday, 6th, St. John's (971), Caledonian Hotel, Liverpool, at 6; Thursday, 7th, Mariners (311), Masonic Temple, Liverpool, at 6; Friday, 8th, Ellesmere (1032), Red Lion, Chorley, at 6; Mariners (310). *Instruction*.—Masonic Temple, Liverpool, at 7.

LIVERPOOL.—*Merchants' Lodge* (No. 294).—The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, 14th instant, for the election of Worshipful Master. Mr. James McQuade, master mariner, was initiated by the W.M., Bro. Collins, in a very effective manner. Several brethren were afterwards passed to the second degree. The Lodge proceeded to elect a Master, and their choice fell upon Bro. J. H. Younghusband. Bro. Gambell having resigned the office of Treasurer, Bro. Lewett was elected. Bro. Mawdesley proposed, "That the brethren dine together at the feast of St. John, and that on the Lodge nights in October, December, February, and April, tea and coffee be provided at the expense of the Lodge." He urged the difficulties and expense which stood in the way of holding banquets in that building, and believed he was studying the feelings of all the members by bringing forward the motion. The consideration of the motion was postponed till the next meeting. Bro. Winchester said he thought that some substantial token ought to be made to Bro. Gambell by the Lodge for his zealous services for the past seven or eight years. Although Bro. Gambell objected to anything of the kind, the subject was put in the form of a motion, which was carried unanimously. The Lodge was then closed, but stood adjourned until Friday, the 24th instant, St. John's day, for the installation of W.M., which took place at the Temple, Hope-street, in the presence of a number of Prov. Grand Officers and other brethren. After the installation and the appointment of Bro. Kearne as S.W., and Bro. Bentley J.W., the brethren proceeded to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, *en route* to the pretty seabathing village of Waterloo, and after a pleasant saunter on the beach, adjourned to Bro. Martin Condliff's magnificent hotel to dine; upwards of sixty partook of a very elegant repast. The W.M. elect, Bro. A. Younghusband, gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were heartily responded to. Bro. Collins, immediate P.M., proposed the health of Bro. Younghusband, W.M. elect, and expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which he filled the J.W. chair, and his proficiency in Masonic knowledge. The W.M. returned thanks for the hearty manner in which his name had been received. Great credit is due to Bro. Younghusband for his exertions in establishing a lodge of instruction in connection with this Lodge, and for the formation of a library in the temple. He still endeavours to have a reading room in connection with the temple, in which there is every probability that he will succeed.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, July 6th, St. John's (318), Bell Hotel, Leicester, at 7.

NORFOLK.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Friendship (117), Duke's Head, Great Yarmouth, at 7; Philanthropic (124), Globe Hotel, Lynn, at 7.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Northern Counties (586), Bell's Court, Newcastle, at 7; St. George's (624), Commercial Hotel, North Shields, at 8; Tuesday, 5th, St. David's (554), Salmon Inn, Berwick, at 8; Thursday, 7th, Newcastle-on-Tyne (24), Freemason's Hall, Newcastle, at 7.

SHROPSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Friday, July 1st, St. John's (875), Bull's Head, Wellington, at 4.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, Royal Sussex (61), Amery's Hotel, Bath, at 7½; Thursday, 7th, Royal Cumberland (43), Masonic Hall, Bath, at 8; Benevolent (653), Town Hall Wells, at 7.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Monday, July 4th, St. James (707), New Inn, Handsworth, at 7; Thursday, 7th, St. Peter's (607), Star and Garter, Wolverhampton, at 7; Portland (920), Town Hall, Stoke-upon-Trent, at 7. *Chapter*.—Thursday, 7th, Staffordshire Knot (920), Town Hall, Stoke-upon-Trent, at 5.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*Lodge of Honour* (No. 769).—The annual festival and installation of Worshipful Master, took place on Friday, June 10th, when W. Bro. Lewis installed W. Bro. Gough, Master for the ensuing year. The Worshipful Master then invested the following officers:—Owen, S.W.; Humphry, J.W.; Rosenthal, Chaplain; Thorne, Treas.; Warne, Sec.; Matthews, S.D.; Sallom, J.D.; Newnham, I.G.; Jones, Tyler. There was a grand attendance of the brethren. Amongst the visitors were, Bros. Edwards, Cooke, and Cartwright. The accounts for the past year having been audited, the brethren were gratified to see a good balance handed to the Treasurer on his being invested with the collar and jewel of his office.

SUFFOLK.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Wednesday, July 6th, Doric (96), Private Rooms, Woodbridge, at 7.

ESSEX.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Tuesday, July 5th, Royal York (394), Old Ship, Brighton; Wednesday, 6th, South Saxon (390), Freemasons' Hall, Lewes.

WALES (WEST.)

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Tuesday, July 5th, Prince of Wales (969), Thomas's Arms, Llanelly, at 7.

WARWICKSHIRE.

APPOINTMENT.—*Lodge*.—Thursday, July 7th, Temperance (1041), Masonic Rooms, Birmingham, at 5.

CONSECRATION OF THE NEW LODGE AT STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—*Burd of Aron Lodge* (No. 1080).—On Monday, the ceremony of consecrating this Lodge at the Golden Lion Hotel took place, attracting a great number of spectators. The unfavourable state of the weather during the early portion of the day, doubtless, prevented a much larger concourse of persons being present on this interesting occasion.

The proceedings of the day commenced with the ceremony of consecration, which was performed by Colonel Vernon, the Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire; the appointment and investiture of the W.M. and officers of the new Lodge, and the initiation of several candidates.

About half-past two o'clock, the Prov. G.M. of the Lodge, and lord lieutenant of the county (Lord Leigh, of Stoneleigh Abbey), accompanied by Col. Vernon, the Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire; Bro. the Rev. W. Rilaud Bedford, Prov. G. Chaplain; Bro. the Rev. Granville Granville, vicar of Stratford-on-Avon; Bro. the Rev. Molony, sub-vicar of Stratford-on-Avon; attended by the usual officers of the fraternity, bearing their appropriate insignia of office, together with such of the members of the Craft as had then arrived, numbering in the whole between sixty and seventy persons, the whole wearing their respective badges, as also the aprons, scarfs, &c., of the "Order," and bearing the regalia peculiar to the Masonic brethren, assembled at their Lodge, where, having formed in professional order, they proceeded up Bridge-street, along High-street, Chapel-street, Church-street, and the Old Town, to the church of the Holy Trinity, attended by the band of the

Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry. On reaching the porch of the sacred edifice, the members of the band fell back on either side of the avenue, playing the national anthem, while the various members of the Order, together with a numerous and respectable assemblage of persons interested in the proceedings, entered the church. Upon entering the edifice, the organist (Mr. Henry Matthews) performed the national anthem, on the powerful organ, with much effect. By this time the noble structure presented a most pleasing appearance, the clergy being attired in their canonicals, and the choristers, about thirty in number, in their robes; while the number of ladies present, and the varied costumes, insignia, and decorations of the officers and members of the fraternity, formed in combination a scene of grandeur at once novel and imposing.

The arrangements for Divine service were as follows:—Psalm 104, Chant, Dr. Crotch; first lesson "Magnificat,"—Wesley; Second Lesson, "Nunc Dimittis"—Wesley; Anthem, Beethoven—"Great God of all, Holy Creator." Hymn (before the sermon) B. Goodacre (St. George's), "Great Architect of Earth and Heaven," &c. The intonation was performed by the Rev. W. H. Hibbert and Bro. the Rev. — Molony, Sub-Vicar; the lessons being read by Bro. the Rev. G. Granville, Vicar. The choral portion was throughout exceedingly effective, the anthem particularly, was rendered, by the able accompaniment of Mr. Matthews on the organ, in the most artistic manner. The sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. W. K. Riland Bodford, Provincial Grand Chaplain. After offering a special prayer on the occasion, the rev. gentleman took his text from the 5th chapter of the book of Ezra, v. 11—"And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of Heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great King of Israel builded and set up." The discourse was exceedingly eloquent and appropriate, and was delivered with such distinctness as to be easily audible in any portion of the edifice. Towards the close of the rev. gentleman's discourse, he alluded in the most happy manner to the great poet of nature, whose mighty genius and endless fame had obtained a further recognition by the title of the present Lodge being consecrated as that of the "Bard of Avon." At the conclusion of the sermon a collection was made in aid of the fund for a painted window in the church.

At the end of the service the procession was re-formed, and, after retracing their steps as far as the Corn Exchange, High-street, where the members halted for about half an hour, during which time the band played several airs outside the building, they proceeded to the Town Hall, and the banquet which took place was in every way worthy of the occasion. It was served by Bro. H. Hartley, and was presided over by the Provincial Grand Master, Lord Leigh. The band of the Yeomanry performed during dinner a selection of music in admirable style. The customary loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were in the course of the evening duly honoured, and the guests separated at an early hour.

We are unable to give a correct list of all the members of the Order present on the occasion, but noticed (in addition to the names already given), Bros. Tilbury, London; Overbury, Alcester; Hance, Alcester; R. M. Bird, Edward Gibbs, Robert Gibbs, W. J. Hobbes, W. Butcher, and Adams, Stratford-on-Avon. The members belonged principally to Lodges at Stafford, Leamington, Birmingham, and Alcester.

There was a slight display of flags, &c., and the various windows and buildings along the line of the procession were occupied with anxious gazers. The able services of the choristers and organist of the parish church were recognised by a dinner provided for them at the expense of the Lodge.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

APPOINTMENTS.—Lodges.—Monday, July 4th, Semper Fidelis (772); Crown, Worcester, at 6½; Tuesday, 5th, Harmonic (313), Freemasons' Tavern, Dudley, at 6½; Wednesday, 6th, Worcester (349), Bell Hotel, Worcester, at 6½.

DUDLEY.—*Royal Standard Lodge* (No. 730).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Dudley Arms Hotel, Dudley, on Tuesday, the 14th instant, when Bro. T. Sanders, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Bateman was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Jeffs, Tyler. One brother was raised to the

degree of M.M., after which, the brethren adjourned to banquet. The installation will take place on Tuesday, July 11th.

DUDLEY.—*Vernon Lodge* (No. 819).—This Lodge met at the Old Town Hall, on Wednesday the 15th, but as the Worshipful Master (the Mayor) and Wardens were engaged at the Castle fêtes, by which a profit of upwards of £360 has been placed to the building fund of the new Mechanic Institute, &c., of which this was the last day—Lodge was simply opened and closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The W.M. informed the brethren of what the committee had done relative to the Masonic gathering on the 6th of July.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Friday, July 1st, St. Germain (82), The Crescent, Selby, at 7; Monday, 4th, Union (287), Masonic Hall, York, at 7; Tuesday, 5th, Camolodunum (958), Freemasons' Hall, New Malton, at 7; Thursday, 7th, Constitutional (371), Assembly Rooms, Beverley, at 8.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

APPOINTMENTS.—*Lodges*.—Friday, July 1st, Alfred (384), Griffin Hotel, Leeds, at 7; Truth (763), Freemasons' Hall, Huddersfield, at 7; Alfred Instruction (364), Griffin Hotel, Leeds, at 7. *Chapter*.—Monday, 4th, Paradise (162), Music Hall, Sheffield, at 7; Thursday, 7th, Sincerity (874), Freemasons' Hall, Bradford, at 8.

BAILDON.—*Airedale Lodge* (No. 543).—A regular meeting of this Lodge was presided over by the W.M. Wm. B. Holmes, on the 22nd instant. Bro. Hy. Smith, P.M., raised Bro. John Ives, to the degree of M.M. Bro. Holroyd was passed to the P.C. degree. A letter was read conveying the thanks of the Lodge to Bro. Wm. Gath, (P.M., of 379 Lodge of Hope) for his many services to the Lodge, but particularly in representing it at the Board of Benevolence on a recent occasion. A long discussion took place on the propriety of holding a weekly evening Lodge of Instruction, as in former years, and it was ultimately decided that it should be revived.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER.

UNION OF WATERLOO CHAPTER (No. 13).—A meeting of this Chapter was held at the Red Lion, Woolwich, on Wednesday, June 22nd, presided over by Comps. Fox, M.E.Z.; Clark, H.; B. Moore, J. Comp. H. Mugeridge, P.Z., exalted Bro. Packwood, Lodge of Stability, No. 264; and Bros. Ponge and Russell, Union of Waterloo Lodge, No. 13. The visitors were Comps. Taylor and Swan, of Chapter No. 169, and Grant, No. 7452.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

POOLE.—*Chapter of Amity*, No. 160.—The Companions held a convocation on Friday, the 10th inst., for the election of officers for the ensuing year, Comp. John Sydenham, M.E.Z., presiding, when the following Companions were unanimously elected:—George H. Gutch, M.E.Z.; John Osment, H.; William Parr, J.; Richard Hoskins, E.; James Boyd, N.; William E. Rebbeck, P. Soj.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*St. Peter's Chapter* (No. 607).—The annual meeting for installation of Principals and investment of officers, for the ensuing year, was held on Tuesday, June 21st. A board of installed Principals having been duly opened, M.E. Comp. Lewis installed E. Comp. G. Hudson into the first chair; the Companion elected to fill the second chair was unavoidably absent; the Companion for the third chair was a P.Z. The M.E.Z. then invested the officers—Comps. Harris,

Treasurer; Warner, E.; R. Hudson, N.; Gough, P. Sej.; Jones, Janitor. The Prov. G. Superintendent, Col. Vernon, congratulated the Chapter on its prosperity, and complimented the officers on the efficient manner in which they discharged their duties. Bro. Cooper was exalted a Companion of the Order. The M.E.Z. requested the Companions to appear in mourning, as a mark of respect for the memory of our lamented Companion T. R. Stamway. M.E. Comp. C. J. Vigue was unanimously elected an honorary member.

SCOTLAND.

THE ROYAL ORDER.

GLASGOW.—The Grand Lodge of the Royal Order having granted a charter in favor of Knight Companion Donald Campbell, P.C.E., as Prov. Grand Master for the western district of Scotland, embracing the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumbarton, a large assemblage of the Knights resident in the west of Scotland took place in St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow, on the 10th of June, to receive the deputation from the Grand Lodge; among whom were Knights Comps. Dr. G. A. Walker Arnott, P.D.G.M.; John Reid, Dr. George Macleod, William Whyte, J.; D. T. Doddrell, James Horn, C. M. Donaldson, Andrew Douglas, William Forrester, John Laurie, &c., &c. Knight Companion George Murray, S.W.I.N.S., took the chair, and having opened the Grand Lodge, produced the charter and patent in favour of Knight Companion Donald Campbell, who was called forward to the chair, and according to ancient form invested and installed as Prov. Grand Master; and handing over the charter and patent to his care trusted that he would exercise the same zeal and energy in promoting the prosperity of the Prov. Grand Lodge for Glasgow and the west of Scotland as he had hitherto evinced in the welfare of the Order itself. The Prov. Grand Master having taken the chair, thanked the office bearers and members of the Grand Lodge for the honour conferred upon him, and expressed his determination of using, along with his office bearers, every effort to uphold the dignity of the Order, and *pro tem.*, appointed Knights Comps. John Reid and Dr. George Macleod, Prov. Grand S. and J. Ws. Applications having been submitted from Sir I. L. Cotter, Bart., and Farquhar Macrae were approved of, who being present were advanced to the degree of Heredom, and afterwards promoted to that of the Rosy Cross. The ceremonial was gone through in the most impressive manner by the Prov. Grand Master, ably assisted by Knights Comps., John Reid, Dr. George Macleod, C. M. Donaldson, John Laurie, &c. Thereafter the Knights Companions sat down to an elegant dinner and with toasts, songs, and sentiments enjoyed themselves till the warning chime proclaimed the hour to retire, each regretting the fleetness of time and uniting in their favourite toast of "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again," sang "Auld lang syne," and reluctantly said "Adieu."

THE WEEK.

On Wednesday the Queen held a court, at which sundry ministers were sworn in; and in the course of the day, old King Leopold made his appearance from Belgium, accompanied by his son, the Count of Flanders; they intend to stay a

fortnight, and were just in time to assist at her Majesty's concert, to which a party of 360 were invited. On Thursday there was another court, at which was much kissing of hands and doing of homage on entering office. Her Majesty held a levee on Saturday afternoon at St. James's Palace, which was numerously attended. A great many presentations took place, and several gentlemen had the honour of knighthood conferred upon them. The Prince of Wales landed at Portsmouth on Saturday morning from his continental tour, and in the course of the day arrived at Buckingham Palace. In the evening the Queen and Prince Consort, accompanied by the King of the Belgians and the Prince of Wales, went to the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden. The Queen, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, visited the Duchess of Kent at Frogmore on Monday morning. The Duke of Oporto arrived at Buckingham Palace, on a visit to her Majesty, in the afternoon. There was a dinner party at the palace in the evening.—The news from the seat of war in Italy is very important, though imperfect at present. Some encounters took place on Thursday. The Sardinians advanced from Lonato in the direction of Peschiera, and had an affair with Austrian outposts. The French, after some fighting, passed the Chiese at Montechiaro, with great force, and pushed a reconnaissance as far as Goita, in the direction of Mantua. These encounters were evidently but insignificant, though the report from Turin, which is, as yet, the only one which we have received, tries to make the most of them. The loss of life on this occasion happily seems to have been very small indeed. On Friday a most important general action took place on the Mincio, at a place called Solferino. The results are not yet perfectly known, but in the telegrams received by the empress, the Emperor Napoleon claims a magnificent victory, and says: "The whole Austrian army formed the line of battle, which extended five leagues in length. We have taken all their positions, and captured many cannon, flags, and prisoners. The battle lasted from four in the morning till eight o'clock in the evening. The enemy withdrew in the night. I have passed the night in the room occupied on the morning of the battle by the Emperor of Austria. General Niel has been appointed marshal of France." The *Patrie* alleges that the victorious army crossed the Mincio in pursuit of the Austrians. The *Presse* puts down the Austrian loss at the enormous number of 35,000 *hors de combat*, and 15,000 taken prisoners, together with sixteen flags, and seventy-five pieces of cannon captured. A message from Turin, however, gives a much more moderate estimate. It says:—"The allies took thirty cannon, 6,000 prisoners, and several flags. All the fortified positions of the enemy were taken." In order that no embellishments may be wanting to this great event, we find the following in a French journal:—"The emperor was constantly in the hottest fire. General Larrey, who accompanied the emperor, had his horse killed, two horses of the escort of the Cent Gardes were also killed. The dangers which the emperor ran increased still more the enthusiasm and daring of our soldiers." The enthusiasm excited among all classes in the French capital by the news of the victory was of course immense. The city was illuminated in a splendid manner, while the houses were covered with flags. The Faubourg St. Antoine was particularly remarkable for the manner in which it celebrated the occasion. This portion of Paris is inhabited exclusively by the working classes, who, with their wives and children, promenaded the streets and gave vent to their joy by singing patriotic songs. The despotic acts of the Emperor, and all the transportations and executions of political prisoners are no doubt forgotten and having succeeded in reaping a harvest of "glory" for the French people, Louis Napoleon may rest easy as to criticisms upon his peculiar mode of government. Perhaps the war bill, when it has to be paid by the already enormously taxed people of France, may be found a slight inconvenience.—The following very significant telegram has arrived from Vienna, dated Monday: "The Emperor will soon return to Vienna on account of important government business. The command-in-chief of the army, which is preparing for a new battle, is given to General Hess." An attack by the French upon Venice is daily expected. A French squadron, with 15,000 fighting men on board, has quitted Toulon, and it is suspected that the expedition is directed to the Tagliamento, a river to the east of Venice. We are in a comfortable state here, truly," says a letter from Venice;—"a French fleet outside—

proclamations inside, stating that at the smallest symptom of insurrection the city will be subjected to fire and sword, and that anybody ringing church bells, waving a flag, or making a signal of any kind, will be shot, without the formality of a trial. The excitement is an excellent thing for a sluggish liver ; it beats calomel."—From Naples we have a telegram, dated Sunday, by which we learn that a decree had been issued permitting the return of one hundred and seventy-three Sicilian refugees, and granting a like indulgence to others demanding it, on promise of obedience to the laws.—The Suez canal, the works of which had been commenced by M. Lesseps, has been peremptorily stopped by order of the Egyptian government.—The city of Perugia, in the Papal States, obeying the impulse given in Northern Italy, declared openly for Italian unity, established a kind of provisional municipal government, and offered to place itself under the dictatorship of the King of Sardinia. The King of Sardinia, under the guidance of the Emperor of the French, declined the offer. The Papal government despatched some Swiss regiments, which attacked Perugia on the 20th inst. Great resistance was made, notwithstanding that the defenders were few. After three hours' fighting outside the town, the Swiss entered, and the combat continued for two hours in the streets. The Swiss trampled down and killed even women and inoffensive persons. The next day the outrages, arrests, and firing on the people recommenced.—The New York papers are full of the discovery of the body of a handsome young woman, known in theatrical circles as Fanny Deane, on the beach at Fort Hamilton. She was the wife of an Englishman named Halsey, of highly respectable connexions. Her husband's explanation was to the effect, that he had detected her in a criminal intrigue, and that fearing the consequences, she committed suicide. The relatives of the deceased, however, deny that the deceased was inconstant, and accuse her husband of having neglected her. Halsey is said to have held a commission in the British army. A Washington telegram says :—"There is reason to believe that our minister to Madrid has been instructed to avail himself of the earliest opportunity to assure the Spanish government of the earnestness of the United States to purchase Cuba, and that the money will be promptly paid." Information has reached Washington of active movements in Louisiana of certain Mexican reactionists in favour of Santa Anna.—An attempted murder has taken place at Chatham, the intended victim being a private soldier. Jealousy appears to have prompted the would-be murderer to the commission of the crime.—At Southampton, on Thursday, six marines went for a day's cruise down the river in a wherry. When about four miles down, and close to her Majesty's ship *Arrogant*, from some cause, the boat capsized and three men were drowned.—Another examination of William Moore, who murdered his wife in Walworth, by stabbing her with a knife, took place at Lambeth Police-court on Monday. Mr. Elliott committed the prisoner for trial on the charge of wilful murder.—The Court of Queen's Bench was occupied in trying the indictment against T. R. Marshall, E. H. Mortimer, and H. Septimus Eicke, at the instance of the Duke of Cambridge, for the alleged sale of commissions in the army. Eicke and Mortimer pleaded guilty, Marshall not guilty. At the close of the plaintiff's case the trial was adjourned.—The Bury magistrates were occupied on Saturday with investigating an accusation brought against sundry persons, friends of Mr. F. Peel, the sitting member, of having held in durance a voter belonging to the opposition party, and preventing him from going to the poll. The abducted voter was a stonemason, and he charged the accused men with having seized him as he was leaving his house and thrust him into a cab, where he was held down under circumstances of great cruelty. The examination and cross-examination were conducted at great length, and the case was adjourned.—Charles Duval, the boy who fired a pistol at a poor woman in Jermyn-street, inflicting a serious wound, ten days ago, has been again brought up for examination at Marlborough-street. A plea of insanity was urged by the prisoner's solicitor. Mr. Beadon, however, determined on sending the case for trial, and refused bail.—The inquest on the body of a young woman unknown, found in a canal at Prince's-end, South Staffordshire, was brought to a close on Saturday evening. Upon the evidence being all laid before the jury, they returned a verdict of wilful murder against Allen, Watkins, Acton, and Fereday, now in custody.—

The regatta of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, which came off on Saturday, had more than usual interest attached to it, from several new features—amongst them the Broadwood prize for a Corinthian race. The start was from Erith, round the Nore light-vessel, and back. After the ordinary vicissitudes attending wind and wave, the open prize of a one hundred guinea cup was secured by the *Osprey*; and the Broadwood prize, a fifty guinea tea service, by the *Whisper*. The number of yachts started for each was nine and five respectively.—The volunteer movement continues to gain strength. In some parts of the country the rifle companies meet for drill twice daily. The City of London is about to establish a volunteer force, and the inns of court have formed a regiment of lawyers.—Many of the elections consequent upon the change of ministers took place on Monday. Lord John Russell was re-elected without opposition, as were Mr. Gibson, Mr. Cardwell, Sir G. Grey, Lord Palmerston, and several others. Mr. Headlam is opposed at Newcastle; Lord Bury, at Norwich, will have some trouble to secure his return against Sir Samuel Bignold, a former member for that city; and at the University of Oxford, Mr. Gladstone has a powerful party against him, who support the Marquis of Chandos.—A statue of Dr. Jenner, by M. Eugène Paul, has just been cast in bronze, and set up temporarily opposite the river front of the Louvre.—Several drinking fountains are about to be erected in the east of the metropolis. One opposite St. John's Church, Bethnal-green; one in Carr-street, Limehouse; and a large one on Tower-hill, opposite the Mint. The vestries of St. George in the East and Shoreditch have also decided to erect drinking fountains.—The dinner of the officers who served before Delhi, in 1857, took place on Tuesday, at the Albion, Aldergate-street, under the presidency of Major General Sir Archdale Wilson, Bart., K.C.B., supported by Colonel Sir J. Jones, Colonel Tombs, Lieutenant-Colonel Ouvry, Lieutenant-Colonel Wilde, Major Forster, Major Lowe, Major Sorel, Major S. R. Turnbull, Major W. Wilson, Major Warrant, &c., &c.—The season of the bands in the parks has fairly commenced; not fewer than 50,000 visited both the Regent's and Victoria Parks on Sunday last. The receipts for the sale of programmes were highly satisfactory.—The death is announced (from yellow fever) of the Bishop of Antigua, Dr. S. J. Rigaud, formerly master of Ipswich grammar school. Dr. Rigaud went out to the colony only twelve months since. His widow and family have also suffered from yellow fever.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

This long promised revival of Mercadante's "Il Giuramento," took place at the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, last evening. The cast was as follows: *Eloisa*, Mme. Grisi; *Bianca*, Mlle. Didiée; *Manfredo*, Sigr. Debassini; *Brumoro*, Sigr. Lucchesi; and *Viscardo*, Sigr. Mario. The house was crowded, and the opera was perfectly successful, up to the time at which we went to press.—At Drury Lane, last evening, was again given, Meyerbeer's "Huguenots" supported by Titiens, Marini, and Giuglini, whose performance was magnificent; the minor parts and the chorus do great credit to the rest of the company, and to Sigr. Arditi's care.—At the Haymarket Theatre, the laughter-moving and always attractive "Critic" has been withdrawn, and the entertainments offered to the supporters of this house are "Everybody's Friend" and "Married for Money," displaying the talents of Messrs. Charles Mathews, Buckstone, and Compton. Mr. Tom Taylor's new comedy is positively announced for this week, and is looked for with curiosity.—The campaign at the Princess's is fast drawing to a close, and after next week, the magnificent "Henry the Fifth" of Mr. Kean's management will be numbered with the things that have been. The manager intends to repeat a few of those other revivals which have astonished—we may say not only London, but Europe—and then to lay down his theatrical sceptre for ever. The new farce "If the Cap Fits" will doubtless run to the end of the season.—At the Adelphi, Mr. Wigan again appears in one of his most successful characters, that of *Achille Talma Dufard*, in the "First Night." His delineation of the old French actor is as life-like and

amusing as ever, and he is admirably seconded by Miss Mary Keeley in the part of the *debutante*. The burlesque duet from the "Huguenots," is tumultuously enjoyed.—There is nothing new at present in the Olympic bills; the serio-comic drama by Mr. Tom Taylor seems to be delayed for some reason, probably the continuous popularity of the present entertainments.—At the St. James's Theatre, the experiment of English opera has not apparently succeeded, and Mr. Macfarren's "Raymond and Agnes" has been withdrawn. The Spanish ballet company are retained, and their attractive performances are interspersed with Palais Royal vaudevilles by French comic actors, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul's "Patchwork." This threefold nationality has produced a *mélange* exactly suited to the taste of the denizens of the west-end of the metropolis, and the theatre is filled nightly with an audience who go in perfect security that they will not be "bored"—an enormous consideration nowadays with the British play-goer.—The little Strand Theatre continues its long-standing bill of fare.—At the Surrey, we have to notice Mr. Hermann Vezin's very tasteful and finished performance of "Richard the Third," and a capital petticoat soldier absurdity called "The Surrey Volunteers."—The sultry weather which has characterized the last fortnight has produced the highly agreeable result to Mr. Simpson, of filling Cremorne Gardens to their utmost capabilities, and it is but just to that indefatigable caterer for public amusement to acknowledge that all of the immense number of his patrons appear to be satisfied with his efforts on their behalf.

NOTICES.

Advertisers and other friends are requested to notice that accounts are in future to be paid, on printed receipts only, to Mr. JOHN COGGIN, of No. 8, Denmark Street, Camberwell; or at the Office, 2, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C. Post Office Orders should be made payable to HENRY G. WARREN.

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.

Emblematic covers for the last volume of the Magazine for 1858 are now ready price 1s.; or the volumes (containing twenty-six numbers) may be had bound price 14s. 6d., or with gilt edges 15s. 6d. Brethren can have their volumes bound at the office if they desire it, for 1s. 6d., or with gilt edges 2s. 6d.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PROVINCIAL REPORTS.—From the very limited space which remains for our closing number of the present series, notwithstanding that we give eight pages extra, we have been compelled to compress the various communications of our correspondents into the smallest possible limit, and to leave out some interesting particulars.

"A BROTHER of Lodge No. 907" asks whether the Master Mason's jewel, sold by Bro. Thearle, can be legally worn in a Craft Lodge. The laws regulating the wearing of jewels will be found at pages 18, 63, and 108, and as we read them, allow the wearing of such jewels, though not usual in England. The law, as laid down at page 63, allows the wearing of honorary or *other* jewels "consistent with those degrees recognized by the Grand Lodge as part of ancient Freemasonry." In Scotland and other places, the Master Mason's jewel is almost universally worn.

BRO. GARROD AND "JUSTITIA."—We have received a letter from Bro. Garrod (No. 11), complaining of the want of anonymity in "Justitia" in not throwing off his disguise and disclosing his name. We generally give our correspondents tolerable latitude in their observations, and we should have published Bro. Garrod's letter regarding "Justitia," had he not imported into it an attack upon another brother, of so virulent a nature that to publish it would not only bring down upon us the just indignation and censure of every right thinking Mason, but might subject us to the law of libel.

"P.M., (No. 730) DUDLEY."—We regret that disputes should have arisen between the Dudley Lodges on a point of etiquette as to who should take the foremost position in conducting the *fête* at Hagley, but the matter is not of sufficient general interest for the publication of letters on the subject.

"J. W. P.M., (No. 429)."—No brother has the right to sign himself P.M. unless he has regularly served the office of Master. The P.M. degree, as given in Scotland, does not give the P.M.'s rank in England.

"FREEMASONRY AND ODD FELLOWSHIP."—We are favoured with a letter on this subject from our R.W. Bro. William Kelly.

"LODGE, No. 64."—In our next, if possible.

THE STATUTES RELATING TO THE CRAFT.—We will publish the clauses of Acts of Parliament relating to the Order in an early number.

ODD FELLOWSHIP.—Bro. George Markham Tweddell has addressed a communication to us on this subject, which we are compelled to defer.

"MASONIC MISSIONS."—This series of articles, which we are glad to find exciting so much interest, will be resumed in our new issue.

W. BROS. JAMES POWELL AND E. CLEPHAN are unavoidably deferred to our new number.

MASONIC CHARITIES.—A letter on this subject from Bro. Richard Samuel Thorne will appear at the first opportunity.

THE GRAND OFFICERS.—Bro. W. H. Cole's communication has been received, and will receive immediate attention.

MASONIC LITERATURE.—Bro. Matthew Cooke is thanked for his interesting letter on this subject.

