

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1859.

THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED MASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

THE dispensation of that charity, which is enjoined alike by the principles of our ancient Order and the precepts of our religion, is perhaps, to the well-constituted mind, the easiest in performance of the whole round of social duties; for callous indeed must be the heart that derives no satisfaction from supplying the wants of others. It is true that there is an inherent weakness in the bosoms of most mortals which inclines them from time to time to favouritism or to prejudice, and operates as a hindrance to the exercise of an unbiassed judgment and an equal distribution of benevolence. To this cause perhaps may be attributed the very prosperous condition of the Royal Freemasons' Girls School, which until lately has thrown comparatively into the shade the other great charities which belong to the Craft—the innocence and winning ways of the pretty little residents at Battersea Rise have, no doubt, contributed in a great degree to produce the munificent contributions of the brethren to that noble institution. On the other hand, the Boys School and the Benevolent Institution, although acknowledged to be equally valuable, can certainly not be said to have achieved a corresponding amount of success.

The attention of the brethren has happily been awakened to the necessity of placing all the three charities upon a similarly prosperous footing, and the efforts of the last year or two have done wonders for the Boys School, and the Aged Masons, while we rejoice to find that the Girls School has not in the slightest degree suffered. And we think that the progress of the Royal Benevolent Fund must be considered peculiarly satisfactory.

In another page will be found a most gratifying return of the receipts and expenditure of the two funds of this institution from the date of their establishment to the 30th March last. It shows how steadily the funds are growing in the affections and support of the brethren. By the return it will be seen that, since the establishment of the Male Annuity Fund in 1842, only seventeen years since, the total receipts, including the donations from Grand Lodge and Chapter, had amounted to £28,242, of which Grand Lodge and Chapter have given £8,258, the brethren and private Lodges by donations £6,586, and by annual subscriptions £9,474. Of this sum no less than £10,858 have been invested to provide for the permanence of the fund, and £13,214 have been dispensed in annuities amongst 137 brethren, many of whom would have been reduced, by no fault of their own, from affluence to absolute want—but for the aid afforded by this institution—as is proved by the case of the brother whose death we recorded last week, and who, after enjoying the advantages flowing from the institution for a period of twenty-two years, died without a relative or friend to perform even the last sad duties of humanity, and which were therefore, of course, undertaken by the Institution. Though much more recently established, only in 1849, and not quite so munificently supported by Grand Lodge, the Widows' Fund shows an equally gratifying progress. The total receipts on account of this fund have been £6,111 of which £1,744 have arisen from the votes of Grand Lodge and Chapter; £2,525 from the donations of private Lodges and brethren; and £1,021 from annual subscriptions. The funded property already amounts to £3,450, and the sum of £3,236 has been disbursed in annuities amongst thirty recipients—each of whom, like the male annuitants, have also had the option of going into the Asylum if they so desired.

We think the returns speak trumpet tongued for the prosperity and finance of the Institution, and it only requires exertions such as were made at the last festival to be emulated in January next, and to be continued for two or three years longer to enable us to boast that the poorer brethren or their widows never appeal to us in vain to

render the close of their lives comparatively happy and comfortable; but that if worthy a safe and sure retreat from the pangs of poverty is to be found in the Royal Benevolent Institution for aged Masons and their Widows.

STAINED GLASS.—II.

(Continued from p. 4).

In *fig. 11*, from a miniature of the sixteenth century, taken from a MS. in the library of St. Mark, the whole field is filled in with rays of light, the centre ones being much shorter than those at the angles, and partaking of the shape of the square nimbus with concave lines.

In a fresco of Campo Santa, at Pisa, of the fourteenth century, Michael Angelo has represented Christ showing his wounds to his disciples, the head being adorned with rays of light of very unequal lengths.

In all the examples that may be met with, the rays seem to spring from the centre of the forehead between the eyes. In *fig. 10* the rays are thrown out from thence in a line with the temples, and the region of the brain. This may be seen also in the head of an infant Christ, painted in the sixteenth century *fig. 12*, (also Italian), where the rays emanate from these several points, instead of finding their common centre in the forehead. It was in the sixteenth century, that luminous circles, drawn in perspective, first appeared, adapting themselves to the several positions of the heads, as in *fig. 13*.

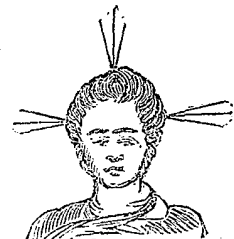
A more marked nimbus, and one only applied to the godhead, the allegorical lamb, or the Virgin Mary, is that in which the centre rays of *fig. 10* are omitted, the others cut shorter than the outer circle, and the point of the rays connected by an inner curved line reaching only to them. In some early examples these rays retain their straight form, but this was soon abandoned for one more graceful, in which the lines are curved, as in *fig. 14*. The lower ray or bar is concealed by the head, otherwise it would be a perfect Greek cross.

As to the propriety of this form for the Son of God, there can be no doubt, but it is applied equally to the other persons of the Trinity, as may be seen in a remarkable painting of the Trinity, of the thirteenth century, in which the figures of the Father and the Son are exactly similar, while the Holy Ghost is in the form of a dove standing on a globe, held by both the Father and the Son, each having a similar nimbus.

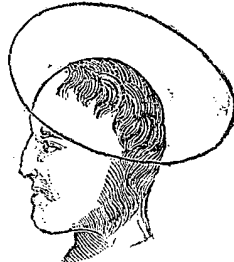
That these rays are intended to represent the cross, is evident from the sculpture on an old sarcophagus in the Vatican representing Christ sending forth his disciples to preach to and baptize all nations; in one hand he holds the volume of the sacred law, while the other points to the stream of water running at his feet. In this example the disciples, though represented as lambs, have no nimbus, neither has Christ himself, but the symbolic lamb which stands by him



11. Square nimbus, concave sides and rays of light.



12. Nimbus formed by bars or rays of light.

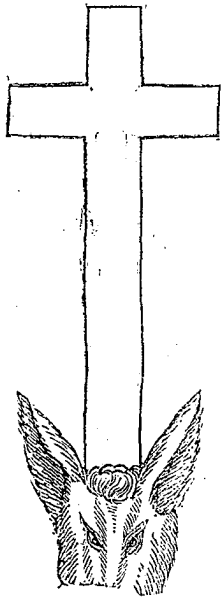


13. Circular perspective nimbus. Circa 1500.



14. Cruciform circular nimbus. Circa 1200.

has the Latin cross on a nimbus, elevated from the head, as *fig. 15*. All the lambs seem to be advancing to the mound on which Jesus and the lamb are standing, teaching us that all christianity should thus be tending towards that stream of baptism which flows at his feet. In *fig. 16* is a cruciform nimbus of the eleventh century, elevated entirely above the head.



15. Cruciform nimbus of the Divine Lamb.



16. Cruciform nimbus.



17. Circular cruciform nimbus of the Divine Lamb.

In the tenth century the Lamb of God was frequently represented with a nimbus, the bases of which were opaque, but bearing in the centre of each a perfect cross, as in *fig. 17*.

The cruciform nimbus was a sign characterising equally the Son and the other two persons of the Trinity, but the cross itself is an attribute which belongs immediately to Christ, and through whom the Father and Holy Ghost have it quartered, as it were, on the field of their nimbus. The Greek church particularly honours Christ, believing that he alone is the source of being. It is thus that he is represented on their iconoclasts and in their stained glass. He is also represented governing the Greek church as he does the world. His form, too, is more often represented than that of either the Father or Holy Ghost. In every era this has been the principal form delineated, sometimes as a youth, sometimes as a young man with a flowing beard, but it remained with the papacy to depict him as an old man, under the figure of a Pope, almost worn out with old age. In very many paintings he is represented as the creator of the world, with a cruciform nimbus, and holding in his hand, or resting his hand upon, a globe, symbolic of the world of his creation.

In Rheims Cathedral it is also the custom to give greater honour to the Son, during the service, than to the other persons of the Trinity. It is a curious custom, and peculiar to

one or two of the continental churches. When the *Gloria Patriæ* is said, the name of the Father is passed over without any notice, but at the word "Filio," the clergy and choristers rise, and reverentially incline the head, seating themselves when the Holy Ghost is mentioned.

This may arise from the force of early impressions, but holy writ fully justifies this adoration; and from that passage in St. Paul to the Philippians, "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, &c.," we may trace the origin of the innumerable representations of the Son over the Father and the Spirit.

While this prominence is given to the Son, the Deity, or God the Father, is sometimes represented by a portion only of the body, most frequently the hand. In this case it is usually surrounded by a circular nimbus with cross bars forming a cross, and with rays of light decorating the remainder of the field. These are supposed to form the earliest representation of the Father, and the hand is usually extended as if in the act of blessing. In the frescoes of St. Savin (twelfth century) the hand of God, without a nimbus is extended from the clouds, blessing Melchizedek. There are several other examples of the divine hand being without

a nimbus, but where a nimbus is shown it is nearly always decorated by the cross.

There is another form of nimbus that we have only incidentally mentioned, and that is the triangle; some artists have connected the rays from the temples with those of the brows, forming a pyramid, the base line of which extends through the forehead as in *fig. 3*. There has been something more than accident, however, in thus forming the triangle. Members of the Royal Arch degree of Freemasons know perfectly well some of the attributes of this sacred figure, attributes peculiar to the Craft; but independently of these, the triangle possesses a mystical reason which maintains its importance among other geometrical forms. It ever has been considered as the geometrical emblem of the Trinity, representing in its unbroken area, the unity of one God in three persons. Throughout the whole of Asia the triad is a mystic number. It is symbolic of the attributes of the Supreme Being, uniting in itself the properties of the two first numbers of the unity and the duad. The Grecians adopted this form at a very early date, but it remained with the Italians to elevate it as a fitting symbol of the Great Architect of the Universe, the Great I A M. This expresses perfect divinity, but the Greek Masons by adding another triangle, symbolized the infinity as well as the divinity of the godhead. In the centre of the double triangle are sometimes written three Greek words, called by Royal Arch Masons the Holy Tau, and which indicate the Supreme Being. The words then represent the great Jehovah; the triangle, the Trinity; and the double triangle the infinity of God. In a fresco at Mount Athos, the three persons are represented with each a different nimbus. The Father with the double triangle, with three Greek words signifying "I am that I am;" the Son with a circular nimbus with cross bars, and the same words; and the Holy Ghost as a dove, without a nimbus, but in an aureola.

Another fresco in the same place contains the coronation of the Virgin by the Holy Trinity. Mary has a circular nimbus, the Holy Ghost a circular radiating nimbus, Christ a circular cruciform nimbus, and the Father a triangular radiating nimbus. These different forms show different gradations of dignity, and are made to indicate, moreover, the hierarchy of created beings, and the relative position of the different persons of the Trinity. In our own times Camby asserts that the triangle expressed three of the inseparable attributes of Deity—"to be, to think, to act." It has thus been, undoubtedly, the geometrical expression of the Trinity, and it can therefore be easily conceived that the triangular nimbus would be peculiarly appropriate to God the Father. The triangle thus belongs especially to the Father, is sometimes given to the Son, but never to the Virgin.

Angels, saints, and holy men are frequently decorated with a nimbus; but in these instances they are mostly confined to a circular form with the field of the disc perfectly plain. St. John the Baptist is never represented without a nimbus, in most cases consisting of a double circle. Joseph, the husband of Mary, is also occasionally represented with one, as in the Cathedral of Chartres. The nimbus of the Virgin Mary is frequently highly decorated with jewels, &c., and having rays, but in very few instances cruciform. The apostles are always adorned with the nimbus. In the porch of Rheims Cathedral, the nimbi of St. Peter and St. Paul are adorned with pearls, and on the chancel windows nearly all the apostles are represented with nimbi ornamented with precious stones, emeralds, rubies and sapphires.

The nimbus has been given by the ancients to allegorical figures as well, but they confined it solely to everything powerful, and everything good. Any creature supposed to be infirm, or destitute of power, or deficient in virtue was denied it. The nimbus is the characteristic of physical energy, as well as of moral strength, of civil and political power, as well as of religious authority.

THE AUREOLA.

We will now touch upon another emblem of glory, similar in character to that of the nimbus, but different in size, form, and position. The aureola, like the nimbus, is intended to represent rays of light, and is frequently drawn in wavy lines.

The aureola is, in fact, an enlarged nimbus, and the nimbus a diminished aureola; the one is confined entirely to the head; the other surrounds the whole body.

For the reasons given in introducing the nimbus, the aureola has not that importance when used alone, which is attached to the simple nimbus, in that case conferring no honour upon the person decorated therewith; but when combined with the nimbus, it completes the figure, and is supposed to make the glorification of the representation perfect.

It is in fact the symbolic token of supreme power and energy, and therefore should belong to God himself, he being the very centre, as it were, of omnipotence. The Roman Catholics, however, extend the aureola beyond the Trinity, and confer it upon the Virgin Mary, ranking as they say she does, superior to saints and angels. She is therefore usually represented in an aureola, but mostly of the oval shape. In the cathedral of Our Lady at Paris, she is framed in an oval of clouds, the field being decorated with stars; and in the Campo Santo, at Pisa, in the picture of the last judgment, the Virgin is sitting on a rainbow, and surrounded by an aureola. When the church became corrupt, that is in about the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the aureola was prostituted to very base purposes—remaining no longer the attribute of divinity, but enshrining equally the souls of mortals, with the person of the Trinity. In Chartres Cathedral are many examples of this debasement of Christian art—one in particular being the soul of St. Martin, in an oval aureola surrounded by flames of fire, the aureola possibly representing the power of the Roman church, which is said to keep the soul free from the smell of fire while undergoing the pains of purgatory.

Up to the fifteenth century the inner line of the aureola was formed by decided lines, but soon afterwards the well defined border gradually disappeared, and, like the nimbus, it became formed by rays of light or wavy lines.

The aureola is of many forms, the most common being that of the "*vescia piscis*." It is formed of a perfect oval—a circle, a quatrefoil, a cinquefoil, &c., in which latter case the head, shoulders, &c., are made to occupy distinct lobes. In some cases it fits close to the body, or assimilates itself to the form of the body, but detached from it.

With the Italians the outer line of the aureola is perfect, as in most examples of the Italian nimbus, one of which is



18. Circa 1200.

represented in *fig. 18*, taken from a miniature of the fourteenth century, in the library of St. Mark. The transverse line is the rainbow, as they are usually drawn by Italians at that epoch. When God the Father is represented, he is usually sitting, with his feet resting upon a rainbow, a second supporting his back, and a third pillowing his head. The aureola is chiefly confined in early examples to the two first persons of the Trinity, but the figure of the Holy Ghost may sometimes be found so enshrined. When this is the case, we always find the Holy Ghost forming part of a tableau, in which the two first persons occupy the most

prominent part. Of this I gave an example in *fig. 7*, treating of the nimbus.

Fig. 19 represents God the Son in an aureola of clouds, taking the form of the body; it is of the tenth century, and a very good example of this kind. The upper and lower portions are two small circles—the upper containing the head and bust, and the lower the feet; the lines confining the body are those of the "*vescia piscis*," but cut short at each point by the intercepting circles.



19. Circa 1100.

The pure oval shape is sometimes formed by branches of trees, which open and leave a vacant space; sometimes by wreaths also, each side being reversed. In a miniature of the thirteenth century, Jesus is represented in an oval aureola, formed by branches of trees, each branch having three smaller branches springing therefrom, on which are three doves; while the upper portion of both branches support the Dove—the Holy Ghost. These seven doves are to represent the seven gifts of the Spirit, which were conferred upon Christ. Each dove is enclosed in a circular aureola; but they are devoid of nimbi. A similar aureola is to be met with at Rome—the aureola in this case being formed by the petals of flowers, the stems of which spring from the branches.

In representing God with the aureola, we frequently find a carpet substituted for the lower rainbow, and more or less emblematically figured, but to represent the heavens as his footstool instead of the earth. This does not carry out the beautiful picture, delineated in the first Craft lecture—"He has stretched forth the heavens as a canopy—he has planted the earth as his footstool—he has crowned his temple with stars as with a diadem, and in his hand he extends the power and the glory. The sun and moon are messengers of his divine will, and all his laws are concord." In the cathedral of Città di Castelló, in Italy, is an oval aureola of the twelfth century, in which Christ appears with a cruciform nimbus; on his left the moon's crescent; on his right the sun spreads his glistening rays; and in the field of the aureola shine stars with five points, or lobes, like the rose.

One great peculiarity in the aureola as pictured by the Byzantians is, that it takes the shape of a wheel, six rays usually diverging from the centre. In Chartres Cathedral are two or three very good representations of this example.

The aureola is frequently used for the Divinity, the Virgin, &c., without any other distinguishing attribute, but in most cases it is combined with the nimbus, making then, what is termed by the most celebrated of the Christian archaeological authorities of the present day,

THE PERFECT GLORY.

In *fig. 19*, the upper circle of the aureola forms the nimbus itself, the field being decorated with the cross bars, but in most other examples the nimbus is kept entirely distinct and separate.

The glory is popularly applied to the nimbus, and not without reason, where *that alone* is used; but if we take the glory of God, as described by Ezekiel, we shall see at once that the aureola alone can fully convey that idea. He says, "Then I beheld, and lo, a likeness as the appearance

of fire; from his loins, even downward, fire—from his loins, even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber. And behold the glory of the God of Israel was there." A similar description may be found in the 24th chapter of Exodus, and the 17th verse.*

It is thus that the Deity is represented as the centre of radiating light, or surrounded by luminous clouds. In a miniature of the tenth century Jesus is represented as coming to judge the world, being surrounded with clouds, and having above the following inscription:—"Dominus in nubibus, et vident eum inimici ejus et qui perpugerunt." The glory is sometimes represented as a tongue or flame of fire resting upon the head, but this should be confined to the Holy Spirit, it being in that shape that the Holy Ghost descended to the apostles. It is often used as a simple flame in this sense, but only as a nimbus, and without pretension to the term glory. Fire is, however, the especial attribute of God, for under his visible form God is light. At Mount Sinai, at the transfiguration, and at the burning bush, fire represented "power," the power of the Divinity. At the expulsion of Adam from the garden of Eden, power was also described by the two flaming swords,—and by fire, therefore, did the ancient artists most correctly delineate this especial attribute.

MARK MASONRY.

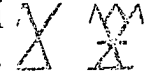
FROM A SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT.

THE ancient Mason Lodges of Scotland appear to have been almost exclusively of an operative character. This was clearly the case with regard to the Lodge of Edinburgh Mary's Chapel, the Lodge of Glasgow St. John, the Lodge of Ayr, the Lodge of Stirling, the Lodge of Dunfermline, the Lodge of Dundee, the Lodge of Aitchison's Haven, the Lodge of St. Andrew's, the Lodge of Melrose, the Lodge of Kilwinning, and others that might be mentioned. The Lodge of Glasgow St. John has a charter conferring on it important powers and privileges, granted by Malcolm III., King of Scotland, at Fordel, on the 5th day of October, 1051. The Lodge of Edinburgh dates from 1513, and almost all the Lodges named were in existence previous to the year 1600, as the signatures of their chief office-bearers appear at that date appended to a charter granted to the Laird of Roslin, renewing to him and his heirs all the powers and privileges which his forefathers had for several generations enjoyed as patrons and protectors of the Mason Craft within the realm of Scotland.

The old Lodges of Scotland being thus composed for the most part of operative Masons, it is natural to conclude that it was incumbent on each member to have a distinctive mark, which he should record in the books of the Lodge, and which he should inscribe on his working tools, and particularly on the stones which he prepared for the buildings at which he was employed. We accordingly find that at a meeting of the Masters of Lodges, convened at Edinburgh on the 28th December, 1598, by William Schaw, "Maister of Wark" to his Majesty James VI., and general Warden of the Mason Craft in Scotland, it was *inter alia* statuted and ordained "That na Maister or Fallow of Craft be ressavit nor admitted without the numer of six Maisteris and twa enterit Prentices, the Wardene of that Ludge being one of the said six; and that the day of the resavying of said Fallow of Craft or Maister be orderlie buikit, and his name and mark insert in the said buik, with the names of his six admittors and enterit Prentices," &c.

The advantage of a mark, and a law to regulate its use are evident. By referring to the books of the Lodge the mark of each brother was known, and the newly entered workman was prevented from adopting a mark already appropriated by another. The operative, by placing his

mark on his tools, could readily recognize them when mixed with those of his fellow workmen, and could thus keep them from being used or claimed by others. By cutting his mark on the stones which he squared or carved, they could at once be distinguished, and the overseer was able to award to him either praise or blame, according as he had performed his work. The marking of stones was carefully attended to by the ancient Masons of Scotland, as their marks are still found on most of the old baronial and ecclesiastical edifices of this country. The elegant monument erected by Anna of Denmark, Queen of James VI., in the Abbey Church of Dunfermline, to the memory of William Schaw, already mentioned, contains the Mason marks of that distinguished member of the Craft. They are as follows: being most likely his ordinary and his official marks.

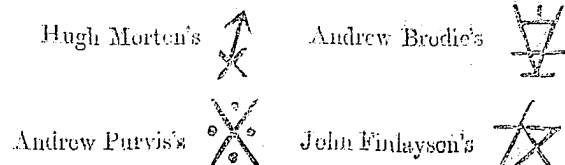


We consider that it is a matter beyond dispute that the members of the old operative Lodges of Scotland were required to take a mark, but the question to be settled is—was any ceremony observed in bestowing it? The books of the old Lodges would most likely throw light on this subject; but, unfortunately, access to these documents cannot be very readily obtained. In the records of the Lodge of Edinburgh it is frequently stated that the persons admitted as members took a mark, and paid a fee for obtaining this privilege. The marks of many of the members are consequently found in the books of the Lodge. This plainly and incontrovertibly establishes the fact that the Lodge of Edinburgh, long before the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and long before the existence of a Royal Arch Chapter was heard of, was in the practice of conferring marks upon its members; but it leaves us still in the dark regarding the special rite or ceremony that was observed. This Lodge, about a hundred years ago, lost its strictly operative character, and, from that time, it appears to have abandoned the practice of Mark Masonry.

In the year 1707, the Lodge of Edinburgh was split into two divisions. One comprised the Masters, and the other the Journeymen or Fellow Crafts. The Masters were superior in influence and authority; but the Journeymen had a much greater portion of numerical strength. After an arduous and determined struggle, the Journeymen succeeded, by an appeal to the Lords of Council and Session, in obtaining a right to exist as a separate and independent society, "to communicate the Mason's word, and receive fees for the same."

For forty years the members of this new society went no farther in their Masonic working than the degree of Fellow Craft. On the 27th December, 1750, James Dick, Gilbert Duncan, and William McLean, members of the Lodge Journeymen, were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, in the parent Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, and these were the first Master Masons connected with the Journeymen. The fact that they and a large number of other Journeymen a short time afterwards were all raised without the payment of any fee, show that an entire reconciliation had by this time been effected between the two Lodges.

The founders of the Lodge Journeymen were evidently all Mark Masons. The marks of a considerable number of them are found in the records of the Lodge of Mary's Chapel—the Lodge in which they were all entered and passed, most of them towards the close of the seventeenth century. We give a few of their marks as a specimen:—



* "Erat autem species Gloria Domini quasi ignis Ardens."

William Brodie's



The Journeymen continued to maintain the operative character of their Lodge by admitting only one non-operative to eleven operatives, and this regulation was strictly enforced till within these few years. They appear all along to have practised Mark Masonry—a thing which was to be expected from a body of men sprung from the operative Lodge of Mary's Chapel, and belonging nearly all to the building art. The minutes of the Lodge being chiefly devoted to monetary transactions, very little is said in them regarding Mark Masonry till the year 1789. At that time it was found that some of the members had neglected to make themselves acquainted with this department of Masonry, and, therefore, they were enjoined to lose no time in submitting to initiation; and in order to identify it more closely with the Lodge, it was agreed that it should in time to come be placed under the direction of the Master and ordinary managers, and that the fees derived from initiations should go into the common fund of the Lodge. At the time referred to, Bro. J. McDonald held the office of Mark Master. He was an enlightened and zealous Mark Mason, and for his great services in initiating and instructing the brethren, received the thanks of the Lodge in 1790. It appears that it was through his zeal and attention that a more regular record of the marks of the members began to be kept than had hitherto been the case. The practice established by him has been kept up to the present time, and the result is that the Journeymen possess a roll of marks more extensive perhaps than any modern Craft Lodge in the kingdom. Bro. McDonald continued to fill the office of Mark Master for several years, and had for his Senior Overseer Bro. Peter Douglas; and his Junior Overseer, Bro. John Moir; two of the most distinguished Masons in the Lodge. In 1806, a special jewel was prepared for the Mark Master, and was worn by the brother who filled that office till 1822, when it, along with the other jewels and clothing of the Lodge, was forcibly taken from the Tyler in a street of the city as he was one evening carrying them home after a visitation to the Lodge St. James, and never was recovered. Three Mark jewels were afterwards provided, and these continue to be worn by the Mark Master, and his Senior and Junior Overseers.

The members of the Lodge Journeymen, are all, with few exceptions, Mark Masons. They have long held that Mark Masonry should form part of the Fellow Craft degree, and therefore on various occasions they have urged that it should be recognized as such by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. With this view they, in the beginning of last year, presented a memorial to the Grand Lodge, complaining that the Supreme Arch Chapter of Scotland had unwarrantably assumed the sole power to grant warrants to work Mark Masonry, and claiming protection in their ancient rights and privileges. The Grand Committee entertained the memorial with much cordiality and unanimity, and gave the following deliverance, viz. :—

“1. That the Grand Committee having taken into consideration the petition from the Lodge Journeymen, and the reasons adduced by Bro. Kerr in support of it, are of opinion that it has been proved to their satisfaction, that certain Lodges have worked the Mark Degree ever since their foundation, previous to the existence of the Grand Lodge, and have continued to do so to the present time.

“2. That the assumption by any other authority of the sole power to grant warrants for the working of Mark Masonry, is consequently an interference with the rights and privileges of Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

“3. That the Grand Lodge Committee recommend the Grand Lodge of Scotland to appoint a special committee to enter into communication with the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, and any other authority claiming of Scotch jurisdiction in Masonry,

to endeavour to come to some amicable and fraternal arrangement, and to report to next quarterly communication.”

At the quarterly communication, which took place on the 1st of February, 1858, some of the members of the Supreme Arch Chapter were disposed to cavil at the report of the Grand Committee, but it was adopted by a large majority, and the following brethren were appointed a special committee to carry its recommendation into effect, viz. : J. Whyte Melville, chairman; Andrew Kerr, William Hunter, John Duchar, Hector Gavin, James Finlayson, F. D. McCowan, and Samuel Sommerville.

This committee, we understand, has met, but we have not heard that anything has yet resulted from their proceedings. We may at a future period have occasion to make a few further remarks on this subject.

SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE sixth annual general meeting of this society was held on the 5th inst., at Richmond, and was attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen, members of the association, and their visitors. The chair was taken at eleven o'clock, in the large room of the National Schools in Eton-street, by Lord Abinger, the vice-president, and there were present during the proceedings of the day, Mr. Evelyn of Wootton; Rev. Harry Dupuis, Vicar of Richmond; Mr. Geo. Scharf, F.S.A.; Mr. H. G. Bohn; Mr. William Lambert; Rev. R. Burgh Byam, M.A.; Rev. H. Brancker; Rev. J. Chandler; Rev. C. Lushington, and a number of gentlemen well known in literary circles. The business of the day was commenced by the reading of the annual report of the council, to which were appended the balance sheet and the auditors' report; from these documents it appears that the progress of the society during the year has been highly satisfactory, a large number of new members having been added to the muster roll of the association, and its pecuniary resources largely increased. The present very efficient committee and local honorary secretaries were, with some slight alterations, re-elected, and the value of their services acknowledged; and at twelve o'clock the reading of the following papers was commenced :—

1. “Notices of the Family of Cobham, of Sterborough Castle, Lingfield, Surrey,” by John Wickham Flower, Esq. The subject was illustrated by a series of rubbings from some ancient sepulchral brasses in Lingfield Church. In the course of this paper Mr. Flower read some interesting extracts from old wills preserved in the archbishop's registry at Lambeth, which have never yet been published; in particular from those of Reginald the second Lord Cobham of Sterborough; of his mother, Joan, daughter of Maurice Lord Berkeley, and widow of that famous Lord Cobham, created a Knight of the Garter by Edward III., who led a division of the English army on the memorable day of Crècy, and under whose orders the Black Prince won his spurs upon that occasion. Among other passages in these documents is a bequest by the Lord Cobham of one hundred pounds, to be expended in masses and divine offices for the repose of the soul of his godmother, Philippa, Queen of Edward III.—as he expresses it, “*pur l'aine de ma très honorable commère, Dame Philippe, jadiz Reyne d'Angleterre*,” he also devised thirty pounds to purchase ten thousand masses for the repose of his own soul, to be performed immediately after his death “*en si brief tems comme ils pourroient estre faits*.” The will of Lady Cobham also contains many curious bequests of plate, jewels, and illuminated books, one of the latter is worked “*cum mortuato et genemyles*”; there is also a horn described as “*from a griffin's hoof*”—this has a gilt cover, upon which are engraven the arms of “*Barkele*” and Cobham.

2. “Notes from the Parish Registry of Richmond,” by William Henry Hart, Esq., F.S.A. Some very curious facts throwing light upon the customs of our forefathers, have been extracted by Mr. Hart from these registers. Among these we may notice the manner of interment of what were called “*chrism*” children, or infants deceased before the churching of the mothers, but who had been baptized; this was illustrated by the copy of a brass from Stoke Dabernham. In the year 1654, it was made legal for justices of the peace to perform the marriage ceremony without any ecclesiastical interference, and the Richmond register records several instances of such unions. After several other curious extracts from the Richmond registers, Mr. Hart passed to those of Kingston, which commence with the reign of Elizabeth, and contain a record of the various preachers in the parish church, with very quaint entries of burial and other sermons. Here are

also recorded the charitable gifts of the parish to individuals who had met with unforeseen misfortunes of various kinds. In 1572 was erected a new "cucking" or "ducking" stool, an institution for the disciplining of women who made too free use of their tongues; the operation of ducking being repeated as often as was considered necessary for the patient's cure—one Anne Downing for instance, was ducked three times "for that she was a common scold and fighter." Mr. Hart here exhibited an invention called the "scold's bridle," an iron frame to fit the head and confine the tongue with a kind of bit. The registers also contain a varied record of deaths by violence and misadventure. The register of Petersham acquires interest from its frequent allusion to Ham House and the former occupiers of that mansion, and its records of marriages and deaths in the Desart and Murray families, and among their dependents. A branch of the Surrey Archaeological Society has been established for the purpose of examining the parish registers, and the present paper has been the result. The thanks of the society were expressed to the clergy for the assistance they have rendered in these researches.

3. "On the Antiquities of Richmond," by Mr. William Chapman. Mr. Chapman observed, that Richmond possessed but few antiquities to strike the eye, but its history contains many highly interesting particulars. Although the ancient name "Sheen" is undoubtedly Saxon, there is no mention of it in Saxon records. Happily there are no records of great battles or dire calamities to give it a place in early history, and previously to the time of Henry VII., the name of Richmond did not exist in this part of the kingdom. In the time of Henry II., the manor of West Sheen belonged to the Wyndors family. Eventually it was purchased by Bernal, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who obtained from the reigning sovereign the right of free warren and other privileges. Edward III. died at Sheen, as did Anne, the queen of Richard II.; the latter monarch in his grief for her loss caused the whole of the buildings upon the manor to be rased to the ground. Henry IV. allowed Sheen to remain in this desolate condition, but Henry V. rebuilt the palace, and also established in that town the Carthusian monastery of Jesus of Bethlehem. The culminating point of the splendour of Sheen was in the reign of Henry VII., who gave it the name it now bears. In this reign the palace was entirely destroyed in three hours by a terrible fire; Henry rebuilt it in 1501, made it his favourite residence, and died there. Henry VIII. was more partial to Greenwich, and was little at Richmond; but for a short time Wolsey resided there, much to the disgust of the inhabitants, after his gift of Hampton Court to the king. Queen Elizabeth was very fond of Richmond, and died there. Charles I. was educated there, but after his death the palace was sold by order of the Commonwealth. A small portion of the building is still in existence.

The three papers were of highly interesting character, and were listened to throughout with great attention. The authors having received the thanks of the meeting, a similar vote to Lord Abinger, for his kindness in presiding, was moved by Mr. Evelyn, and carried with applause.

An interesting description of the ancient monuments in the parish church was then given, which had been drawn up by the Rev. W. Bashall, and the company proceeded to inspect the church and the surrounding grave-yard. The church is not of great antiquity, the oldest part being of the Tudor period only. Among the most striking monuments are several of the time of Charles I. and Charles II.; one in particular to the dissolute and infamous Brouncker, some time cofferer to Charles II. Among the modern tablets is one to the memory of several officers of the Guards who fell in the Crimea, erected by the Freemasons' Lodge at Richmond of which they all were members. The poet Thomson is buried in the north aisle; and the great Edmund Kean lies in the churchyard, where a tomb has been erected to his memory by his son.

At three o'clock Lord Abinger proceeded to open the temporary local museum, which was formed in the lecture hall of the new Cavalry College, by the permission of the commandant. His lordship very briefly recommended the collection to the notice of the visitors, observing that amongst such variety there must be surely something to suit all tastes. There were mediæval weapons, Indian guns, and Captain Cook's teakettle; every kind of old key to open old locks, and an autograph poem of Robert Burns to open the heart. He would not, however, detain them, for he had but small claims to the title of an antiquarian—though he might himself very properly be classed among the antiquities. Mr. Hart then proceeded with the *catalogue raisonné* of the collection, which among various objects deserving careful examination, comprised a number of ancient seals and seal-rings;

a spoon and a fork of Sir Walter Raleigh; some old time-pieces; many valuable coins; some beautiful specimens of Roman glass; various old monuments and leases; specimens of illuminated missals, and early book-binding; numerous rubbings from ancient brasses, plaster casts from old monuments; and an excellent selection of rare autographs, and some very curious autograph letters, especially one from Flora Macdonald acknowledging the receipt of £1,500 for the services rendered to Charles Edward Stuart, thus setting at rest that disputed question.

An account was given by Mr. Wright, of the excavations now being carried on at Wroxeter, near Shrewsbury, in which a buried Roman city, "Uriconium," like another Pompeii, has, through his exertions, been exposed, after ages of forgotten burial, to the light of day and the research of modern investigation. This able antiquary has already succeeded in tracing two of the streets of the little town, with their paved causeways in perfect preservation, and composed of close set, small, angular stones, exactly resembling the rough paving still met with in so many of our villages and quaint, old-fashioned towns. Besides these, he has clearly made out a double row of shops, with the *débris* or remains of the original occupiers' calling still remaining.

It has long been a matter of belief among antiquaries that mineral coal was known to the Romans, especially in this country. The discoveries made by Mr. Wright at Uriconium have set this matter beyond dispute, as quantities of coal have been found mixed with wood and charcoal, both in the shops and holocausts investigated in the ruins. That some fearful calamity of fire and sword, some sudden and overwhelming irruption of the Picts and Scots, or hostile tribes of Welch Britons, burst upon the little colonial town and destroyed it in one savage onslaught, is made evident by the ruins of the chief public building and the position and character of the human bones found within its precincts; for, with only one exception, the remains are all those of women and children, clearly showing that the male population had mustered in some other part of the city to meet the invaders, while the women fled to the prefecture or chief building of the town for safety, and as the foe approached hid themselves in vaults, and even in the holocausts, where great numbers were found, and where, before the enemy could reach them, no doubt many were burnt or suffocated. An infant's skeleton was found by itself in the court yard, and the only male remains, were those of a very old man, crouching in a vault, holding in his bony fingers a box containing many hundred coins. The only other tenant of this living grave had been a woman, who, probably, unknown to the miser, had secreted herself in an opposite corner. Mr. Wright has, also, by these investigations demonstrated the fact that the Roman dwellings in this island were in many instances tiled with slates, as vast numbers of them were found among the ruins. Not the least interesting discovery, however, was the certainty afforded that the houses had glass windows. The specimens of glass exhibited, and of which large quantities were strown all along the ruins, prove that glass windows were in use in this country a thousand years before it was supposed to have been known in northern Europe. It is Mr. Wright's intention shortly to publish a full account of his explorations.

At six o'clock the members of the association and their friends re-assembled at the Castle Hotel, where an elegant collation, and the music of a military band, terminated a very delightful day.

D.

THE HUMAN HAND.—The most powerful imagination can scarcely conceive anything of which the hand is incapable. It aided the savage of old in the mountain chase, hunting for his daily bread, equally with the discoverer of the sextant and goniometer. It worked its way for the Carthaginians through the flinty Alps; shaped lake Mæros and the pyramids of Egypt; reared the temples of Athens and their divine statuary; peopled the world with cities; formed canals that connected seas; bore aloft Babylon, with its hanging gardens, and its towers that were stronger than the Tigris: and descending to humbler but not less useful purposes, it disdains not to upturn with hard labour the stubborn glebe, and to weave the constant toil of commerce, so that our fields abound with the green grass and golden fruit, and our seas are whitened with the sails of our ships, and shook with the rush of their prows. And to the hand, as it is now formed, do we trust to all that art and science shall effect for the future. To the end of all time, and amid all the mighty improvements of centuries, do we trust to this simple organ for our advancement, happiness, and prosperity. This small flexible assemblage of bone, tendon, ligament, muscle, nerves, arteries, veins, and other tissues, is what we trust to:—this hand, that is both flexible and strong, graceful though powerful, almost fully capable even when maimed and injured, and ever the instrument of the mind to fulfil its loftiest and most daring efforts.—*John Walker Ord.*

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR MALE ANNUITANTS.
 TABLE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE COMMENCEMENT IN 1842 TO 31st MARCH, 1859, REFERRED TO IN OUR LEADING ARTICLE.

	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	TOTAL
Grand Lodge	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	6858 6 8
Grand Chapter	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	1400
Donations from Lodges, Chapters, and Individuals	1263 10	251 1 10	220 18	134 8	183 12	885 1 6	135 11	244 1	371 18 6	641 14	641 14	291 2	99 6	41 15 6	73 18 3	852 11	21049 16 6	6386 11 3
Annual Subscriptions	264 7 6	215 12	360 8	486 10 6	625 16 6	641 14	622 4	567 4	716 9 6	810 15	633 8	728 5 6	618 3	553 3 6	331 4	487 11	782 1	9474 6
Dividends	13 2 2	62 8 8	56 19 7	84	97 5 8	126 8 2	154 1 6	170 17 2	178 10	196 10	209 0 9	218 13 10	240 9 8	246 19 8	250 8 6	295 14 3	315 15	2905 4
Legacy, Mr. Crawford															18			18
Special Vote of Grand Lodge															1000			1000
	£1966 8 8	944 2 6	6106 5	71129 18	61406 14	22253 3	81441 16	61382 2	1766 18	1069 1	1588 3	91798 1	1457 18	1341 18	2173 10	92133 5	62715 19 2	28242 7 11

DISBURSEMENTS.—

	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	TOTAL
Stock in 3 per Cents*	£1800	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	11530
Purchase of Stock	1769 7 6	395 10	399	235 10	480	1329 7 6	335 10	347 18 10	568 1 8	490	388 5	413 9	400 12 6	213 5	1060 0	782 19 1	1200 15	10858 6 1
Annuitants		305	466	230	671 5	823 10	918 10	874 5	898	1024 15	1029 5	1025	1016 15	983	887 5	905 15	905 15	13214 10
Salaries		69 1 3	55 5	76 7 6	85	85	85	85	113 11 4	110	110	110	110	110	108 15	104	104	1521 0 1
Solaries Asylum									5 10	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	159
Collectors' Commission		17 5 9	18 15 6	26 10 9	34 2	41 5	32 2	33	38 2 6	40 13 3	36 11 3	34 4 9	38 12 3	29 11 9	15 1	41 7 3	38 8 6	505 3 6
Printing and Books		46 2	12 12	35 10	35 8 9	50 19	51 16	45 11 6	50 3 9	59 6 8	54 14 1	50 11	32 12	47 10 9	6 6	21 14 9	34 12 3	624 10 3
Postage, Advertisements, & Petty Disbursements		30	29 16 5	33 6 1	22 11 10	29 6 11	35 16 11	36 0 6	39 3 9	36 6	30 6 9	39 3 5	39 19 9	29 13 1	24 2 6	30 6 9	25 7 9	635 11 4
Powers of Attorney		2 5							2 3		6 13 6		2 15	25 13				10 19 6
Insurance of Asylum																		28 8
Water rate, 2 yrs. do.																		8 8
Fine, for surveying do.									26 5									26 5
Fitting proportion of new Wing																		43 14 1
Furniture																		16 10
Deed of Release to the Marquis of Salisbury																		14 4 6
	£1739 7 6	865 8 5	984 18 7	71076 10	13299 4	82959 2	51458 14	111421 15	1081 0 9	1681 0 11	1755 10	74691 8	21721 6	61458 13	72079 9	61887 12	102885 5 1	27367 10 4

* These figures represent the amount of Stock purchased in each year, for the sums stated in the following line.

Balance as per Auditors' Report, to 31st March, 1859..... £ 28242 7 11

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR FEMALE ANNUITANTS.

TABLE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE COMMENCEMENT IN 1849 TO THE 31st MARCH, 1859.

RECEIPTS.—

	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	TOTAL
Grand Lodge	150	100	100	100	100	200	200	200	258 6 8	1408 6 8
Grand Chapter	26 5	35	35	35	115 7	35	35	35	50	336 5
Donations—Lodges, Chapters, and Individuals	535 8	25 19	30 17	335 15 6	98 3 6	152 4	166 4 6	741 17 6	667 2	2525 15
Annual Subscriptions	43 3	25 19	30 17	80 5	30 18 3	28 4 2	39 3 8	193 9 6	291 4	1021 9 6
Dividends		18 18 9	22 10 1	23 6 7	30 18 3	28 4 2	39 3 8	63 3	83 5	319 9 6
Special Vote of Grand Lodge							500			500
	£754 16	214 17 9	213 7 1	574 7 1	379 8 9	449 13 2	936 8 2	1348 16	1349 17 8	6111 5 8

DISBURSEMENTS.—

	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	TOTAL
Stock in 3 per Cents*	550	200	45 3 2		400	111 6 5	646 9	747 1 5	850	3450
Purchase of Stock	532 18 9	196	45 3 2		408 10	102 11	500 14 7	653 12 8	816 2 6	3236 14 11
Annuitants	16 10	22 11	22 0 6	22	22	22	273 15	336 5	487 10	2763 15
Salaries							3 12 6	20 10 9	22	102 5
Collectors' Commission							1 11 6	15 1 3	24	65 5
Printing and Books							6 0 7	13 8 2	20	102 12 4
Postage, Advertisements, & Petty Disbursements							6 0 7	13 8 2	20	83 2 1
Powers of Attorney										25 13 11
Insurance										25 13 11
	£564 4 3	395 16 1	309 2 9	229 2 2	648 11 11	485 8 2	860 14 7	1082 17 10	1981 17 3	5815 14 10

* These figures represent the amount of Stock purchased in each year, for the sums stated in the following line.

Balance as per Auditors' Report to 31st March, 1859..... £ 28242 7 11

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

PROVINCIAL GRAND PAINTER.

Was such an office as that of Grand Painter ever recognized by the constitutions of the Order, and, if so, when was it abolished?

The following curious notice of a prospective appointment of such an officer is supplied by the minutes of a meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Leicestershire, held on June 18th, 1793, under the presidency of the Rev. William Peters, D. Prov. G.M.:

"Bro. Phipps was invested as Grand Architect. . . . The R. W. Prov. Grand Master [Thomas Boothby Parkyns, M.P., afterwards the first Lord Ranelagh] having heard much of the virtues and abilities of Mr. Smith, jun., the son of Bro. Smith, who is not yet a Mason, but it is probable will be one, was pleased to reserve a blue apron for him, as Grand Painter, and it was accordingly delivered into the hands of Bro. Hodges, S.G.W., in order to the investiture of Mr. Smith after his initiation."

The last appointment to the office was made in the year 1816.—Wm. KELLY, D. Prov. G.M., Leicestershire.

GRAND ARCHITECT.

The above extract shows, that at the same period a Grand Architect was appointed. Noorthouck's edition of the "Constitutions," 1784, p. 360, after giving a list of "the proper officers of Grand Lodge," states in a note—"At present there is also a Grand Architect; but this is a personal compliment to Mr. Sandby, as designer of Freemasons' Hall, and no stated office; see p. 317." When was the office made a permanent one, and when was its designation changed to that of "Grand Superintendent of Works?"—Wm. KELLY, D. Prov. G.M., Leicestershire. [The present possessor is Bro. S. W. Daukes, who succeeded Bro. Philip Hardwick. His predecessor was Bro. Sir John Soane, who long held the office.]

BRO. THOMAS SANDBY.

Bro. Thomas Sandby, B.A., was of the family of Sandby of Babworth, and was born at Nottingham, in 1721. He distinguished himself by the preparation of a new system of perspective. He then applied himself to the arts, and coming to London, was, in 1743, appointed draughtsman to the chief engineer in Scotland, and served during the rebellion of 1745, and in Flanders on the staff of the Duke of Cumberland. In 1746, he was made deputy ranger of Windsor Great Park, and afterwards architect to the king; and in 1754 planned Virginia Water. Of these works he published eight folio plates. In 1755, he assisted in the foundation of an academy of arts; in 1766, joined the Society of Incorporated Artists; and, in 1768, was one of the original Royal Academicians, and Professor of Architecture from 1768 until 1798. Of these lectures the MS. was presented by John Britton to the Royal Institute of British Architects. In 1775, he designed and built Freemasons' Hall, as above stated. He died on the 25th of June, 1798, aged seventy-six, and was buried at Old Windsor. Many of his drawings are in the British Museum, and in the museum founded by his successor, Sir John Soane. See his memoirs, in the English Encyclopædia. His brother, Paul Sandby, was also a Royal Academician.

It is worth inquiring—To what Lodge did Thomas Sandby belong? and the particulars of his connexion with Masonry. What is the inscription on his tomb? Was Paul Sandby a Mason? What was the connexion between Sandby and Soane?

GRAND LODGE, 1732.

The meeting of the Grand Lodge, held on the 19th April, 1732, at Merchant Taylors' Hall, attracted the attention of the public journals of the day. Lord Viscount Montagu was installed Grand Master; Thomas Batson, Deputy Grand Master; George Rooke, Senior Grand Warden; and James Smyth, Junior Grand Warden.

It is noticeable, and I think has been referred to in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, that the meetings of Grand Lodge, until the building of the Hall in Great Queen-street, were only exceptionally held in taverns, but were held in the halls of the public companies.—HYDE CLARKE.

ROSE CROIX.

A Worshipful Master asks, whether it is indispensable for the Rose Croix degree that the candidate must have been installed First Principal in a Royal Arch Chapter. [It is not necessary in this country, or under any constitutions of the Rose Croix, although the possession of the Royal Arch degree, or service in the chair of a Chapter, would be an additional claim to promotion, on the ground of Masonic proficiency or service.]

THE ANTEDILUVIAN MASONIC PILLARS. "LATRES."

In the British Museum (Harl. MSS., 1942) is a manuscript on the subject of Freemasonry, a copy of which, in a hand of the last century is now before me. It is entitled "The Beginning and first Foundation of the most worthy Craft of Masonry, with the Charges thereto belonging." After stating that the four children of Lamech, Jabal, Jubal, Tubal Cain, and Naamah "found out the beginning of all the crafts in the world," it proceeds to record that "These children knew that God would take vengeance for sin, either by fire or water; therefore they wrote their sciences that they had found out on two pillars, that they might be found after Noah's flood. One of the pillars was marble, which will not burn with any fire, and the other pillar or stone was called *Latres*, which will not drown in any water."

My friend, Mr. Halliwell, quoting the MS. in the introduction to his "Early History of Freemasonry in England," gives the word as "Latres," and refers to the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, vol. iii., pp. 288-295; and adds, that the earliest copy he has met with is in MS. Lansd. 98, No. 48, written about 1600." On turning to the *Review*, where the MS. is printed in *extenso*, (varying, however, in some respects from my copy), I find that the word is there also given as "Latres," with the following note, by Bro. H. Phillips, of musical celebrity:—"What the literal meaning of this word is, I cannot discover; no doubt it had allusion to some floating substance." Can you, Mr. Editor, or any of your scientific or architectural readers, throw any light on the probable meaning and derivation of the word?—Wm. KELLY, D. Prov. G.M., Leicestershire.

[We have not the least doubt that the MS. in question, so far from being of the year 1600, as supposed by Mr. Halliwell, is not more than 130 years old, and we are of this opinion, first, from internal evidence, and next, from the doctrines being of the period we have assigned. We cannot determine the word, or its meaning. The MS., modern as it is, is of interest, because, as Bro. Kelly is most probably aware, it refers to various doctrines and ceremonies prevalent in the last century.]

SUFFOLK PROVINCE.

In the last number of the "Masonic Missions," there is an account given of Masonry in Suffolk, which is incorrect as to the year 1838, as then Bro. Reade, of Holbrook, was installed Provincial Grand Master, who appointed—

- Bro. Bullen, of No. 131, Ipswich, D. Prov. G.M.
- Bro. Green, of No. 131, Ipswich, S.G.W.
- Bro. Head, of No. 96, J.G.W.
- Bro. Jones, of No. 277, G. Treas.
- Bro. W. Grimsey, of No. 131, Ipswich, G. Sec.
- Bro. Martin, of No. 131, Ipswich, S.G.D.
- Bro. Ruddock, of No. 131, Ipswich, J.G.D.
- Bro. Catchpole, of No. 131, Ipswich, G. Registrar.
- Bro. Mason, of No. 131, Ipswich, J.G.W.
- Bro. W. R. G. Key, of No. 131, Ipswich, G. Dir. of Cers.
- Bro. Forster, of No. 131, Ipswich, G. Organist.
- Bro. Beales, of No. 383, G.S.B.
- Bro. Schuler, of No. 272, G. Pursuivant.
- Bro. Burch, of No. 131, Ipswich, G. Tyler.
- Bro. Horton, of No. 84, Grand Steward.
- Bro. Deck, of No. 131, "
- Bro. Head, of No. 522, "
- Bro. Gosling, of No. 522, "
- Bro. Scott, of No. 131, "
- Bro. Kersey, of No. 417, "

After installation, the brethren went in procession to the church of "St. Mary, Tower," and the Rev. H. Ledger, B.A., preached a sermon for the benefit of the County Hospital.—W. R. G. KEY.

BATH MASONIC HALL.

Can any brother furnish an account, either extracted from journals or newspapers of the time, or from recollection, of the consecration by the M.W.G.M., the Duke of Sussex, of the Masonic Hall, York-street, Bath, together with the names of the officers in attendance on the occasion? I have heard that the day's proceedings were most grand and imposing, and I believe constitute the "great event" in the annals of Bath Freemasonry.—A.

THE CHIEF BUTLER AT THE SOVEREIGN'S CORONATION.—This office is held by the Lord Mayor for the time being, and his appointment to it is coeval with, or even anterior to, the institution of the mayoralty itself *eo nomine*. For at the coronation of Richard I., in 1189, we find the chief magistrate of London, under the title of *bailliff*, officiating as chief butler.—*City Press*.

MASONRY IN TURKEY.

THE following circular has been issued from the Grand Secretary's office:—

WORSHIPFUL MASTER.—I am directed to inform you that there are several Lodges meeting at Smyrna which have been formed in an irregular manner, and which are not in possession of warrants emanating from any duly constituted Masonic authority.

From information laid before the Grand Lodge, it appears that during the late war with Russia an officer in one of her Majesty's regiments, who was said to be in possession of a warrant formerly belonging to an Irish Lodge, initiated several persons at Smyrna; and that having so initiated a certain number, he formed them into three Lodges, which three Lodges then assumed the title of "The Grand Lodge of Turkey."

It appears also that several persons who have been thus initiated have subsequently applied to be admitted as joining members of Lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, and that in a few instances they have been received, in consequence of the Lodge affiliating them, not being cognizant of the irregular formation of the Smyrna Lodges (I am informed that brethren so admitted could not be registered in the Grand Lodge books).

To prevent other Lodges being placed in a like position of difficulty, and to avoid any countenance being given, through inadvertence, to these irregular Lodges, it was, on motion duly made at the Special Grand Lodge held on the 23rd day of June last, resolved:—"That the Worshipful Masters of all regular Lodges be cautioned against receiving persons claiming admission, either as visitors or joining members, on the ground of their having been initiated in such irregular Lodges at Smyrna." And you are hereby strictly enjoined not to admit any person so initiated even to visit your Lodge, still less to receive him as a joining Member, and you are to cause this notice to be read in your Lodge, and recorded in your minutes.

By order of the United Grand Lodge,

W. M. GRAY CLARKE, Grand Sec.

Freemasons' Hall, London, July 2nd, 1859.

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

Local Etymology: A Derivative Dictionary of Geographical Names. By RICHARD STEPHEN CHARNOCK, F.S.A.

The taste for archaeological and antiquarian studies, has certainly been developed to a remarkable extent of late years. Formerly the discussion of these and similar subjects was confined to the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine* and the almost invariably ponderous and dry volumes which were the fruits of the learned leisure of retired minor canons and studious country gentlemen. Thanks, however, to the general and growing taste for reading, the spread of education, and the acquisition of a smattering of knowledge in the various branches of the arts and sciences, which (whatever Pope may say to the contrary), has not seldom produced a craving for greater and more substantial participation in the power derived from knowledge—thanks also to cheap printing, cheap newspapers, and the removal of postal and other governmental hindrances to the free interchange of ideas—the number of inquirers in these as well as other departments of historical learning has increased to a wonderful extent; this result has been assisted also by the establishment of local branches of the elder learned societies, and by the formation of new bodies, having for their object the pursuit of studies, formerly considered trivial, but which the concentrated attention of their devotees, applied upon system, has elevated into real importance. Among the worthy emulators and contemporaries of the *Gentleman's Magazine's* antiquarian and literary researches, *Notes and Queries* has achieved a wide spread and well deserved reputation; the *Illustrated London News*, and other newspapers, have also devoted a portion of their space to the same object; and we ourselves have occasionally touched upon those and similar points—a feature in the *Magazine* which we think has been appreciated by our readers, and one which, as space permits, we shall still further develop.

The value of national and local etymology, in a historical point of view, is undoubted, and the increased care that has been bestowed upon its examination of late years, has contributed not a little to clear up disputed facts, to settle historical controversies, and even to remove ancient and time honoured falsifications and prejudices. The interchange of newly acquired information by means of the corresponding and other literary societies of the present day, leads to friendly discussions which prevent their members from a continuance in the old established groove in which the solitary student is too apt to become settled; and hence the works which are day by day brought before the notice of the historical inquirer, possess a real value, and contribute to the flood of light

by which the readers of the present century are enabled to contemplate the history of past ages.

Mr. Charnock's volume cannot fail to interest that class of readers whose opinions, doubtless, he will most regard—those who seek for information. In the comparatively small compass of one octavo volume i.e. has brought together a mass of facts and authorities for derivations, which will afford substantial food for the student, and matter for the discriminating critic. More profound works are to be found, as plentiful as blackberries, but few readers will deny that they have been interested in the one under notice—and that, as we take it, will satisfy the writer. At the same time that we are giving the author credit for the production of an agreeable volume, we should be sorry if that particular recommendation from us should deteriorate his honest and most satisfactory labour in the estimation of a single student. Mr. Charnock has brought together information which must have involved a surprising amount of research into old volumes and crumbed manuscripts, some musty, and others whose hitherto undiscovered treasures may have proved an unexpected reward to their disinterrer.

Compilation, of course, becomes the chief element in a work of this description, and our author honestly acknowledges those sources to which he is indebted. Some of the pundits whom he has consulted may possibly differ in opinion as to the particular antiquities of which they treat; and Mr. Charnock deserves very great praise for the judicious way in which he has adapted the sifting process to the materials before him. The book is not a thick one (some three hundred pages only), for which mercy, this sultry weather, we sincerely thank this most considerate of archaeologists—and from our own dabbings in that pursuit, we can speak of the Ciceronian fascinations of the science. But though of a pardonable bulk, our author's matter is of a satisfactory quality, and whether we wish for information as to the nomenclature of our native town, of the spot upon which our earliest sonnet was penned, or our first vows poured into the ear of our first sweetheart; where our first cricket match was won, or where the colours of our regiment were triumphantly borne in the far east; where science may have led us; where the purest wishes for the present and future welfare of our fellow men may have guided the missionary footsteps of well-beloved brothers; wherever the enterprize and gallantry of British mariners has penetrated—in the work before us it will be strange indeed if we do not find some singular derivation propounded for the nomenclature of the honoured spot—some fact unknown before connected with its well worn English name, or the confirmation or demolition of some preconceived theory upon the original growth of the much quoted name.

In our examination of the present volume, we have been compelled to award to the compiler the credit of an extensive range of subjects. From Jack Straw's Castle to Sebastopol—from Berlin to Tartarus, we must candidly acknowledge that we have learnt something new and valuable as to each respective locality. Some of our most favourite notions are completely upset by Mr. Charnock's more or less logical deductions, and we are free to confess that by his aid we begin to have a faint glimmering of the real meaning (philosophically considered) of some few of the most commonly known names in the English tongue. "Brum-magen" thus is clearly shown to be old English, instead of Cockney.

"Birmingham," says our author, "is found written Bermyngham, Berningham; in the Letters Patent of Edw. VI., Brymyngham, and in other old writings Brumwycheham. Dugdale says the general opinion seems to be that the 'appellation *Berming*' was originally taken from some ancient owner or planter there in the Saxons' time." Others assert that the original spelling was '*Brum-wich-ham*,' (A.S.) i.e. 'the broom-place dwelling;' in allusion to the natural growth of the shrub termed broom on its site; and, indeed, there are two places in the neighbourhood called Bromwich. This latter etymology agrees with the vulgar pronunciation, '*Brum-micham*.' See Smith, *Hist. Warw.*"

We can safely recommend this book to those of our brethren who possess the enviable privilege of literary leisure; and while we are confident that most of its items may be digested with comfort and profit, we are free to confess that the work possesses negative advantages in its capabilities for stirring up the bile, and giving a healthy impulse to the too sluggish current of the blue or purple vital fluid of some respected and most worthy critics of our acquaintance, whose stock of knowledge is of so great amplitude as to overflow in most strongly expressed opinion of all those who write or speak in opposition to themselves. Some of the authors quoted by our author cannot but be considered antagonistic upon some minor points, but great care is exhibited throughout in the selection of the various illustrations of the names of

well known places; Mr. Charnock has accumulated a large amount of grain, while he has carefully rejected all extraneous chaff.

To give anything like a detailed account of the contents of such a miscellaneous work is of course impossible; we can only, therefore, spare the necessary space for a few extracts by way of illustration; and to the inhabitants of London we think that some quotations from Mr. Charnock may possess the charm of novelty. Puffing lincndrapers, for instance, who have their "all-rounders" and "Piccadilly collars" to recommend to the notice of the London gent, little know, perhaps, how well founded is the designation of the latter garment. Of Piccadilly, Mr. Charnock says:—

"Where Sackville street was built stood Piccadilla Hall, where *piccadillas* or turnovers were sold, which gave name to the street." (*Pennant*.) A turnover is the name of the broad flat white linen band falling from the neck over the jacket, which succeeded in Cromwell's time to the ruffs of the preceding reigns. 'A pickadil,' says Blount, 'is that round hem or the several divisions set together about the skirt of a garment or other thing; also a kind of stiff collar made in fashion of a band; hence, perhaps, the famous ordinary near St. James's, called Pickadilly, took denomination, because it was then the utmost or skirt house of the suburbs.' Others say that 'one Higgins, a tailor, who built it, got most of his estate by pickadilles, which in the last age were much worn in England.' 'The word *picardill*,' says Cunningham, 'occurs in Ben Jonson and several of our old dramatic writers.' According to Gifford, it is a dim. of *picca* (Sp. and It.) a spearhead, and was given to this article of foppery from a fancied resemblance of its stiffened plaits to the bristled points of a spear."

Lamb's Conduit-street, and Lothbury, commend themselves to our notice from different points of taste, savoury and unsavoury. A pastoral air pervades the former, and a cool breath of babbling fountains and watercresses. Our author says:—

"The *Old English Herbal*, speaking of winter rocket or cresses, says, 'It groweth of its own accord in gardens and fields by the wayside in divers places, and particularly in the next pasture to the Conduit Head, behind Gray's Inn, that brings water to Mr. Lamb's conduit in Holborn.' 'The fields around Lamb's Conduit formed a favourite promenade for the inhabitants of St. Andrew's Holborn and St. Giles in the Fields. They were first curtailed in 1714, by the formation of a new burying ground for the parish of St. George's, Bloomsbury, and again in 1739, by the erection of the Foundling Hospital. The conduit was taken down in 1746.' (*Cunningham's London*.) At the north end of Lamb's Conduit-street is a tavern, which formerly had for its sign a 'lamb!'"

Lothbury, on the other hand (delightful locality to those who have cheques to cash on the London and Westminster Bank—and equally disagreeable to others who have small bills to take up at the same *comptoir*), is not so favourably spoken of by our author's authorities.

"Stow, speaking of one of the city wards, says 'of the antiquities to be named therein are these:—First, the street of Lothberie, Lathberie, or Loadberie (for by all these names have I read it) took the name, as it seemeth, of *berie*, a court of old time there kept, but by whom is grown out of memory. This street is possessed for the most part by founders, that cast candlesticks, chafing-dishes, spice mortars, and such like copper and laton works, and do afterwards turn them with the foot, and not with the wheel, to make them smooth and bright, making a *loathsome* noise, to the by-passers, that have not been used to the like, and therefore by them disdainfully called Lothberie.' Lothbury may have been originally called Latonbury. The word *latone*, now *latten*, was a term used in the middle ages for a fine kind of brass, or copper very much resembling brass, used for making crosses, candlesticks, &c.; from Fr. *leton* or *laton*, D. *latoen*, Arm. *latoon*."

Leaving our native country with all its eccentricities of topographical nomenclature (most of which are well worth inquiring into), we proceed under the guidance of our local etymologist to explore the secret of the appellations of some of those lands and cities with which the course of events has made us familiar of late. Balaklava is a name that few Englishmen can think of without shuddering, and hereupon we think, is an observation which has been a little too hastily incorporated.

"Balaklava (Crimea). The Genoese founded the little town at the bottom of the haven, and built the fort on the adjoining cliff. The name is corrupted from It. *bella chiave*, beautiful quay; an appellation which it well deserves."

Of the famed Malakoff, an agreeable story is quoted from a French source:—

"Some ten years ago, a sailor and ropemaker, named Alexander Ivanovitch Malakoff, lived in Sebastopol, and by his good humour, jovial habits, and entertaining qualities, became the centre of a select circle of admiring companions. Like many great conversationalists and wits, Malakoff contracted most intimate relations with Bacchus, and, under the influence of the latter, he participated, in 1831, in some riots which broke out in the town, and which had one result—that of the dismissal of Malakoff from the dockyard in which he was employed. Being inca-

pable of turning himself to any more reputable trade, he opened a low wine-shed on a hill outside of the town, and introduced into practice the theoretical notions which he had acquired by a long and zealous study of the nature of beer houses and wine shops. His trade prospered, his old admirers crowded round him, and in their enthusiasm christened the wine shed—which soon expanded into a decent public-house—and the hill on which it was built, by the name of the popular host. In time a village grew around the public-house, and was likewise called by the name of Malakoff. But the entertaining and imaginative founder of the place, in his deepest cups, could never have dreamt that one day his name would be in the mouths of all men, and that one of the heroes of a great war would esteem it as an inestimable title of honour."

We are tempted to linger further over this very agreeable, valuable, and suggestive volume, but our space is limited, and we must draw our remarks to a close. The work is not perfect (what scientific treatise is?) but it will be studied with profit and pleasure, and laid down by the student without fatigue, and with a feeling of regret that there is not more of it; and in saying this we have paid the author no unmerited compliment—for we speak from experience—we have ourselves derived refreshment, amusement, and information from these pages. quaintness occasionally predominates too much in the quotations given from authorities, to the prejudice of more substantial facts—there are other minor defects which seem to indicate something of haste in the compilation of the work; but still we are glad to welcome Mr. Charnock as an able and agreeable contributor to our stock of archaeological knowledge, and we trust that the success of his present work may be such as to induce him to give to the world the fruit of his more mature thought and labour. D.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

"THE OBSERVER PARTY."

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As an active member of the Craft I have been asked by several brethren whether I belonged to the so-called "Observer Party," and if not, why not?

My reply has expressed convictions shared by very many hard working but silent bees in the hive of Masonry, and therefore I venture to repeat the reasons in your columns:

1st. Because all parties or cliques of Masons are unconstitutional, and properly so.

2ndly. Because as an impartial witness as regards questions at issue between the "Observer Party," and the constituted authorities, I have noticed that some great Masonic principle has been violated by that "party" in every step it has taken.

3rdly. Because the "party" is disunited in itself, and some Herodian member is continually complaining of being out Heroded by another member.

4thly. Because if the "party" were to obtain for the Craft all the advantages it pretends to contend for, those benefits would be counterbalanced by the evil example shown by its leaders in malignity, discontent, recklessness of manner and argument, and unmanly insinuation.

A variety of circumstances renders it impossible for me ever to take office in Grand Lodge, even if I were known to the authorities there, which is not the case; but I am equally certain that I would rather be a doorkeeper there than the president of so pernicious a combination as that which takes the *Observer* for its name.

I implore every Brother who loves Masonry to stand aloof from these oppositionists, and remain,

Dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
O. P. Q.

THE GRAND OFFICERS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As I have the interests of our Order very sincerely at heart, and consequently feel deeply the inconsistency and absurdity of too many of the appointments to Grand office which we have lately witnessed, I have read with much interest another letter from "P. M." which appeared in the last number of your *Magazine*, and agree with him in the ex-

pediency of the members of Grand Lodge selecting a portion of their rulers. It seems to me that this is the only course by which we can remedy the evil, because in the first place no favouritism could be shown, and no brother would get an appointment unless he well deserved it; or, at all events if he did so, it would be more an exception than the rule as it is at present. And in the next place brethren would take more trouble to qualify themselves for office than they do now, because they would know that they had the same chance as their fellows, and that, provided they displayed sufficient ability and Masonic knowledge, no office in Grand Lodge would be closed against them. Depend upon it, sir, if this system were adopted we should soon have a different state of things throughout the Craft. Brethren would not then think themselves entitled to Grand office merely on account of their social position, or because they were on terms of intimacy or friendship with the ruling powers; but would strive for that which might then really be considered an honour instead of a reward for want of merit, which it too often is now.

Unfortunately, too, the example of Grand Lodge is contagious, and Provincial Grand Lodges, as well as private Lodges, think themselves perfectly justified in appointing brethren to office whose only qualification for such appointment (except their social position) is their unfitness; but if they found that Grand Lodge made no appointments, except really good ones, a spirit of emulation would prompt them "to go and do likewise," and we should be then spared the anomaly which we too often witness of seeing a W. M. in the chair (by whom we are supposed to be instructed), who can neither open nor close his Lodge in the three degrees!

The time will come when these matters will find their proper footing, and when Masonic theory and practice will, in some degree at all events, assimilate; but I am afraid unless some alteration takes place very shortly we shall have to still designate this good time as "looming in the future."

In recommending the election of some portion of the Grand officers by Grand Lodge itself, I am aware a great part of the patronage would be taken from the M.W. Grand Master; but in order that he might still have the authority to which he is entitled as the head of the Craft, I would suggest that he should have the right of approving or disapproving of any brother so elected if he pleased; and also that the Grand Lodge should only have the privilege of electing the Grand Wardens, Grand Secretary, and Assistant Grand Secretary, the other appointments remaining as now in the hands of the M.W. Grand Master. This would also relieve the M.W.G.M. of much unpleasantness, and be the means of getting "the right men in the right places," for who could so well know the merits of any individual Brother as those with whom he was constantly brought in contact?

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
W. H. COLE, P.M. No. 996, and D.C. No. 32.

London, 25th June, 1859.

MASONIC LITERATURE.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Having seen in this day's issue of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, a letter signed "H. Garrod, No. 11," in which that brother strongly urges the support of Bro. Binckes's proposition, to be brought before Grand Lodge, recommending a search among the MSS. in the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, "and other places," as likely to be of great service to the history of Freemasonry by disinterring the valuable stores of material supposed to be accumulated in those repositories, and placing them before the Craft in an accessible form—perhaps you will permit me to trespass a little on your space, and show that a more chimerical fallacy never entered the brain of man.

Disclaiming all intention of being egotistical, I am afraid offence may be taken at the following detail; but even at that risk I feel it is due to my less informed brethren to place before them the actual facts of the case; and how very little there is to be gathered from the British Museum and the Bodleian Libraries. The "other places," so vaguely defined by Bro. Garrod, I must confess to be beyond my ken.

Owing to a love of antiquity, an acquaintance with one of the most erudite (although I think mistaken) men of the nineteenth century, the late Godfrey Higgins; and having, as a choir boy, been several times admitted to sing at Masonic banquets, a spirit of inquiry was stirred within me, and when I became admissible by age, I applied for, and obtained, an admission to the reading-room of the British Museum, and have since visited almost every library of note in this country. Joining to my own profession the unthankful, but more profitable, occupation which Dr. John-

son termed "a bookseller's hack," when other work was slack—my researches, commenced about twenty years since and carried down to the present moment, took me regularly into the subject of Freemasonry, and long before I was initiated I had commenced collecting the titles of all works I could see, or hear of, touching on that science. This has grown steadily, larger and larger year by year and, in round numbers, I have about eight hundred entries as to Masonic books and references to works in which Freemasonry is mentioned; and I have, either wholly or in part, read about three hundred books on the subject, from the smallest catchpenny to the most voluminous treatise. But with all this reading I was far from satisfied: I was known, and employed, as a transcriber of rare and curious MS., and what so natural that I should set a great value on discovering any early MS. that treated of the subject? I felt that any one could read printed books, but I knew that few, very few, can decipher the quaint handwriting of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, and could I hit upon such a treasure my reward would, as I thought, be proportionably great; so to work I went, hunted for years and still hunt yet, to find Masonic MSS. and have much pleasure in supplying Bros. Garrod and Binckes with a list of all the MSS. on Freemasonry that are in the library of the British Museum. They are as follow:—

The Poem, *Bibl. Reg. 17. A. i.*, so admirably edited by my friend, James Orchard Halliwell, Esq., having been in print since 1843, and succeeded in 1844 by a second edition, cannot be looked upon as an available rarity.

Harl. MS. 2054. Well known—referred to in the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*, Art. "Freemasonry."

Harl. MS. 1942. Printed in *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* (1836) iii., p. 288.

Lansdowne MS. No. 98, art. 48. Printed in the *Freemasons' Magazine* (1794) ii., p. 81, and reprinted in the present series (1858) iv., p. 343.

Sloane MS. 3848 (fol. 213) dated by the writer 1646, as well as another in the same collection, viz. 3323 (fol. 195), dated 1659, both of which are copies of the Lansdowne MS., No. 98.

The above list comprises every Masonic document, in MS., to be found in the whole of the various collections deposited in the British Museum!

The letters and papers bearing on Masonry deposited in the Bodleian Library, are contained among the Rawlinson MSS. and the whole, or very nearly so, have been printed under the head of "Masonic Antiquities," in the *Freemasons' Magazine* for 1857-8.

The MSS. of "that great Mason, Elias Ashmole," contain some few allusions to Freemasonry, but they are so incorporated with alchemical formulae that it is almost impossible to know, for certain, what he intended to record, and to sum up all, if transcribed, would about fill six pages of your *Magazine*.

I give these details, the result of twenty years' inquiry, for the benefit of Bros. Garrod and Binckes, assuring them I have all my life been a hunter for curiosities, but I never yet discovered such a mare's nest as they seem to have stumbled on.

Granting that it is desirable that our Craft and its history should be fairly displayed, shorn of the ravings and fiction with which it has been the practice of modern writers to clothe it; and knowing that there are extant trusty and unerring sources of such information which, if my life is spared, I shall not fail to avail myself of to write an honest impartial History of Freemasonry in England but, as I have no wish to be forestalled, I cannot disclose more at the present time.

Hoping I have shown that Bro. Garrod's idea of "placing the Craft in possession of a literature in some degree worthy of it," as far as the MSS. in the British Museum and the Bodleian Libraries are concerned is pure unsophisticated moonshine, and apologising for the length of this communication,

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours truly and fraternally,

MATTHEW COOKE,

Formerly one of the Children of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal, Honorary Music-Master to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children.

June 22nd, 1859.

MASONIC CHARITIES.

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

SIR AND BROTHER.—In addressing this letter to you I am most desirous that my motives should not be misinterpreted.

I am a member of the Union Lodge, No. 149, Margate, and have observed with considerable satisfaction the strenuous and

laudable exertions being made by Bros. Lyall, Symonds, and Binckes, with a view to increase the funds of the Boys and Girls Schools.

It must not be supposed I entertain any antagonistic spirit to the object which induces those brethren to labour so assiduously to obtain so desirable an end; but it certainly does appear to me, that the appeal to the country Lodges was too indiscriminately made, and that credit has not been given to those who have worked long and zealously in the same cause in which the above-named brethren are happily engaged.

To respond favourably to that appeal was certainly optional, but all Freemasons having the interest of the Order at heart, must feel desirous to second any movement calculated to benefit its institutions; failing to do this the brethren of any particular Lodge or province might be charged with uncharitableness, unless a valid reason be advanced for not immediately awarding their hearty co-operation.

If the brethren in the province of Kent have not rendered, to those by whom the appeal was made, that unqualified support which they doubtless thought they were entitled to, it arises from a belief on their part that they have already done more than any other province towards the object sought to be obtained; and that if a proportionate amount of pecuniary assistance were forthcoming from the rest of provinces, the Committee would soon have reason to congratulate themselves upon the flourishing condition of their funds. The following statement of facts, I trust, will go far to satisfy the Craft generally, that the Freemasons of Kent have not been blind to the necessity of supporting their charitable institutions.

In 1851 Bro. John Harvey Boys, P. Prov. S.G.W. (to whose excellent judgment and untiring perseverance the Craft stands indebted for many important improvements in the by-laws of the Prov. Grand Lodge, &c., and who is now appointed D. Prov. Grand Master), laid a scheme before the late Prov. Grand Master Bro. L.C. Humphrey, for the formation and maintenance of a fund to be applied to charitable purposes, which was highly approved by the Prov. Grand Master, and has since realized the most sanguine hopes of the proposer, it having been the means of placing at the disposal of the Prov. Grand Lodge upwards of thirty guineas annually, which amount has been regularly paid; and the Kentish brethren are in the proud position to be able to state that since the plan came into operation they have paid towards the fund of the Girls School, £200; and to that of the Boys, £100; and on the 18th of July next (the Provincial Grand Festival at Margate) thirty guineas more will be paid. This handsome amount is irrespective of the usual annual subscription from the Lodges in the province, and the private subscriptions of many whose circumstances enable them to give more solid, but not more genuine proofs of their willingness to forward the interests of the Masonic Charities.

Trusting these remarks may be favourably received, and have the effect of inducing other provincial Lodges to follow our example,

I am, Sir and Brother, your obedient servant,
RICHARD SAMUEL THORNE.

Margate, 25th June, 1859.

P. S.—I subjoin an extract from our Provincial By-laws (for the information of the brethren in other provinces) with reference to our Charity Fund.

The Provincial Charity Fund, alluded to in Rule 4, is raised by the annual contribution of 2s. by every member in the province, and is appropriated to such Masonic Charities as the Provincial Grand Lodge shall direct. The present arrangement is that the Lodge having the greatest number of members, according to the returns, shall receive the amount of subscriptions, or such portion thereof as shall be voted in Provincial Grand Lodge, to be applied, by way of contribution, to such one or more of the Masonic Institutions as the Provincial Grand Lodge may direct, so as to give the Lodge so contributing the advantages during its existence of a Life Governor; and in the following years each Lodge in succession having the greatest number of members, shall have the same advantages.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I believe it is generally understood among Masons, that one object of our annual provincial meetings is to afford to the brethren of the province an opportunity to meet one another, and exchange ideas, and enjoy social intercourse for a short time. I therefore think that every means should be adopted to promote such pleasurable re-unions, and any means

that are calculated or have a tendency to obstruct so desirable an end should be avoided. Impressed by such sentiments, it is with much regret I find a custom that has prevailed in this province for a quarter of a century infringed upon by the brethren of the Margate Lodge, No. 149, who are to entertain the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent, on the 18th instant. Hitherto, I believe, it has been the custom to have the tickets for the banquet fixed at 6s. 6d., thus leaving every brother free to order such wine, &c., &c., as he may be disposed to take, a custom that has never yet, I believe, been complained of; but in the circular of invitation issued by Lodge No. 149, I read, "Tickets, including a bottle of wine, dessert, and waiters, 11s. each." Under such circumstances a brother is compelled to pay for a bottle of wine, or absent himself from the banquet, at which he would have been present, had he been at liberty to call for what he liked, or thought best for himself. This strikes at the object I have alluded to already, and I fear will tend to diminish the attendance at the banquet, for we know that provincial meetings are composed of all classes of society, and therefore due regard should be paid to such a consideration. The occasional mingling of the various classes at such times has a very beneficial tendency, especially among Masons, and leads to a reciprocity of good feeling and harmony among "all sorts and conditions of men."

Many of our Craft are endeavouring, in a most praiseworthy manner, to provide suitable places for their Lodge meetings, to rid themselves of the odium of holding their Lodges at inns or taverns; how does this arrangement of including a bottle of wine in the banquet ticket harmonize with such efforts?

It is too late, however, to remedy this (I must call it) fault: I therefore put these sentiments on record, hoping, that in so doing, we may for the future sit at the banquet as *Free Masons*.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,
Kent, July 6th, 1859. A KENTISH MASON.

BRO. SHERRY AND THE GRAND REGISTRAR.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I was much surprised on reading the account of a meeting of the Lodge of Economy, No. 90, province of Hampshire, where a P.M., Bro. Sherry, thought fit to revive the subject of the conduct of the Grand Registrar, who was so completely cleared of the charge brought against him by the vote of Grand Lodge on June 1st. Bro. Sherry appears to have entirely forgotten the charge he received as an E.A.P., when he was told his "Obedience must be proved by a ready acquiescence in all votes and resolutions duly passed by a majority of the brethren" (which surely must be binding on him and all others in respect to Grand Lodge, as of a private Lodge); and still more recently when, as W.M. elect, he solemnly promised "to submit to the awards and resolutions of his brethren in general Lodge convened," and further "strictly to conform to every edict of Grand Lodge."—all this, I repeat, appears to have been forgotten by that worshipful brother. Had a younger Mason committed himself in this way we could not be so much surprised. Bro. Sherry had of course a right to explain to his Lodge the part he took in the proceedings of Grand Lodge, but he should not insult the Grand Master, and the members of Grand Lodge as he did in his resolution.

There are other provinces where the proceedings of Grand Lodge are narrowly watched as well as those connected with the "Observer party," and one would fain hope that the bad grace with which they (the Observer party) come out of every storm, raised by themselves, and which would disgrace any body of men of less pretensions, will teach them to do to their neighbours as, "in similar cases they would wish he would do to them," and allow the discussions in Grand Lodge to be characterized by more "brotherly love."

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours truly and fraternally,
JAMES FITZGERALD.

P.M., and Hon. Sec., 523, and Prov. G.O.

CITY WARDS.—The division of the City into wards is very ancient, but the number of them is unknown prior to 1285, when, according to the *Liber Albus* (vol. 3, page 165), it was divided into twenty-four wards. The division of Farringdon into two wards increased the number to twenty-five; and when, in 1550, the liberties of the borough of Southwark were granted to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of London, a twenty-sixth ward was formed, by the name of the Bridge Ward Without.—*City Press*.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

A NUMBER of the friends of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, as at present conducted, will meet at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 20th instant, at half-past four o'clock, when brethren wishing to assist the Committee are requested to attend.

METROPOLITAN.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—The brethren celebrated their summer festival at the Crystal Palace, on Thursday, 7th inst., where nearly two hundred of the brethren and ladies assembled at an early hour. At two o'clock, in the south tower, Bro. Strange provided an elegant dinner and dessert. After grace had been chanted by Miss Jeffreys, Bros. T. Young, Donald King, and T. Lawler, the W.M., Bro. D. R. Farmer, proposed "The health of the Queen," which was followed by the national anthem. "Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and Prince William Frederick of Prussia (he being a brother of the noble Order)," was the next toast, followed by the healths of "The Earl of Zetland and Lord Panmure, and the rest of the Grand Officers." During the afternoon an excellent selection of music was performed by the professional brethren and ladies. In giving the toast of the day, "Prosperity to the Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25," the W.M., Bro. D. R. Farmer, thanked those by whose suffrages he had been thought worthy to preside over a Lodge named after Scotia's immortal bard, and hoped the Robert Burns Lodge might exist as long as his honoured name, which he felt and hoped would be for ever. Bro. W. Watson, P.M., congratulated the brethren on the progress of the Lodge. He said the Robert Burns Lodge now ranks amongst the most flourishing and best regulated Lodges of the Craft; that there was something in a name he firmly believed, and in that of Burns especially. The bard's attachment to Freemasonry was great; he was initiated at the age of twenty-four, in the St. James's Lodge, *Tarbolton*. In 1787, Burns presided as W.M. of the *Marchline Lodge*, and on the minute book is the name of Dugald Stewart as a visitor. In May of the same year, Burns was exalted to the degree of a R.A. Mason, the entry on the minutes is: "On account of R. Burns's remarkable poetical genius, unanimously agreed to admit him gratis, and considered themselves honoured by having a man of such shining abilities for one of their Companions." In the same year (1787), he became a joining member of the *Canongate, Kilwinning, Edinburgh*; the minutes on this occasion style him "A great poetic writer, and well known from a late publication of his works, which have been universally commended." At Edinburgh he erected a monument at his own expense over the remains of a brother Mason and a fellow bard, Ferguson; upon this monument, after his own death, which occurred July 21st, 1796, an iron plate was laid with the following epitaph:—

"Oh, Robert Burns, the man, the brother;
And art thou gone, and gone for ever?
And hast thou crossed that unknown rivet,
Life's dreary bound?
Like thee where shall we find another
The world around?
Go to your sculptured tombs, ye great,
In a' the tinsel trash of state;
But by the honest turf I'll wait,
Thou man of worth!
And weep the sweetest poet's fate,
E'er lived on earth!"

Bro. Watson concluded by hoping that the spirit of brotherly love, wit, and humour, might abound among them that day, in honour of the bard from whom the Lodge is named; that day might the spirit which one hundred years ago entered the mortal frame of the matchless poet, whose memory we venerate and love, make their meeting one of unmingled delight; so that in days to come they might look backward with pleasure, and say, "I was there that day." The W.M., in proposing "The Ladies," congratulated the meeting on the honour conferred on them by the presence of so many of them that day; it was such arrangements as these that enhanced the value of Freemasonry, by showing the fair sex how highly the members of the Craft valued their society. Bro. Thomas Alexander Adams most gallantly and eloquently returned thanks for the ladies, and must have felt amply repaid by the approving looks of the fair ones around. "The health of the W.M.," having been proposed, the W.M. said, "Allow me to express my gratitude for the very kind manner which my health has been received at your hands. I cannot but feel the honourable position in which I am placed by being chosen to preside over so happy, numerous, and respectable a meeting." "The Stewards," coupled with the name of Bro. Apled, P.M. and Treasurer, was then proposed, who in reply offered their warmest thanks; they rejoiced that the little service they had rendered had given satisfaction, more particularly to the ladies,

for whom they might say this festival was especially arranged, and it should not be their neglect if many more such reunions did not take place. The company now adjourned to the beautiful grounds of the Crystal Palace, and again met in the south tower at eight o'clock, where tea and coffee were served; and this very agreeable party broke up.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 196).—A monthly meeting of this flourishing Lodge was held at the Holly-Bush Tavern, Hampstead, on the 5th inst., the W.M., Bro. H. Cornick in the chair, Bros. J. R. Smith, S.W.; G. Hart, J.W.; G. Pritchard, S.D.; Jno. Douglas, J.D.; J. Houghton, I.G., *pro tem.*; F. Adlard, Dir. of Cers.; Hamilton, P.M.; Shury, P.M.; Adams, P.M.; Aldrich, P.M., Hon. Sec., and Bros. Pitt, Dr. Winter, Capt. Thomson, G. F. Fry, Bayertz, Harman, Higman, Stopher, Caney, Davis, Chadwick, Matthews, Giltro, and others. The visitors were Bros. H. C. Shenton, P.M. No. 40; E. W. Davis, J.W. No. 112; W. Paxon, P.M. No. 96; Capt. Edward Thomson, No. 306, Ireland; Major G. F. McLain, No. 306, Ireland; W. Hughes, S.D. No. 70; W. L. Edwards, No. 70; F. Pearson, No. 70; H. Marston, No. 149, and others. Two brethren were raised to the third degree. The Lodge proceeded to ballot for Mr. Henry Holt, R. N., who being duly elected, was initiated into Freemasonry. Two gentlemen were proposed by Bro. Stopher for initiation at the next meeting of the Lodge. Bro. Vinal was unanimously elected a trustee of the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge, in place of a brother resigned. It may be worthy of notice that a portion of all fees for initiation and joinings are devoted to this benevolent fund, to which the members of the Lodge liberally subscribe. This fund is to be devoted to such of the members, past members, and widows and orphans of deceased members of the Lodge as may require its assistance. We sincerely congratulate the St. John's Lodge on the excellent principles on which it is conducted, and we strongly urge Lodges generally to follow the example. The Lodge business being concluded, the Worshipful Master and brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Dale. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to in right Masonic style. The health of the initiate was proposed by the Worshipful Master and responded to by Bro. Henry Holt, R.N., who, in thanking the Worshipful Master for the kind way in which he had mentioned his name, and the brethren for the very cordial way in which they had responded, said that it could not be expected that he should expatiate at any length upon Freemasonry, but he had ever heard it mentioned with respect and admiration. With what he had witnessed that evening he was highly gratified, and he thanked his friends and Bro. Captain Thomson for proposing his admission into so antient an Order and so respectable and influential a Lodge. He would promise to be as diligent in learning the duties incumbent upon him in his new capacity, as his professional duties would admit. In whatever climate he might be called to, he should not fail to recollect the important admonition he had received that evening. He trusted he should ever reflect credit on the Order as well as on the St. John's Lodge, which had received him with so much kindness and brotherly regard. The Lodge was highly entertained by the excellent singing and imitations of Bros. Major McLain, Capt. Edward Thomson, Caney, Giltro, &c., &c.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 812).—This Lodge held its eleventh anniversary on Thursday last, July 7th, 1859, under the presidency of Bro. R. B. Hampton, W.M., assisted by his officers. The Lodge was opened at twelve o'clock at noon, when four gentlemen were initiated into our mysteries, after which the brethren, accompanied by their ladies, assembled at Bro. Smith's, Bell Tavern, Lower Edmonton, to dinner. The usual toasts were given, and the health of Bro. Crisp, the immediate P.M., was received with great applause, and was succeeded by the presentation of an honorary P.M. jewel from the Lodge, highly worthy of the givers and receiver. The pleasures of the day were greatly enhanced by the introduction of the boys of the Masonic school (which establishment is not far from Edmonton); the appearance of the children elicited the highest encomiums from all present, the ladies especially. Many well known members of the Craft were present, particularly Bros. G. Biggs, Williams, Wynne, Kindred, Vasey, Rev. D. Shaboe, M.A., and Rev. C. Woodward, of the Boys' School, Purdy, Mobbs; Day; and Thompson.

INSTRUCTION.

PANMURE LODGE (No. 1022).—The first meeting of this Lodge of Instruction was held at the Swan, Stockwell, on Wednesday, 6th July, ably presided over by Bro. Charnock, W.M. of the parent Lodge, assisted by Bro. Braham, S.W., and Bro. Garrod, J.W. There was a numerous attendance of brethren. The W.M. having opened the Lodge, worked the first section, and afterwards went ably through the ceremony of initiation—Bro. Ball, No. 1022, being the candidate—the fourth section was also worked, after which Bro. Braham was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, who appointed his officers in rotation. Several joining members were proposed and unanimously elected, and it was resolved that the inauguration festival be held at the Swan, Stockwell, Wednesday, 27th July, at six o'clock, on which occasion Bro. James Richard Warren, P.M., was requested to work the ceremony of installation. This Lodge is under the especial supervision of Bros. Thomas, Dr. R. Farmer, H. Garrod, H. Charnock, J. R. Warren, and W. Braham, and the correctness of its working may be relied upon.

PROVINCIAL.

DORSETSHIRE.

LYME REGIS.—*Montague Lodge* (No. 963).—This Lodge held its annual meeting on Wednesday, July 6th, for the purpose of installing the W.M., Bro. Dr. Marder, by Bro. R. Collard, P.M., Nos. 168 and 209. After the investment of the officers, a vote of thanks to Bro. Collard was carried and ordered to be inserted on the minutes for the readiness and truly Masonic courtesy he had acceded to the request of the brethren of the Montague Lodge to perform the ceremony of the day. The brethren afterwards dined together.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Mariners' Lodge* (No. 310).—The brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Masonic Temple, in Hope-street, on Thursday, the 7th inst., at half-past two o'clock. Bro. Williams, W.M., commenced the labours of the day, and at the proper time, Bro. Henry Lumb, W.M. elect, was presented for installation, which ceremony was performed by Bro. Pepper, P.M., assisted by Bros. Hamer, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Edwards, Prov. G. Reg.; Maddox, Prov. G. Supt. of Works and Treasurer of the Lodge; Banister, Prov. G. Sec. and W.M. No. 56; Youngusband, W.M. No. 294, and Phillips, W.M. No. 965. The Worshipful Master then appointed and invested the following officers:—Bros. M. Pepper, jun., S.W.; Joseph Swift, J.W.; A. H. Caldwell, S.W.; A. Green, J.D.; Wm. Crane, I.G. Two gentlemen were initiated into the Order, and several sums of money presented to applicants. The Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., Bro. Hamer, presented (in the name of the Lodge) to Bro. Pepper, P.M., a valuable gold jewel bearing the following inscription:—"To Bro. John Pepper, P.M., P.G.S. West Lancashire, this jewel is most respectfully presented by the Master, Wardens, Officers, and Brethren of the Mariners' Lodge, No. 310, of Antient Free and Accepted Masons, in testimony of their warm regard toward him as a man and a Mason. Liverpool, June, A.L., 5859;" and also an elegant silver tea pot inscribed as follows:—"Presented to Bro. John Pepper, P.M., P.G.S., by his brethren of the Mariners' Lodge, No. CCCX., of Free and Accepted Masons. Liverpool, June, MDCCCLIX." Bro. Pepper having expressed his thanks in brief but feeling terms for the honour done him, the brethren were called off, and proceeded to the Queen's Hotel, Waterloo, at which delightful resort Bro. Condliff had provided a very elegant dinner. The evening's pleasure was much enhanced by the singing of Bros. Wood, Graham, Haswell, Thomason, and Atherton. Bro. Wilberforce presiding at the pianoforte. All the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the Lodge being duly closed, the brethren left the health restoring breezes of Waterloo for the more sombre atmosphere of Liverpool.

GARSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 267).—On Monday, the 4th inst., the installation of Bro. Aldrich, the Worshipful Master elect of this Lodge, took place in the Lodge-room at the Wellington Hotel, Garston. The ceremony was attended by a large number of Prov. Grand Officers and members of the Lodge, as well as a goodly number of visiting brethren. After the installation, which was performed by Bro. J. Hamer, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., the Worshipful Master appointed Bro. Fleetwood, S.W., Bro. Pierpoint, J.W., and invested them and the other officers. After the initiation of Mr. Leach, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren dined. The W.M. proposed, in succession, "The Queen," "The Prince Consort," "The M.W.G.M.," the first and last of which were received with enthusiasm. Bro. Banister, Prov. G. Sec., proposed "The health of Lord Panmure, R.W.D.G.M. with musical honours." The W.M. gave "Bro. Le Gendre N. Starkie, R.W. Prov. G.M., Lancashire" and said, several of them knew him better than he did, but he had heard of him, and he had every reason to hold him in the highest admiration. "The health of Sir Thomas Hesketh, R.W.G.D.M., and the Prov. Grand Officers" was afterwards responded to by Bro. Edwards, Prov. G. Reg., who said, he was sure they would all allow that every effort was made by the Prov. Grand Lodge to extend the usefulness of the Order, and to further the interests of the various Lodges. The W.M. gave "The West Lancashire Masonic Institution for the education and advancement in life of children of distressed Masons," and with it he would couple the name of their esteemed Bro. Walmsley, who had laboured so hard for its establishment and success. Bro. Walmsley said, it gave him very great pleasure to state, that he had just received the names of two brethren as life members to the institution. Bro. Banister had contributed £5 5s., and the W.M. had requested his name to be added to the list for a like sum. As to the usefulness of the institution, there was nothing approaching it in the provinces, and he would, therefore, call upon those present to follow the example set them, for they could not contribute to an institution possessing greater claims, or one entitled to greater consideration. He had recently given up taking an active part in the institution's affairs, and regretted the absence of Bros. Gambell and Brabner, who could have furnished them with every information. The institution was worthy of Freemasonry; it aided the offspring of their brethren in their advancement in life, and when they had talent assisted them in the higher branches of the arts and sciences. Bro. Holme, P.M., proposed the health of the W.M., who returned thanks, and said, his greatest desire was to see the Lodge prosperous, and to promote working. There had certainly been some slight difference among them, but for the opposition which he met with he cherished no ill will against any of

them. He concluded by giving the health of the immediate P.M., Bro. Holme, who in reply said, he would do all he could to assist the W.M. Bro. Dr. Marder, in the work of the Lodge, and in promoting its prosperity. The Wardens and other Officers of the Lodge, and the visiting brethren were afterwards toasted. The musical brethren lent their valuable aid in enlivening the proceedings of the evening by singing several songs and glees.

LIVERPOOL.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 971).—The installation of the Worshipful Master of this flourishing Lodge took place on Wednesday evening, the 6th instant, at the Caledonian Hotel, Duke-street. There was an unusually large number of the brethren present, and among the visiting brethren were Bros. John Hambleton, No. 350; David Smart, No. 1,026; James Hamer, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; G. W. Phillips, W.M., No. 965; John Pepper, Prov. G. Sec.; Thomas Armstrong, P.M., No. 368; W. H. Martin, No. 111; Louis Reddick, No. 378. Bro. Hamer installed Bro. W. T. May, and Messrs. Wm. Dabbs and George Gowland were afterwards initiated into the mysteries of our noble Order by the W.M., Bro. May, after which the Lodge was called off from labour to refreshment. At the close of an excellent repast, the W.M. gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were warmly responded to. After the healths of the M.W.G.M., the R.W.D.G.M., and the Dukes of Athole and Leinster, the W.M., in giving the health of Bro. Le Gendre N. Starkie, R.W. Prov. G.M. of West Lancashire, alluded to his deserved popularity. Bro. Walmsley said the West Lancashire Masonic Institution for the education of children of distressed Masons was going on very favourably, but the claims on its funds were now very largely increasing, and it behoved every brother to make an effort to assist its progress. The sum of five shillings per annum was all that was asked as a subscription to its funds, and the payment of that sum for three years entitled them to be a governor, which gave them the privilege of nominating a child to its funds. They had now a fund of between £2,500 to £3,000, which, with the continued subscriptions of every member of the province, would be ample to place the institution in a good position for years to come. The health of the W.M. having been drunk, several other toasts followed, and the brethren broke up at an early hour.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*Lodge of Honour* (No. 769).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Friday, July 8th, J. Fraser, Esq., M.D., and C. Hawley, Esq., were initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, the ceremony being correctly and impressively performed by the W.M., Bro. Gough; after which, at the request of the W.M., Bro. C. Matthews, S.D. delivered the charge of this degree. Bros. Reeves, Kitson, and Tudor, were passed to the second degree, the charge being given by Bro. F. Sollom, J.D. A proposition was made to subscribe to the Masonic charities, two pounds per annum to the Boys School, and the same amount to the Girls School. The W.M. reminded the brethren that the next provincial meeting would be held at Stafford on the 2nd of August, when he hoped as many brethren as possible would attend.

SURREY.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Monday last, July 11th, at the Angel Hotel, Guildford, under the presidency of the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Dobie, Prov. G. Reg.; who was supported by Bros. Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M.; G. White, Prov. S.G.W.; G. Price, Prov. G. Treas.; Greenwood, G. Secretary; C. Beaumont, S.G.D.; W. J. Meynott, J.G.D.; Francis, P.D. Prov. G.M.; W. H. White, P. Prov. G. Sec.; H. Evans, P.G.S.B.; Snow, P.G.S.B.; Sussex; D. Bruce, P. Prov. G.S.B.; John Symonds, P.G. Steward, &c., &c.

The Lodge having been duly opened, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed; after which the Treasurer's account was read, showing a balance in hand of £77 18s. 8d., out of which £20 was voted to the widow of the late Bro. David Freeman of Croydon.

Bro. Price was re-elected Grand Treasurer; and the following officers appointed for the ensuing year:—Bros. Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M.; Elkins, S.G.W.; Moates, J.G.W.; Greenwood, G. Sec.; Rev. Lawrence W. Hill, G. Chaplain; Meynott, S.G.D.; Baillie, J.G.D.; Masterman, G. Dir. of Cers.; C. J. Smith, G.S.B.

The recommendation of the committee on the propriety of establishing provincial committees, to aid the funds of the two Masonic schools, was agreed to, with the addition that the committee should act on behalf of all the Masonic charities, viz., the Girls School, the Boys School, the Aged Masons' Annuity Fund, and the Widows' Annuity Fund.

The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned for about an hour, when they reassembled at a very elegant banquet, presided over by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, supported by the D. Prov. Grand Master, his officers, visitors, and other brethren.

On the removal of the cloth, the health of her Majesty was given, and enthusiastically responded to.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master said, that the next toast, like the former, was one of loyalty, and was sure to meet with a cordial reception—"The health of their M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland." (Cheers). The noble lord had assumed the office under some difficulties, having succeeded his late royal highness the Duke of Sussex, who had long enjoyed the confidence of the brethren. The noble lord had,

however, shown the greatest zeal, ability, and courtesy, in conducting their affairs, and under his rule Masonry had extended beyond all precedent. (Cheers).

The D. Prov. Grand Master said he had the honour to be entrusted with the next toast, the health of "Lord Pamure, and the rest of the Grand Officers." Lord Pamure was a most distinguished man and excellent Mason, and in his office of Prov. D. Grand Master had shown himself most energetic and zealous in the discharge of his duties, evidently having the welfare of the Craft at heart. They were honoured that day with the presence of more than one Grand Officer, including their respected Bro. Evans, the excellent Master of the Reigate Lodge, and their venerable Bro. White, who had so many years filled the office of Grand Secretary, in which he won the respect and esteem of the brethren, from the Grand Master down to the humblest member in the Craft. (Applause). He therefore coupled with the toast the names of of Bros. White and Evans. (Cheers).

Bro. White, P.G. Sec. returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and assured the brethren that after sixty years of active life as a Mason—nearly the whole of which had been spent in the service of the Craft—nothing gave him greater gratification than to receive such a mark of approbation from so distinguished a body in the Craft as the Prov. Grand Lodge of Surrey. (Applause).

Bro. Francis, P.D. Prov. G.M. had great pleasure in being allowed to propose the next toast—and he was sure he needed no excuse for doing so in the highest of terms—the health of their "Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master." (Applause). Bro. Dobie not only filled that office to their satisfaction, but he also for many years held a most distinguished position in Grand Lodge as G. Reg., the duties of which he performed to the great advantage of the Craft, and his own honour. (Cheers).

The Prov. Grand Master returned thanks for the very handsome manner in which his health had been proposed, and to the brethren for so cordially responding to it. He could assure them that he always felt highly gratified at being amongst the brethren of Surrey, whom he felt proud of presiding over. Wherever a brother could be found willing to take his position who was likely to be more serviceable to the Craft than he could be, he would willingly make way for him (No, no!), but so long as the province was confided to his care he would use his utmost endeavours to promote its prosperity. (Cheers).

The health of the visitors was given and responded to by Bro. Bell, P. Prov. G.W., Norfolk, and Bro. Snow, P. Prov. G.S.B., Sussex, the latter of whom stated that he was an old Surrey Mason, that he was about to rejoin a Surrey Lodge, and hoped to die a Surrey Mason.

The Prov. Grand Master then proposed the "Health of the D. Prov. G.M. and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers." The D. Prov. G.M. had shown himself in every way worthy of his office, and had by his strict attention to his duties, very much tended to the prosperity of the Craft in the province. He had recently given another convincing proof of his zeal for Freemasonry, by consenting to assume the chair of the new Lodge, though with the old title of the Royal Alfred of Guildford, and there could be no doubt that under his auspices it must prove successful. (Cheers). With regard to his other officers he believed he might say, that as he had been fortunate in his selection upon previous occasions, so he should prove upon the present. He had great pleasure in asking the brethren to join him in drinking their health. (Applause).

Bro. Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M., thanked the R.W. brother for the renewed mark of confidence extended to him that day, and the brethren for the kindness which he always received at their hands. He had always met with the most flattering reception throughout the province, feeling it his duty to occasionally visit every Lodge within it, and would, so long as he continued to receive the confidence of the Prov. Grand Master and the brethren, use his utmost exertions to promote and maintain the best interests of Freemasonry in Surrey. (Cheers). As there were several other Grand Officers, such as their excellent Treasurer, their valuable Secretary, and their Chaplain, who had done them so much honour by coming amongst them, and who would probably like to say something for themselves, he should now only again thank them for the confidence reposed in him. (Applause).

The Prov. Grand Treasurer having declined the invitation to address the brethren.

Bro. Greenwood, Prov. G. Sec., thanked the Prov. Grand Master for having re-appointed him to so responsible an office as that of Grand Secretary, the honour of which he duly appreciated, and assured the brethren he would ever endeavour to discharge the duties of the office to the best of his ability.

Bro. the Rev. L. W. Till, G. Chaplain, assured the R.W. Prov. Grand Master and the brethren that he was deeply grateful for the honour which had been conferred upon him by his appointment as Grand Chaplain to the province. He had ever regarded Freemasonry as well calculated to assist the cause of religion and morality, and so far as the duties of his parish would allow him, would do his best to promote and strengthen its position in the province. (Applause).

The Prov. Grand Master had now to ask them to drink to "The health of the Past Grand Officers," coupled with the name of Bro. Francis, who had for a considerable time filled the office of D. Prov. G.M., indeed after the death of the late Lord Monson he was for some time virtually the Grand Master, and had discharged his duties with great tact and ability. At that time there was some disunion in the province, which rendered the office one of great difficulty, but Bro. Francis had successfully overcome every difficulty and restored union and happiness.

Bro. Francis, P. D. Prov. G.M., returned thanks, and stated that the R.W. Prov. G.M. having alluded to the difficulties with which he had been beset when he held office, he could assure them that those difficulties were more than compensated by the happiness he had enjoyed in later years when their present excellent Prov. Grand Master had re-appointed and continued his confidence in him as D.G.M. Though he now no longer resided in the province, he felt the greatest interest in its prosperity, and was always happy in visiting it on every possible occasion. (Applause).

Bro. Elkins, P. Prov. G.W. having obtained leave to propose a toast, gave the health of the "Prov. Grand Treas., Bro. Price," to whom they were all greatly indebted for the care and attention he paid to the duties of his office. (Applause).

Bro. Price, Prov. G. Treas., returned thanks, assuring them that the compliment was quite unexpected, as he considered that his health had been drunk in the toast of the officers. He esteemed the toast the more highly as coming from a brother who had preceded him in the office, but whose other duties would no longer allow him to continue to hold it.

The Prov. Grand Master proposed "Prosperity to the Royal Alfred Lodge," by whom they had been so kindly and hospitably received that day. The resuscitation of the old Lodge, under a new number, was chiefly due to Bro. Haydon, who he regretted was unable to be present that day, and Bro. Elkins, assisted by the D. Prov. Grand Master—who had kindly become the Master—he had no doubt would make it a very successful and popular Lodge. (Applause). In the absence of Bro. Haydon, he would couple with the toast the name of Bro. Elkins. (Cheers).

Bro. Elkins, Prov. S.G.W. regretted that Bro. Haydon was prevented by illness from being present to acknowledge the toast, as he was sure he would have had great pleasure in doing so. He trusted that that brother would soon be restored to health, and that when installed as Worshipful Master, as he would no doubt be next year, he might be enabled to complete the work so well begun by the D. Prov. Grand Master in resuscitating the Lodge. In the name of himself, and the rest of the brethren of the Royal Alfred Lodge, he could assure them it gave them the greatest pleasure to meet the Prov. Grand Lodge in Guildford, and he trusted it would not be many years before they might meet in greater strength than at present, and again have that honour. (Applause).

The health of the Master and brethren of the various Lodges in the province present was drunk, and responded to by Bro. H. Evans, Prov. G.S.B., Master of the Reigate Lodge.

The Prov. Grand Master said, he had now to give a toast in which he always felt the greatest interest. This country owed much to the possession of a press which was generally conducted by gentlemen of great independence, talent, and education. The Craft had for many years possessed the advantage of a journal which, with more or less fidelity, had recorded the proceedings of their body; but never as a rule with greater ability and impartiality than at present. He had, however, seen some editorial observations in the *Magazine*, which had caused him great pain, and which had evidently been made without due inquiry. When he last had the pleasure of being present at a Masonic gathering in Guildford, it was to take part in the consecration of the Royal Alfred Lodge, and on that occasion the brother who had charge of the musical arrangements, had introduced female voices into the choruses and anthems. Upon them the Editor of the *Magazine* had made the remarks to which he alluded, assuming that the ladies were admitted into the Lodge—an assumption which he was happy to see denied by a letter in a subsequent number from Bro. How. He admitted, that when he first heard the ladies' voices he was taken by surprise, and not knowing whether the ladies were in the clock case (laughter), or adjoining room, or where, made some inquiries—when he was assured by the Tyler, and by others, that they were so placed in another room, the door of which, though opened when their services were required, was effectually shaded by a curtain, so that nothing could be seen, and the instant that the music concluded, the door was closed, and properly tyled. Such being the case, he did not think a charge of want of attention to their Masonic duties ought to have been made, for even if he (the Prov. Grand Master) would have allowed any infringement on their ceremonies, he was sure that so distinguished a Mason as Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson would not have done so. (Applause). He made these remarks, knowing that Bro. Warren was present, not in any ill feeling, or to complain of the manner in which the *Magazine* was generally conducted, for he could assure them that he had the highest respect for that brother, and being at all times, as he was convinced the brethren were, happy to meet him in Surrey, he begged to give them "The Press, and prosperity to Bro. Warren." (Applause).

Bro. Henry G. Warren begged to thank the brethren for the compliment paid him, and through him to the *Freemasons' Magazine*. As a rule he would decline to discuss the policy of the *Freemasons' Magazine* or of anything which might appear within its pages. But as regarded the playful allusion at the close of the report of the consecration of the Guildford Lodge, he had no hesitation in taking upon himself the full responsibility of having written it. In making this admission he regretted that it should have given the slightest annoyance to their respected Prov. Grand Master; but he was sure that their R.W. brother would give him credit that in making the remark he was actuated only by a principle which he had consistently advocated. In Grand Lodge he had

raised his voice against the admission of professionals—other than members of the Order—to their Masonic festivals, and he felt that but for circumstances which existed at the time which caused his motion to be regarded, by some of the brethren, with feelings altogether apart from its merits, that he would have carried his motion—that no professional should be allowed to sit down at their festivals unless he were a member of the Craft—holding as he did that it was impossible for a large body of Masons to sit down in festive communion without letting drop some word or gesture which ought not to be uttered or made in the presence of strangers. (Cheers). Though he had been defeated in Grand Lodge, he still maintained the same opinion, and had induced one or two of his friends, being professional singers who had sung at their festivals, to take the same view of the case and join the Order. (Cheers). Though he might be quiet on the question at present, he could assure the brethren he was only biding his opportunity, and should never cease his exertions until it was authoritatively declared that under no circumstances should non-masons be allowed to take part in Masonic banquets. (Cheers). Now, what he held to be improper in a Masonic banquet he could not hold to be proper in a Lodge, and hence the observations which appeared to have caused, though unintentionally, some annoyance to the R.W. Grand Master and other brethren. He did not mean to say that any harm had been done on the occasion alluded to—he had no doubt every possible precaution had been taken to prevent it—but the danger was, that innovation, however slight, often led to its being followed and extended until the bounds of prudence were passed, and they knew not when to stop. He should not pursue this topic further than to assure them that so long as he had the honour to be connected with the *Freemasons' Magazine*—and he spoke also for his colleagues—it would steadfastly and independently pursue the course of expressing an opinion without looking to the right or to the left, or without regarding the position of the brother, however exalted, whom it might for the moment oppose—though every care should be taken to avoid giving offence to any one. (Cheers). Having said so much, he might be allowed to thank them for the kind manner in which he had always been received in the province of Surrey, and to bear his testimony to the way in which the business of the province was conducted. Indeed their Right Worshipful Grand Master had, to some extent, been the cause of a series of articles in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, which he believed had caused a more sudden and perfect reform throughout the country than any articles written. It had long been the opinion of the conductors of the *Magazine* that the principle of opening the Prov. Grand Lodge within a private Lodge—a supreme power within a subordinate body—was decidedly opposed, not only to common sense, but to law. In this opinion they knew they were supported by some of the most distinguished brethren in the Order, but it was the observation that the Prov. Grand Registrar of England—the Prov. Grand Master for Surrey—followed out the principle in his practice, which the more immediately led to those articles upon the management of Prov. Grand Lodges, the justice of which he was proud to know had been almost universally acknowledged—the opening in any other way than as an independent and supreme body with the province, being now the exception, not the rule. (Applause).

One or two other toasts having been drunk, the brethren separated at an early hour.

SUSSEX.

CHICHESTER.—*Lodge of Union* (No. 45).—The brethren had a most delightful meeting on Friday, the 1st instant. On this day, according to the custom of this ancient Lodge, the brethren had decided on celebrating the annual festival of St. John the Baptist, and the Very Worshipful D. Prov. Grand Master for Sussex, Bro. Captain Dalbiac, having intimated his intention of paying a visit of inspection to the Lodge, the brethren mustered numerously on the occasion. The Lodge was opened at half-past three, by the W.M., Bro. George Molesworth, supported by Bros. Gooden, S.W.; Elliott, J.W.; Powell, jun., P.M.; Rev. — Watkins, Prov. G. Chaplain; Jones, Treasurer; Cottell, Sec. The visiting brethren were Bros. G. C. Dalbiac, D. Prov. G.M., Sussex, P.M. No. 390; John Bacon, P. Prov. S.G.W., and W.M., 1,034; Gavin Elliot Pocock, G.S.B., and P. Prov. G. Sec.; William Robert Wood, Prov. G.D., Sussex, P.M. Nos. 76 and 394, and W.M. No. 27; R. Wilkinson, P. Prov. S.G.D., Sussex; William Verrall, Prov. G. Treas., P.M. No. 338, W.M. No. 320; Garwood Wellesley Wollaston, No. 387; Allen Duke, M.D., Canongate Kilwinning, No. 1, Scotland; W. H. Stone, No. 21; A. Ambrosini, S.W., No. 1,034; W. L. Reid, Victoria Lodge, No. 755; J. C. Craven, Nos. 38 and 338; and Charles Whitefield. The brethren having saluted the D. Prov. G.M. and Prov. G. Officers in due form, Mr. Percival Wonham and Mr. Henry Shotter, both of whom had been previously proposed and seconded, were balloted for, unanimously elected, and initiated in a very able and efficient manner, by the W.M. We remarked how correctly and impressively the W.M. gave the charge for the first degree to the initiates. Bro. Powell, jun., P.M., on behalf of the Lodge, "begged to offer its most sincere congratulations to Bro. Pocock, P.M., for several years the valued Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex, upon his recent appointment to the office of Grand Sword Bearer of England, and to express to him the gratification it feels that the M.W. Grand Master of England has been pleased to confer the office upon one whose exertions in the cause of Masonry have so well entitled him to that honour." Carried by acclamation. Bro. Pocock very feelingly thanked the brethren for this unexpected compliment. The R.W.D. Prov. Grand Master said, "It was gratifying

to him to see the able working of the Lodge, and also to find it so flourishing; it was the desire of Grand Lodge that there should be a strict uniformity of working throughout the kingdom, therefore he was sure that any little difference perceivable in the working of different Lodges could easily be rectified in these days of locomotion by the brethren visiting the neighbouring Lodges; he begged to express his satisfaction with the proceedings." The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned from the council chamber to the banquet, in the assembly room of the fine old Town Hall, built in 1731, and with pleasure we read in the tablets on its walls, among the list of subscribers to its erection, the name of the "Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons." The banquet, served by Bro. Purchase, of the Railway Hotel, was excellent; about forty brethren, including the R.W.D. Prov. G. Master and Provincial Officers, were present; every one seemed comfortable, and loth to say good bye to the Lodge of Union.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER.

A Chapter of the Rose Croix degree was held on Tuesday, the 5th July, at Portsmouth, the M.W.S., R. W. Bradley, presiding. Comp. J. Rankin Stebbing was affiliated, and Comps. George William Clarke, George Lungley, and John Thomas Enright (all of Southampton Chapters), were received into the degree. The ceremonies of the evening were most excellently performed. The members afterwards adjourned to a banquet, and closed the evening in a most agreeable manner.

COLONIAL.

VICTORIA.

FIRST PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT BALLARAT.

The first Grand Lodge of the Craft in Ballarat, was held on Thursday, March 17th, in St. Paul's school room, under the auspices of the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., Bro. F. Thos. Gell, assisted by Bro. H. W. Lowry, Prov. S. G.W. Bro. Levick, Prov. G. Secretary, acting as Prov. J.G.W. Bro. the Rev. C. P. M. Barden, Prov. G. Chaplain, and the W.Ms., P.Ms. and Wardens of the Ballarat Lodges. During the holding of the Lodge in the first named place, the following address was presented to Bro. Gell, beautifully engrossed on parchment:—

"To Francis Thomas Gell, Esq., R.W.D. Prov. G.M., of the ancient and honourable order of Free and Accepted Masons, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England.

"Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—We, the undersigned Worshipful Masters and Past Masters, officers and members of the various Lodges under the English constitution, desire to express our gratification on the occasion of this your first visit to this part of the province. Recognising the fact, that while some govern, others must obey, and sensible that order is an essential part of our system, we rejoice at the establishment of a Provincial Grand Lodge, as tending to cement more closely the bond of union between the brethren in this colony, and to the prevention of lasting disputes, and by the administration of the internal affairs of our order. We hail with delight the advancement of the Craft over the whole surface of the habitable globe, and especially throughout this country; where the fusion of races from all climes have agreed to rear temples to our common Father and great Architect of the universe, whom we all ought to obey, and most humbly adore. We sympathize with our brethren in distant lands persecuted by blind rulers, and trust that light from above may be diffused in those lands, and that the eyes of the persecutors may be opened to know that the world's great Architect is our supreme Master, and the unerring rule he has given us is that by which we work. We look forward with pleasure to future visitations from the R.W. Prov. Grand Master and yourself, Right Worshipful Sir, and other Officers of Grand Lodges, so that the uniformity in the ritual, so desirable, may be strictly maintained, and the order, unity, and glory of the Craft, may for ever be preserved. And we are, Right Worshipful Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

"W. SCOTT, W.M., No. 956.

"HENRY HARRIS, W.M., No. 1015.

"J. H. TAYLOR, S.W.

"R. H. WOOD, J.W.

"W. L. RICHARDSON, M.D., W.M., No. 1019.

"H. LEVINSON, W.M., No. 1046.

"RICHARD COCK, P.M.

"E. STEINFELD, P.M."

At twelve o'clock on the same day the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum was appointed to take place under Masonic auspices—men of all creeds and opinions joining in this truly charitable work. The day was fine, and bright "queen's weather" encompassed everything; so that the first and chief element in the gala holiday was most auspiciously present. Most of the respectable houses of business were closed by the hour of noon, and all the town was full of life and bustle of a holiday sort. From shop, and office, and shaft, from "ceiled houses" and the humbler tent, there flocked the

expectant sightseers in all directions, until it seemed as if all Ballarat had turned out of doors to keep a universal holiday.

Soon after twelve o'clock the several orders and local bodies began to muster in Melbourne-road, while the "Grand Marshal" (Mr. Superintendent Winch) and his "deputies," (Messrs. Dimant and Gwynneth), mounted on their steeds and arrayed in the scarfs of the Masonic Craft, marshalled the procession in the order determined on previously. At length the word of command was given, and the procession began its march, with bands playing and colours flying. First came four mounted troopers, as the vanguard of the procession. Then came the children of the Ballarat West National School, and the Mount Pleasant Wesleyan School. After them came the children of the Band of Hope, followed by the adult members of the Temperance Society. Then came the Caledonian Society, bearing the Scottish flag, and composed of mounted members with tilting lances and pennons, and members on foot attired in full Highland costume, all wearing sprigs of heather in their bonnets, and preceded by a piper. Then came the band of the Ballarat Fire Brigade, followed by the members of the brigade in uniform, bearing aloft not fewer than three copies of the "meteor flag" of England, and carrying axes, hooks, hose, pipe, and other implements of their body, decorated with gay ribbons. After the brigade came the members of the Mining Board, followed by the members of the District Road Board. Following the District Road Board came the several Lodges of the Odd Fellows, bearing their beautiful banners, attired in their scarfs and aprons, carrying the several emblems of their Craft, and preceded by a band. Then came the members of the municipal councils, and the band and banner of the several Lodges of the order of Freemasons. The banner was a small unpretending one, having a representation of the southern cross displayed, silver stars on an azure ground. But the magnificent insignia of the order, particularly of its chief officers, lent a special and gorgeous character to the procession. Closing the procession came the members of the committee of the Benevolent Association. After the procession and all around, everywhere, there came flocking the general public; and what with the bands playing, flags flying, ladies' gay dresses, eager pressing sightseers from window and balcony and housetop, the whole line of march presented such a scene as has not been equalled in Ballarat before or since the visit hither of his excellency Sir Henry Barkly.

The asylum reserve is situated on the south side of Sturt-street, having Dana-street for its southern, and the yet unformed street next west of Drummond-street for its eastern boundary. On the reserve a spacious and substantial gallery for the ladies' committee of the association, and ladies holding tickets, was erected; as also a smaller platform at right angles thereto, for the officers of the order of Freemasons; the latter platform being covered with green baize.

On arriving at the reserve it was found to be densely crowded, and the ladies' gallery being thronged with "the beauty and fashion" of Ballarat, a most gay and even brilliant *coup d'œil* was presented.

Around the foundation stone, which was placed in the angle between the two platforms, assembled the following officers of the body of Freemasons:—

- The bearer of the Lodge banner.
- The mallet, borne by Bro. Steinfeld, P.M.
- Trowel, borne by Bro. Ocock, P.M.
- Inscription roll, by the W.M. of the Clunes Lodge.
- Phial, with coins, by the W.M. of the Buninyong Lodge.
- Square, level, and plumb, by the W.M. of the United Tradesmen's Lodge, Ballarat East.
- Ewer, with wine, by the W.M. of the Ballarat Lodge.
- Cornucopia, by the W.M. of the Yarrowee Lodge.
- Ewer, with oil, by the W.M. of the Victoria Lodge.
- Volume of the Sacred Law, on a cushion, borne by Bro. Adams.
- The Rev. C. P. M. Bardin, *M.A.*, Provincial Grand Chaplain.
- The Prov. J.G.W., Bro. R. Levick.
- The Prov. G.S.W., Bro. H. W. Lowry.
- The Prov. Grand Sword Bearer.
- The R.W. Deputy Prov. Grand Master of Victoria, Bro. Francis Thomas Gell.

With these were also the president, vice presidents, and members' committee of the Benevolent Association, the architect, and the contractors.

The ceremony commenced by the singing of the Hundredth Psalm (Masonic version), after which the Prov. G.J.W., Bro. Levick, read the following inscription roll, afterwards deposited in the cavity of the stone, with the phial containing the coins of the realm:—

"The Benevolent Asylum. The stone of this building was laid March 17th, A.D., 1859, Anno Lucis, 5859, by Francis Thomas Gell, Esq., D. Prov. Grand Master of the colony of Victoria, holding warrant from the Grand Lodge of England; assisted by the Prov. Grand Officers, and by the Lodges of Ballarat, viz.:—The Victoria Lodge, No. 956, Bro. William Scott, W.M.; the Yarrowee Lodge, No. 1015, Bro. Henry Harris, W.M.; the Ballarat Lodge, No. 1019, Bro. Dr. Richardson, W.M.; the United Tradesmen's Lodge, No. 1024, Bro. Hyman Levinson, W.M.

"I was hungry, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

The bottle having been deposited in the hollow of the stone, the Rev. C. P. M. Bardin, Prov. Grand Chaplain, offered up an appropriate prayer.

The acting Prov. Grand Master asked his Officers—Bro. H. W. Lowry, acting as D. Prov. Grand Master; Bro. Levick, as S. Prov. G.W.; and

Bro. H. Harris, as J. Prov. G.W., who bore the Masonic square, plumb and level—what were the emblems of their Craft? The Wardens replied, showing their emblems, applying each one his implement to the stone, and reporting the result to the R.W.D. Prov. Grand Master, who then had a silver trowel handed to him by Bro. Ocock, P.M., and the mallet by Bro. Steinfeld, P.M.

The stone having been laid, the D. Prov. Grand Master invoked the divine blessing to preserve the institution from ruin and decay. He then scattered corn from the cornucopia as the emblem of plenty; poured out wine as the emblem of joy and gladness; and oil as the emblem of peace and concord. The D. Prov. Grand Master having offered a brief extemporaneous prayer, returned to the architect the plans and elevations of the building, saying, "I have examined these plans of the building about to be erected, and they are all correct. I now return them to you, as to a skilful and competent architect."

The National Anthem was then sung, followed by cheers for the Queen. The R.W. Deputy Prov. Grand Master then addressed the assembly, saying that from time immemorial it had been the custom in the mother country for the Masons of England to be engaged in kindred ceremonies at the laying of the foundation stones of public buildings. As an old Mason and representative of the Craft, he was glad to find the order had so advanced in the district, and that it had been so distinguished as to have conferred upon it the honour of laying the foundation stone of that edifice. Their customs arose in the time when they were operative Masons, but now they were only speculative Masons. They were the only body who had preserved a ceremony for such an occasion as that; and it afforded him considerable satisfaction to have the opportunity to aid in the establishment of an institution which had for its object the relief of the poor and the distressed. In the name of the Masons he congratulated them, and the ladies in particular. The ladies were ever the first in the train of charity, that charity which waits on all below, and is the first of the bright hosts above. That day would redound to the credit of the colony, and be a testimony of the progress of the town. In the name of his brother Masons, he invoked the blessing of God upon the asylum, where all, both poor and rich, would be able to look for a home, not as a charity, but as a legitimate asylum to which they had contributed in their better days.

The close of Bro. Gell's address was followed by three cheers, and "one for the ladies."

The company were then addressed by the Rev. J. Potter, Church of England; the Rev. J. Bichford, Wesleyan; and the Rev. W. Henderson, Presbyterian; all of whom advised the members of every denomination to take part in the good work by their subscriptions and exertions. The Rev. P. Madden, Roman Catholic; and the Rev. J. Strongman, Congregationalist, also took part in the proceedings.

At the close of the proceedings, the procession re-formed, and retired from the reserve, and gradually the dense crowd broke up and dispersed. There were about five thousand persons assembled on the ground. It was half-past three o'clock when the head of the procession reached the post-office in the return march, and the Masonic body having retired to Bath's Hotel, where they subsequently partook of a cold collation, the other portions of the procession wended their way to their various destinations, and the ceremony of the day was at an end.

A collection was made during the proceedings amounting to thirty-eight pounds.

BAHAMAS.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Bahamas under the registry of England, was convened at Masonic Hall, on Thursday evening, May the 19th, for the installation of officers for the ensuing year. The following is a list of the present office-bearers:—P. Treco, R.V. Lodge, Prov. S.G.W.; N. French, R.V. Lodge, Prov. J.G.W.; C. R. Hinson, Forth Lodge, T.L., Prov. G. Reg.; J. A. Brook, R.V.L., re-elected, Prov. G. Treas.; C. R. Perpall, R.V.L., re-appointed Prov. P.C. Sec.; J. H. Minus, R.V.L., Prov. S.G.D.; J. J. Musgrove, R.V.L., Prov. J.G.D.; C. Mardenbrough, R.V.L., Prov. G. Sup. Works; S. F. Rigby, Forth Lodge, T. L., Prov. G. Dir. Cer.; J. W. Webb, R.V.L., re-appointed Prov. G. Organist; A. Draper, R.V.L., Prov. G. Pursuivant.

Prov. G. Stewards:—W. Sawyer, R.V.L., re-appointed; H. Brown, R.V.L., re-appointed; Joseph Pinder, R.V.L., re-appointed; T. W. Finlayson, R.V.L.; Charles Harris, R.V.L.; A. J. Wynns, Forth Lodge, T. L.

Prov. G. Tyler:—O. M. Carmichael, re-appointed. The ceremony of installation was performed by S. Dillet, D. Prov. Grand Master.

INDIA.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BENGAL.

A QUARTERLY communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, was holden at the Freemasons' Hall, on Monday, the 21st March, 1859, at which were present, the R.W. Bros. John J. L. Hoff, D. Prov. G.M., as Prov. G.M.; Philip W. LeGeyt, P. Prov. G.M.; Henry Howe, P.D. Prov. G.M.; William Clark, Prov. S.G.W.; John B. Roberts, Prov. J.G.W.; Duncan Monteith, P. Prov. S.G.W.; William J. Judge, P. Prov. J.G.W.; and the V.W. Bros. the Rev. Dr. F. F. Mazuchelli, as Prov. G. Chaplain; John Gray, Prov. G. Reg.; William H. Hoff, Prov. G. Sec.;

W. Fredk. Jennings, Prov. S.G.D.; John G. Llewelyn (P. Prov. J.C.W.), as Prov. J.G.D.; Thomas Jones, Prov. G. S. of W.; Henry Frazer, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Thomas E. Carter, Prov. G.D. of C.; William Handford, Assist. Prov. G.D. of C.; George O. Wray, Prov. G.S.B.; Robert E. Ross, P. Prov. G.S.B.; and Joseph K. Hamilton, Prov. G.P.

Visitors and representatives were present from the Lodges St. David in the East, No. 371, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; True Friendship, No. 265; Humility with Fortitude, No. 279; St. John's, No. 715; Star of Burmah, No. 897; Lodge de Goede Hoop, Cape of Good Hope; Star in the East, No. 80; Industry and Perseverance, No. 126; True Friendship, No. 265; Humility with Fortitude, No. 279; Marine, No. 282; Courage with Humanity, No. 551; St. John's, No. 715; Kilwinning in the East, No. 740; Star of Burmah, Rangoon, No. 897. A visitor of high rank, R.W. Bro. W. H. Read, Prov. G.M. of the Eastern Archipelago, was escorted in due form to the door of the District Grand Lodge, when the brethren rose, while the Deputy Prov. Grand Master advanced, greeted R.W. Bro. Read, and conducted him to his seat on the left of the throne. The brethren then saluted the distinguished visitor, in the usual manner, seven times.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in form, and with a prayer offered up by the Rev. Bro. Mazuchelli, and minutes of the quarterly communication of the 27th December, 1858, were read and confirmed.

The Prov. Grand Secretary read a correspondence with the Rev. and R.W. Bro. T. C. Smyth, regarding the representation of the Prov. Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago in the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, by the R.W. Bro. J. J. L. Hoff; and also the report of the Finance Committee on the audit of the Prov. Grand Treasurer's accounts. The accounts were examined and found to be correct.

It was proposed by R.W. Bro. Roberts, seconded by Bro. Spiers, and carried, that a committee be appointed, with power to expend a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,500, for the purpose of decorating and furnishing the Freemasons' Hall.

Before closing the District Grand Lodge, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master delivered the following address:—"Dear brethren, when I last presided in this place, I did not think that I should have to do so again; but as I am still the *locum tenens* of the Prov. Grand Master, it is my duty to represent him once more in this Grand Lodge. As, however, it may be the last time that I shall have to do so, suffer me to address to you a few parting words. In taking a retrospect of Freemasonry in this province, extending to more than thirty years, it is undeniable that our institution holds a far more important position now than it did at the beginning of that period, although there are yet many things wanting to give it greater stability and a larger sphere of usefulness. At the time to which I have alluded, there was only one Lodge that could be said to be working prosperously, and that Lodge was located in Fort William. In Calcutta itself there were two Lodges; but they were weak in the number of their members. Of two other Lodges, standing high on the English register, nothing whatever beyond their names was known to the Masonic community at large. For a time there was a Prov. Grand Lodge; but of its proceedings the Lodges were in utter ignorance. That Prov. Grand Lodge soon ceased to exist; and then, having no supervision, each Lodge acted according to its own views, having vague notions of what was required by the "Constitutions," a thing which they talked of, but with which they were little acquainted, the book itself being rare. Then reigned many contradictions and absurdities. These have all been swept away, and a better order of things prevails now. This may not be very apparent to Masons who have belonged to the institution for only the last few years; but to one who has seen Masonry in a variety of phases, for a considerable period, the difference appears strikingly clear. Nineteen years ago, the Prov. Grand Lodge of Bengal was revived under that excellent brother, Dr. John Grant, our first Grand Master under the new regime. Fresh vigour was then infused into Freemasonry; but, in my humble opinion, too much was attempted at once. The institution, instead of being allowed to develop itself gradually, was forced into an intense and a dazzling existence; and it is to the want of caution then displayed that I attribute our being to this day without a house which we could call our own. This is a point, however, which has not been, and I hope will not be, lost sight of. The Lodges in Calcutta have increased to eight in number, and they are all flourishing, more or less; but we have not such an useful institution as a Lodge of Instruction, wherein brethren could become properly qualified to fill creditably the several offices in a Lodge, especially the high and important office of Master, upon which the well doing, or otherwise, of a Lodge mainly depends. This is one of the *desiderata* to which I wish to draw your especial attention. Since my appointment to the office of Prov. Grand Secretary, fifteen years ago, twenty new Lodges have been added to the number existing previously. The mutiny and rebellion of 1857 nearly annihilated all the Lodges in the upper provinces; but with the restoration of peace they are reviving from their ashes. The number of Lodges now actually working in the provinces is as follows:—Calcutta, 8; country 16; total, 24; while some of those still dormant may yet be reconstituted. On the formation of the Prov. Grand Lodge in 1840, several benevolent schemes were projected, but none of them came to maturity. Eight years after that time, the Fund of Benevolence was established, but not without opposition, on the ground that it was impracticable, and that the Lodges would be unable to contribute towards its support. The amount of good it has done, in granting relief to the destitute widow and orphan, and to the brother in distress, while no member of a Lodge

has felt any inconvenience in paying the trifling contribution of one rupee a quarter, is the best refutation of the objections that were made to the establishment of the Fund. The operations of this Fund could be enlarged considerably, and a more systematic plan of dispensing charity than that which is at present observed, could be established, were the charitable funds of all the Lodges merged in it; but I am aware that this scheme does not enlist the unanimous assent of the Lodges, and unless unanimity can be secured, it had better be left alone. I would only take this opportunity to notice an erroneous notion entertained by some brethren (who, I fear, do not take the trouble to inquire and inform themselves, though I have been at all times willing to give every information in my power) that the Fund of Benevolence is a sort of "St. John's Box" of the District Grand Lodge; and therefore it is sometimes called the *Grand Fund of Benevolence*. This is quite a mistake. The fund was, of course, established by authority of the District Grand Lodge, *i.e.*, by consent of a large majority of the Lodges in the province, as directed in the Constitutions; but the District Grand Lodge has no control whatever over it. It is entirely under the management of a committee composed of the Masters and immediate Past Masters of the Lodges (country Lodges having the privilege of being represented by proxy) with the addition only of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master as President, and the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary as members *ex officio*; even these latter could be dispensed with, and by a slight alteration in the by-laws of the District Grand Lodge, the Master of the senior Lodge, during his tenure of office, could be made the President if it were so desired. The Fund of Benevolence, therefore, is nothing more than a *trust* "St. John's Box" in Calcutta, with this difference only, that it is not attached to any Lodge. I need hardly touch upon another most important topic; but I cannot let the opportunity pass without saying a word regarding it. I allude to the careful discrimination which should be exercised in the admission of candidates into our Order, it being advisable that we should bear in mind that the eyes of the world are upon us, and that they will judge of us as they would of a tree, by the fruit we bear, and not by what we profess ourselves to be. The recommendation of a candidate by his friend should be received with due respect, but it is not sufficient. Every member of a Lodge ought to consider it his duty to inquire into the character of the individual, and thus to be prepared to exercise his privilege at the ballot conscientiously. It is for this purpose that the ballot is deferred for a fortnight; otherwise there could no necessity for it. A candidate could be proposed, balloted for, and if elected, initiated at once, as used to be done occasionally in former times, when Lodges gave their own interpretation of what constituted a case of emergency. Much has been said and written upon this highly important subject. It is needless, therefore, for me to do more than to recommend it to the serious notice of every brother in the Craft. In regard to the working of Lodges in Calcutta, and their management, I am happy to testify from my official connection with them during the last fifteen years, that there is a great improvement. It was remarked to me, lately, that Masonry was in a state of decadence in Calcutta. I could not concur in this view. It is true there is nothing of an exciting nature at present, which would awaken enthusiasm; but at the same time there appears to me to be abundant evidence that the calm which prevails is healthy. The Lodges seem to me to be pursuing the even tenor of their course; there are no storms or convulsions; and the Craft is in as prosperous a state as could be wished or expected—while there is a vast and unoccupied field on which there is every prospect that our banners shall yet be planted. And now, brethren, not wishing to trespass further on your time, allow me to bid you farewell! Be kind to my many shortcomings, and I shall ever be mindful of your many favours. 'Be of one mind; live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.'"

There being no further business, the District Grand Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

DUDLEY.—On Wednesday, July 6th, the annual reunion of the brethren of the four Masonic Lodges in Dudley took place at Hagley Park, the beautiful seat of Lord Lyttleton, lord lieutenant of the county. After the brethren had rambled about in the delightful shades of this most classic ground, once the favourite haunt of Shenstone, Crabbe, Lyttleton, Shelley, and Pope, they repaired to the Lyttleton Arms, at four o'clock, p.m., and enjoyed an excellent repast. In addition to the Dudley brethren, we noticed Bros. Col. Vernon, Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire; G. H. Royds, D. Prov. G.M. of Worcestershire; Lieut. Webster; Underhill, W.M. of Noah's Ark Lodge, Tipton; Dudley Parsons, of the St. Matthew's Lodge, Walsall; Packwood, of the Lodge of Stability, London; B. Brooke, P.M., Webb, and Stringer, from the Stourbridge Lodge of Stability, besides the following P.M.s.:—Masefield; Clark; Demison; Bristow; Morris. There were also present, Bros. Shepard, W.M. No. 313; George Horton, W.M., No. 838. Bro. Clark, P.M. of No. 313, occupied the president's chair, and the vice-president's was filled by Bro. Horton, W.M., No. 838. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the president, in a very complimentary manner, proposed the healths of the Visitors and Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodges

of Worcester and Stafford, to which Bros. Col. Vernon, Royds, and Dudley Parsons responded. The health of the president and vice-president of the day were received with the greatest enthusiasm, as were those of Bros. Sheppard, W.M. of Lodge No. 313, Masfield. P.M., No. 313, and Brooke, W.M. of Lodge No. 249, all of which were responded to in truly Masonic style. After spending a most harmonious and pleasant evening, the brethren returned by the last train from Hagley, highly delighted with their Masonic re-union.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen took a drive on Saturday morning at Aldershot, and the Prince Consort rode out on horseback. The Prince of Wales rode with the Prince Consort, and the Princesses Alice and Helena and Prince Arthur accompanied her Majesty in her carriage. The Queen drove round a part of the camp, and inspected the regimental schools, the wards of the hospital, and also the racket court. Late in the afternoon her Majesty reviewed the whole of the troops now in camp at Aldershot, amounting to nearly 20,000. On Monday her Majesty, the Prince Consort, and the Prince of Wales, left Aldershot, and proceeded to the new camp at Woolmer, and reviewed the cavalry division. After the review the royal party proceeded by special train in the afternoon to Gosport, where they embarked in the royal steam yacht *Fairy*, Captain Denman, en route for Osborne, which they reached in the evening. On Wednesday and Thursday the Queen and royal family walked and drove. There was no addition to the royal dinner party. The duration of the royal family's stay in the Isle of Wight is not fixed, but must of course depend upon public affairs.

FOREIGN NEWS.—The happy tidings of peace form the crowning news of this week. At Paris, the *Moniteur* of Monday, publishes the reasons which induced the belligerents to agree to an armistice. Inspired by sentiments of moderation, and anxious to prevent the needless effusion of human blood, the Emperor Napoleon, it says, sought to ascertain whether the Emperor of Austria was animated with similar sentiments, and finding this to be the case, an armistice was concluded. On the other hand, an Austrian paper, the *Oberpostamt's Zeitung*, states that it was at the repeated request of the French that the armistice was granted. Commercial vessels of all countries may therefore navigate the Adriatic unmolested. The news of the armistice has had a very beneficial effect upon the public mind in Paris, and produced a considerable rise in Rentes and other securities. All suspense was terminated by a telegram from the Emperor Napoleon to the Empress, communicating the important information that a treaty of peace had been signed between the Emperor and the Emperor of Austria on the following bases:—An Italian confederation, under the honorary presidency of the Pope; the Emperor of Austria gives up his rights over Lombardy to the Emperor of the French, who remits them to the King of Sardinia; the Austrian Emperor keeps Venetia, but it is to form part of the Italian Confederation, and a general amnesty is to be granted. The people of Paris are on the *qui vive* in anticipation of the return of the Emperor, to whom they are prepared to give a most enthusiastic reception. It appears by advices from Turin that the news of an armistice having been concluded between France and Austria had created intense dissatisfaction among the patriotic party. The correspondents draw a shocking picture of the state of the immediate seat of warlike operations. The troops were suffering greatly from the heat, from dysentery, and the want of water. At Goito, where the corps of Prince Napoleon is encamped, the stench of the unburied horses is dreadful, and the air for miles is tainted with the smell from the half buried bodies of the slain on both sides.—A telegram from Trieste informs us that an Austrian steamer sustained a successful contest with a French frigate, in the channel of Zara, on Thursday. The *Vienna Gazette* publishes a protest of the Duchess Regent of Parma against the late political changes which have occurred within the duchy, "contrary to the directions" left by the duchess on her departure, and "to the rights and interests of the Duke of Parma." A number of Austrians, prisoners to the French, have requested permission to establish themselves in Algeria.—A telegraphic despatch from Naples states, that on the night of the 9th inst., some Swiss troops mutinied in the barracks, and killed the colonel of the 4th regiment, and several officers. Having repaired to the royal palace, they were surrounded, but wounded the General Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss, and twenty privates. Upon this, a fire of grape shot was opened on the mutineers, killing seventy-five, and wounding 233 of them. The rest were disarmed; after this order was restored.—The Madrid journals of the 7th state, that in consequence of the precautions taken by the government, all fears of revolutionary movements in Andalusia had ceased.—The *Europa* has arrived at Liverpool with dates from Boston to the 29th ult. The conducta of 5,000,000 dollars, which left Mexico on the 28th May, was seized by General Robles, who ordered it to be shipped at Sacrificios; but the commander refused to receive it, notwithstanding the orders of the English and French ministers to do so. The American government have claimed two millions. The English fleet have been ordered to Vera Cruz, and the English subjects have been banished from the capital. Fifty persons have been killed, and fifty or sixty wounded, by an accident on the Michigan Southern Railway. A telegraphic commu-

nication from New York announces the wreck of the steamer *Argo*, off Newfoundland. Crew and passengers saved.

INDIA AND CHINA.—By the overland mail we have dates from Calcutta to June 3rd, and from Hong-Kong to May 31st. The disaffection of the Company's troops was abating, and they are quietly waiting the result of an appeal to the home government and Parliament. The Calcutta volunteer guard had been disembodied by the Governor-general, in a formal order published in the *Gazette*—a proceeding that had caused much discontent among the European residents. On the Queen's birthday the Bishop of Calcutta, with the archdeacon and clergy of the metropolis, congratulated the Governor-general on the honours he had won, and also read an address to Her Majesty setting forth "the views of the clergy upon the relation of the government of India to its subjects in a religious point of view." Lord Canning returned thanks for their good wishes for his own health and happiness, and expressed his gratitude for "the steady introduction of peace."—The news from China is comparatively unimportant. The British plenipotentiary was about to start for Peking, escorted by a large force as far as the Gulf of Petchelea, though it was not expected that any opposition would be made to his progress.

HOME NEWS.—Cabinet councils have been held twice this week at Lord Palmerston's residence.—Instead of having the satisfaction of recording a diminution in the mortality of the metropolis, we have now to announce a rapid increase in the rate. Last week the deaths rose to 1226, exceeding the average by 128.—At the last meeting of the Common Council, the Remembrancer informed the court that a bill for the better regulation of the corporation had been brought into parliament by the Home Secretary, and the bill was ordered to be considered at the next court. A long discussion took place upon a report from the lunatic asylum committee relative to the erection of a pauper lunatic asylum for the City. The report was referred back to the committee to take suitable steps in the matter. The court then adjourned.—John Bardoe, the negro who was tried and acquitted last week at the Old Bailey for stabbing a police officer, was brought before Mr. Yardley, at the Thames Police-court on Saturday, charged with committing several very serious assaults. It seems that the prisoner, after his discharge, had been received into the Straugers' Home, where during the night he got up and made an indiscriminate attack with a razor upon those who were asleep in the same apartment, some of whom are dangerously wounded. A remand was ordered for further inquiry, fears being entertained that the unhappy man's intellect has given way.—An apprentice in the employ of Messrs. Wilks, cigar manufacturers, Spitalfields, while engaged at his work wantonly blew some tobacco dust into the eyes of a fellow workman. The man, irritated by the pain, struck a lad near him, under the erroneous impression that he was the delinquent. It was found necessary, in consequence of the blow, to remove the poor boy to the hospital, where he died on Wednesday morning.—A cabman named Woodrow, was brought before the magistrate at Clerkenwell, charged with a furious assault on Emily Barker. It seems that the ruffian had been offended with the unfortunate woman because she refused to go into a public house with him, and holding her with one hand he inflicted several stabs about the neck and breast. She was conveyed to the University Hospital, where she now lies in a critical state. Mr. Corrie remanded the prisoner for a week.—At the Court of Bankruptcy, J. D. Jones, who was lately the proprietor of "His Lordship's Larder," in Cheapside, but who left that concern for the purpose of establishing the "City Wellington," at 60, Fleet street, where he failed, applied for his certificate. The Commissioner considered the bankrupt had been guilty of reckless and extravagant trading, and therefore suspended his certificate (third class) for two years, but, as no fraud had been committed, granted protection.—The Court of Aldermen met on Wednesday, the Lord Mayor in the chair. Mr. E. J. Jonas was elected governor of Newgate. A petition was presented from a committee of liverymen, appointed by the Common Hall for the protection of the rights of the livery, praying the court to assist them in the defence of their rights. A conversation took place thereupon, and eventually the petition was sent to the corporation inquiry committee of the Court of Common Council.—At the commencement of business yesterday, there was considerable activity in the funds, and Consols were at 96½ to 96, but opened at the official period at 96½. Subsequently, sales on the part of the public to realize the late advance occurred, and the final quotation was 91½ to 96.—A very satisfactory report was presented at the meeting of the Union Bank of London, and the proprietors appear thoroughly satisfied with the progress their affairs have made.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Monday, Lord Wodehouse made the important communication that her Majesty's government had received intelligence that peace had been signed by the Emperor of Austria and the Emperor of the French, the terms of which we have stated above. On the motion of Lord Lyndhurst, a royal commission was agreed to, for the purpose of inquiring into the mode of taking evidence in the Court of Chancery, and its effects, and to report thereon.—On Tuesday some questions relative to the discipline of the volunteer rifle corps led to some discussion, in which several noble lords took part, and to some explanations from the Earl of Ripon on behalf of the Government. Lord Brougham called attention to the Coolie immigration to the British West India islands, which, under the operation of local acts, had degenerated into something not far removed from a revival of the slave trade. The Duke of Newcastle said

it would be inconvenient to appoint a committee during the present session. —In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Monday, the further consideration of the Lords' amendments to the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company Bill led to considerable discussion, it being moved by Sir J. Graham that the discussion should be postponed. The house divided, and the amendment of Sir James Graham was negatived by a majority of 177 to 130. In reply to Mr. Disraeli, Lord J. Russell said the armistice was a suspension of hostilities only, but being for a period of five weeks he was led to hope that it might lead to some arrangement between the belligerents, which might produce a peaceful solution. Mr. W. Williams called attention to the increase in the estimates, and also to the punishment of flogging in the navy. Sir C. Napier did not think that corporal punishment in the navy could be altogether done away with. The house went into committee of supply, and the discussion of the estimates chiefly occupied the remainder of the evening. —On Tuesday the Grievance's Disabilities Removal Bill, which had passed the Lords without question as a private bill, was thrown out in this House, the Commons considering that it involved public interests. In reply to a question of Mr. Disraeli, Lord J. Russell said that information had been received by the French Ambassador, to the effect that a treaty of peace between the two emperors had been signed. The noble lord then stated the terms of the treaty. The adjourned debate on the Roman Catholic Relief Act Amendment Bill principally occupied the remainder of the sitting. —On Wednesday, Mr. Dillwyn moved the second reading of the Church Rates Abolition Bill. Mr. Du Cane opposed the bill as nothing less than an attempt to rob the established church, and moved as an amendment that it be read a second time that day six months. Lord R. Montague seconded the amendment. Mr. Baines, as a dissenter, who did not approve of the union of church and state, said he had no wish to say to the established church "stand and deliver." He was quite satisfied to cry out "hands off," and if they kept "hands off" he would be perfectly content. Mr. Adderley supported the amendment. Sir G. C. Lewis quoted a variety of statistics in order to show that the opposition to church rates was not to be attributed to the burden they cast upon the community, but rather to conscientious feelings which they were said to violate. He was at one time favourable to a plan for rating members of the established church and exempting dissenters, but that compromise was opposed by the friends of the existing law, and he therefore saw no alternative but to support the second reading of the bill. Lord J. Manners eulogised the bill brought in by Mr. Walpole, which he considered a liberal compromise. The bill now before the house had not for its object the relief of conscientious dissenters, but the subversion of one of the great principles of the English constitution. Lord Fermoy argued in favour of the bill, which he contended would strengthen the church. Mr. Drummond maintained that every one who voted for the bill voted against the principles of an established church. Lord Palmerston acknowledged himself a convert to the abolition principle, in consequence of the strong feeling expressed out of doors. Mr. Disraeli, in an amusing speech, drew attention to the changes the noble lord's opinions had from time to time undergone. Lord J. Russell did not consider that there was an injustice in church rates, and he could not support the abolition on that ground; but he should support the second reading of the bill on the ground that public feeling had declared strongly in its favour. On the division there were 263 for the second reading, and 193 against it. The bill was accordingly read a second time.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—Covent Garden Theatre, on Thursday, was crowded, as a matter of course, by a purely musical public, the entertainment being for the last time this season, Mozart's opera, "Don Giovanni," with the following powerful cast:—*Donna Anna*, Madame Crisi; *Zerlina*, Madame Penco; *Elvira*, Mdlle. Marai; *Don Giovanni*, Signor Mario; *Leporello*, Signor Ronconi; *Masetto*, Signor Polonini; *Il Commendatore*, Signor Tagliafico; *Don Ottavio*, Signor Tamberlik. Costa was as great as ever in the management of the orchestra, and the minuet was admirably danced by Mdlle. Zina and M. Desplaces.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.—On Monday evening Mr. Balfe took his benefit at Drury Lane. The "Bohemian Girl" was presented in its Italian dress (*La Zingara*), and served to introduce Miss Victoire Balfe to a London audience in the character of *Arline*, who sang to perfection, and betrayed great dramatic power. Giuglini, as *Thaddeus*, sang admirably, and he was compelled to give the popular air, "When other lips," three times before the audience were satisfied. His delivery of the "Fair Land of Poland," was also most masterly. At the conclusion of the opera Miss Balfe was called before the curtain, and Mr. Balfe, who conducted, was also compelled to appear on the stage to receive an ovation from an audience which, it is pleasant to be able to state, filled the house in every part. On Thursday, for the benefit of Signr. Giuglini, was given part of "Les Huguenots," with the following cast:—*Valentina*, Mdlle. Titieni; *Margarita*, Mdlle. Brambilla; *Marcello*, Sig. Marini; *Nevers*, Sig. Fagotti; *San Bris*, Sig. Lanzoni; and *Raoul de Nançis*, Sig. Giuglini. After which, "La Zingara" was given, with Mdlle. Piccolomini as *Arline*.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—This evening our worthy Bro. Buckstone takes his benefit, and we sincerely hope he will have the bumper that

his managerial abilities and spirit, and his invariable complaisance entitle him to. The following is the bill of fare. The new comedy of "The Contested Election" commences the evening, followed by "How to Make Home Happy," by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews, at the end of which Mr. Buckstone will, as usual, address the audience. This is also the first time of a new ballet, by Mr. Leclercq, entitled "Allhallow's Eve."

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—The withdrawal of "Henry the Fifth" has been followed by the revival of "Henry the Eighth," shorn of none of its original splendour. Mr. Kean's *Wolsey* remains one of the best of his Shakespearean assumptions, not conventional, nor aiming at that sustained dignity which, however incompatible with the historical truth or poetic treatment of the character, most actors have attempted to impart to it. Mr. Kean presents to us the man in the habit as he lived, and as he is presented to us by the dramatist. Mr. Kean's *Queen Katherine* is as impressive as ever, the striking point being of course her dignity in the trial scene.

OLYMPIC.—On Monday night another new drama, by Mr. Tom Taylor, entitled "Payable on Demand," was brought out with unequivocal success, and Mr. F. Robson has thus acquired a fresh character of importance, which he is likely to sustain for some time in the presence of an admiring public. Notwithstanding some faults of construction, and a slight falling off in the dialogue, the piece must be acknowledged worthy of the author. Throughout the whole of the second act the character of *Reuben* is a great creation on the part of Mr. Robson. The wild thirst for gold, the affection for his daughter, the tearful remembrance of his late wife, to whose spirit he prays in an agony of doubt, are brought into the strongest and most natural collision, while the compound is curiously tempered by the quiet craftiness of the modern speculator. In describing the character and perplexities of *Reuben* as played by Mr. Robson we, in fact, describe the piece, but a word of commendation is due to Miss Wyndham's earnest performance of the mother and daughter, and Mr. H. Wigan's highly finished representation of a Frenchman,—a lieutenant in the first act, and an enthusiastic vendor of curiosities in the second. The two scenes, one an old-fashioned German interior, elaborately set, the other, a modern drawing-room, gorgeously furnished, are well worthy the high reputation which the Olympic managers have acquired by the arrangements of their stage.

STRAND THEATRE.—Two novelties have made their appearance here, a farce entitled "Quixote, Junior," of which we cannot give a favourable report, and a new burlesque. This burlesque is very funny. The dialogue bristles with fun, and the slang allusions, which are plentifully interspersed throughout, are not in such very bad taste. Altogether, as burlesques go now-a-days, the "Last Edition of the Lady of Lyons" is a capital one. The audience were in ecstasies of delight therewith, likewise with the author, Mr. H. J. Byron, who is rapidly achieving eminence in a branch—or rather on a twig in the dramatic art—whose highest rewards are not of a sufficiently gratifying nature to invite much competition.

SURREY GARDENS.—The second series of concerts and *fêtes* at the Surrey Gardens commenced on Monday afternoon, when the combined attractions of two concerts, a double display of fireworks, and a pre-eminently fine day, had the effect of filling the music-hall, and even overflowing it to such an extent that a considerable number of amateurs had to listen to the music from the garden. Each of the concerts was a very admirable entertainment.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRO. J. JOHNSON, No. 61, is thanked. It is impossible for us to keep the appointments correct without the assistance of the brethren. Fully half of the Lodges have not made us any returns of the places and times of meeting, without which we cannot notify their appointments.

"H. V. O."—Certainly not.

"UNIFORMITY OF WORKING."—Some remarks on this subject from a correspondent are in type.

"ANCIENT VIEWS OF FREEMASONRY."—Our correspondent is thanked for his offer, of which we shall avail ourselves.

"A PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICER."—Too late for our impression of the present week.

"R. E. X."—A communication relative to American Brethren will receive early attention.

"Mc. C.; GLASGOW."—Your reports of the state of the Craft in the North will be welcome.