

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1831.

MASONIC SYMBOLISM,

WITH REFERENCE TO THE MEANING AND ORIGIN OF
THE WORDS "FREEMASON" AND "COWAN."

PART IV.

(Continued from page 503, Vol. III.)

Cowan seems to be a corruption of covin, which Pritchard substitutes for it. This word is thus defined by Webster; covin (query, Arabic, to defraud). More probably this word belongs to some verb in Greek, signifying to conceal, or to agree (Fellows). In Norman French, coveyne is a secret place or meeting. In modern French, coyan, *n.s.m.*, means a dastard. "In our time a 'cowan,' or over curious, uninitiated person, who was detected in the fact of listening or attempting to procure, by any undue means, a knowledge of the peculiar secrets of Freemasonry, was termed an eaves-dropper, from the nature of the infliction to which he was subjected. He was placed under the eaves of a house in rainy weather, and retained there till the droppings of the water ran in at the collar of his coat, and out at his shoes; and therefore the phrase, it rains, indicates that a cowan is present, and the proceedings must be suspended (*Oliver's Revelations of a Square*). The French rather extend this punishment:—"Où le met sous une gouttière une pompe, ou une fontaine, jusqu'à ce-qu'il soit mouillé depuis la tête jusqu'aux pieds." In the Manx language, which is a branch of the Celtic, "ith cow" signifies, it rains. Another derivation which here appears pertinent is ακουαν, the Greek "I hear;" ακουαν, hearing, or one who hears, by a simple ellipsis becomes κουαν, cowan; either of the two latter derivations are applicable to cowan as an eaves-dropper. A Scottish brother, writing in *THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE*, says, "I think that our Cowan is of Scotch origin, but derived from the Erse or Gaelic stock rather than the Saxon. Sir Walter Scott makes a Gael use it as a term of reproach against the then Duke of Argyle, well known to be no lazy bungler at any work he undertook, but a skilful, deep, and politic personage, notorious for his *Punica fides* among the Highland clans, and an ally of the Hanoverian Government for the purpose of breaking up the Celtic feudal principles and clan combinations. Now, the Gaelic or Erse, as spoken near Inverness, has the word *couachan*, pronounced *koo-a-chan* (the *ch* gutterally), which means literally a base, faithless, and contemptible fellow, void of moral worth, and is applied to a coward, also to a traitor; in both cases because of the character who wants courage, and cannot be trusted. The force of *couachan* being increased by its being itself a diminutive, *couachan*, pronounced softly, and not gutterally, would be cow'an, and here, I believe, we have the very word cowan of our Scotch Masonic formula in the same sense—a base man, in whom trust cannot be reposed, one, in short, void of all moral worth, and who cannot seek the tyled recess unflinced by mercenary or other unworthy motives;

literally a couachan, and therefore the interdicted and anathematised cowan of Masonry."

I have now briefly glanced at symbolism, which is, in fact, the language of Freemasonry, and shown that it consists not only in outward tangible shapes, as depicted by the brush or the chisel, but also that it consists of emblems, tropes, or similes, actions and figures of speech, mentally bringing before the speaker and him who hears or reads them the picture or symbol of the thing alluded to. In the preceding pages will be found the definitions of Freemason and Cowan, as given by various authors, and also some new ones never before, I believe, published. Let us now, then, again revert to the definition of Freemasonry, which I have selected as my text, and let us also consider some of the definitions already given.

Symbolism being the language of Freemasonry, the words Freemason and Cowan must be considered Masonically. Freemasonry is both operative and speculative. Masonry, according to the general acceptation of the term, is an art founded upon the principles of geometry, and directed to the service and convenience of mankind. But Freemasonry, embracing a wider range, and having a nobler object in view, *i.e.*, the cultivation and improvement of the human mind, may with more propriety be called a science, inasmuch as, availing itself of the terms of the former, it inculcates the principles of the purest morality. As operative masons we are taught to hew, square, and lay stones, and prove horizontals. We allude, by operative masonry, to a proper application of the useful rules of architecture, whence a building derives figure, strength, and beauty, resulting in a due proportion and just correspondence in all its parts. Speculative Masonry adopts and symbolises for its use the implements and materials used by the operative. To rule and direct our passions, to have faith and hope in God, and charity towards man, are the great objects of speculative Masonry. In the words of Bro. Mackey, "The Operative Mason constructs his edifice of material substances; the Speculative Mason is taught to erect a spiritual building pure and spotless, and fit for the residence of Him who dwelleth only with the good. The operative mason works according to the designs laid down for him on the trestle-board by the architect; the speculative Mason is guided by the great trestle-board on which is inscribed the revealed will of God, the Supreme Architect of heaven and earth; the operative mason tries each stone and part of the building by the square, level, and plumb; the speculative Mason examines every action of his life by the square of morality, seeing that no presumption nor vain glory has caused him to transcend the level of his allotted destiny, and no vicious propensity has led him to swerve from the plumb line of rectitude. And, lastly, as it is the business of every operative mason, when his work is done, to prove everything 'true and trusty,' so it is the object of the speculative Mason, by a uniform tenour of virtuous conduct, to receive, when his allotted course of

life has passed, the inappreciable reward, from his celestial Grand Master, of 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.' Operative masonry, then, is an art, and speculative a science; and while the objects of one are profane and temporal, those of the other are sacred and eternal; it is necessary, therefore, to consider the words Freemason and Cowan in the sense in which they apply to Masonry under both denominations.

Freemasonry is a beautiful system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols: it is veiled, hidden, or concealed in allegory, but illustrated, explained, and made patent by symbols. The term Freemason, then, considered operatively, simply means a body of men who derived their name from their profession or trade, as builders or masons; the prefix "free" being given them from the privileges, immunities, or freedom they enjoyed in exercising their craft, which were in the early ages of no little importance: they were free or licensed builders. A Cowan, being diametrically opposed to a Freemason, appears to me to mean simply the *profanum vulgus*, the uninitiated, or those who had not been duly and properly admitted into the ranks of Freemasonry, the *sine nomine turba*; in the same way as those persons who practise medicine without a proper diploma are in the present day called quacks. All or any of the definitions before given, with the exception of Chouan, will apply to Cowan. Our learned Bro. Dr. Oliver gives *cohen*, or *כוהן*, a priest or a dog, as the derivation, and I myself have long thought that *כוהן* is the right one. Herodotus (Bk. ii. c. 56) tells us that, "On the death of a dog, the Egyptians shave their heads and every part of their body"—this being a sign of the greatest grief; and Cicero tells us that, if a person even by accident killed a dog, he was put to death without mercy (*Cic. Tusc. Quæst.* v. 27). The dog was sacred in Egypt from this reason; the Nile annually overflowed its banks, but they for some time knew not exactly when the inundation would take place. Soon they observed near the stars of Cancer, towards the south, a large and most brilliant star ascending the horizon, which immediately preceded the inundation. That star became the public mark, on seeing which everyone fled to the higher grounds and cities. As it was seen but a very short time above the horizon before dawn, it seemed to appear merely to warn them; they gave it two names. It warned them of the danger, so they called it *Thaaut*, or *Thayaut*, the Dog; they also called it the Barker, the Monitor, Anubis; in Phœnician, Hannobech. From the connection between this star and the rising of the river, it was also called the Nile Star, or the Nile; in Egyptian and Hebrew, *Sihor*; in Greek, *Seirios*; in Latin, *Sirius*. In later times the Egyptians also called it *Sothis*, *Thotes*, or *Thot*, the dog. It was depicted as a man with a dog's head, bearing a pole with one or two serpents twisted around it, the pole signifying the measure of the Nile, the serpents, prudence, or preservation of life. Plutarch says that from the reign of Cambyse the dogs were no longer considered holy, because,

when he killed the sacred Apis, the dogs, not making a proper distinction, fed so heartily on the entrails that they lost all their sanctity. It was not lawful to suffer a dog to come within the precincts of the Temple at Jerusalem. In the Mosaic law the price of a dog and the hire of a harlot are put on the same level: "Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore nor the price of a dog into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow, for both these are an abomination to the Lord thy God" (Deut. xxiii. 18). The Jews considered the epithet of "dog" as most degrading: "Is thy servant a dog?" says Hazeel (2 Kings, viii. 14), and "I am a dog," said the Philistine to David (1 Sam. xvii. 43). In most countries it is considered a term of contempt and contumely, and in the East the touch of a dog is considered defiling.

Freemasonry, as I have before shown, is intimately connected with the ancient mysteries which chiefly sprung from and flourished most in Egypt; bearing in mind, then, the Eastern origin and symbolical language of Masonry, we may fairly conclude that *כוהן* was the origin of Cowan. So much, then, for the significations of the two words considered operatively; let us now take them in their speculative sense. Ashe, in his *Masonic Manual*, says, "A Mason is not to be considered in the contracted implication of a builder of habitations, &c., but figuratively, pursuant to the method of the ancient society on which this institution is founded; and, taken in this sense, a Mason is one who, by gradual advances in the sublime truths and various arts and sciences which the principles and precepts of Freemasonry tend to inculcate and establish, is raised by regular courses to such a degree of perfection as to be replete with happiness himself, and extensively beneficial to others." The language of Freemasonry is symbols, but as in the ancient mysteries the votaries were divided into Exoteric and Esoteric, so Masonry is divided into operative and speculative; both use the same symbols, but with the latter their signification is more extended. "La Magonnerie," says Ragon, "expliquée est la vérité sans voile;" and again, "On a dit, avec raison, que l'initiation était une tradition organisée et conservatrice des sciences secrètes." The word "initiated," in its primitive and general sense, and in its etymology, recalls to memory the white vestment which was formerly received; those who were received into the mysteries, and also those who came to be baptised in the early Christian Church, were clothed in a white garment, emblematical of purity; initiation signified the commencement of a new life, *novam vitam initiat*. Apuleius said that initiation is the resurrection to a new life. The aspirant (one who eagerly desires something higher) and the postulant (one who asks or requires) were those who sought to be initiated. When the lodge had consented to his admittance, the postulant became a candidate, so called from the *candida vestis*, or white garment worn in public places by anyone seeking office among the Romans. Admitted to the ordeal, the candidate is received, and becomes a neophyte (one, endued with a new nature,

νεος φυσις), or initiated, or, as it were, an apprentice, whose duty is, as the word intimates, to learn from his master everything pertaining to the craft which he has just joined.

R. B. W.

(To be continued.)

STRAY THOUGHTS ON THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE FINE ARTS.

BY DIAGORAS.

No. X.

The Corinthian order is lighter than the Doric or Ionic, and admits of a greater display of ornament than either. Its column consists of base, shaft, and capital; its average height is ten diameters; the base is composed of three tori and scotial, divided by fillets, and standing on a plinth. The flutings on the shaft are divided or separated by fillets rather more than a quarter of each fluting in width; the flutings are cut so deep as almost to be semi-circular; at the head the flutings terminate in leaves, to which the fillets are stalks. The core of the capital is cylindrical and of the same diameter as the shaft; it is banded by one row of water-leaves, and by another of acanthus, or olive leaves, which are peculiar to the order, and covered by a scooped abacus, between which and the leaves *cauliculi*, or little plant-like stems, spring up, curling gracefully in the spiral form of volutes. The frieze of this order is plain; the architecture is divided into three faces, by small mouldings or *astragals*, and is surmounted by a *cymatium*, which is the same as the *cyma* I have already spoken of. Such, then, is a brief account of the three most celebrated orders in architecture, the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian, as invented by the ancient Greeks; but it must not be supposed that the Grecian architects followed the precise arrangements I have enumerated; the love of novelty and variety is in every age so prominent a feature of the human mind, that we cannot be surprised to find that it is everywhere displayed in the existing remains of ancient Greek architecture. Still the broad or self-evident characteristics of each order are adhered to; and whatever variations are adopted, harmony is preserved, although in respect of proportion and ornamental detail, no two examples may agree—one variation invented by the Greeks was the adoption of male and female figures, as a substitute for columns, supporting a massive Doric entablature. The male figures are usually represented in a crouching form, with their hands tied before them; they are called *Persians*, and were introduced by Pausanias, 478 B.C., to commemorate the victory of Plataea, in which the Persian invaders were completely overthrown. The female figures are represented in various sorts of ornamental attire; they are called *Carians* or *Caryatides*, and are meant to celebrate the defeat of that people by the Athenians. It would seem that the motive which induced the Greeks to adopt this style was, that the figures of the Persians reminded them of their oppression by this people, whom they at last defeated; the Carians, also, with whom they had been long at war, at length shared a similar fate, and to represent them in the lowest possible state of degradation, they placed upon the sculptured representations of them the heaviest entablature, viz., the Doric.

I will, however, remark that this account of the origin of the Caryatid figures is given by Vitruvius, who, in his zeal to refer everything to its original source, often oversteps the bounds of earnest inquiry to deal in mere conjecture. Other writers maintain that the use of such

figures is more ancient than the invasion of Xerxes, and some suppose them to represent the virgins engaged in the worship of Diana, and bearing on their heads the sacred vessels of the temple. The labours of modern travellers have thrown some light on the mechanical disposition of the building materials employed by the ancient Greeks. The first material they employed in the sacred edifices was timber; then brick-stone was next employed, and last, most beautiful and most permanent of all, marble. The wall enclosing the cella of the Parthenon was formed of horizontal rows of marble blocks, each of the same thickness as the wall itself; and the junctions in each alternate course were vertically over each other, securing by this plan great durability. The pavement is of square stones of equal size, and the joints are so accurately fitted as to be scarcely visible. This close junction of the marble blocks has often been the object of admiration, and was effected by hollowing out the middle part of each block, so as to leave a small margin, the surface of this margin was highly polished, so that the corresponding margins of any two blocks came into such close contact, that the external line of junction is often imperceptible; the object of hollowing out the middle part of each block was to avoid the labour of polishing the whole surface. It was usual to add the ornamental parts after the edifice was erected, and not during the progress of erection. The ornaments were cut out of the solid stone, the surface being first smoothed. The architectural labours of the Greeks were chiefly confined to the erection and embellishment of their temples, places of public amusement and exercise, and the entrances of their cities. On their private dwellings they bestowed little or no attention, and public comfort was in a great measure unheeded. The Romans far surpassed the Greeks in their care and attention to objects of national utility; they not only gratified their pious vanity by erecting gorgeous temples to their gods, but they constructed roads and bridges, well adapted to the internal communications of their vast empire; also gigantic sewers for draining their cities, and immense aqueducts for giving them abundant supplies of pure water. These magnificent works of the Romans have never been equalled for durability and extent. Long before any communication was established with Greece, the Italians cultivated architecture.

The people of Etruria, or Tuscany, are said to have invented a particular order called the *Tuscan*; and it is believed that the Romans employed Tuscan architects to execute their great works before they knew anything of the splendid achievements of Grecian art. It is by some, however, supposed that the Tuscan is only a modification of the Doric order; the Doric, divested of a few mouldings and of its triglyphs, its columns being reduced about two diameters in height, would furnish the Tuscan order. It admits of no ornaments whatever, and is the most solid and simple of all the orders. No regular example of this order occurs among existing antique remains. Vitruvius refers to it under the appellation of the *Rustic*, from its original simplicity and suddenness of style. It does not appear that architecture was known at Rome before the period of the Tarquins, but from their time various indications of a growing acquaintance with the art present themselves. In the reign of Tarquin the Elder, the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus was commenced by Etruscan workmen. Cicero says it had two rows of columns in the interior, by which it was divided into three parts, and its front was crowned by a pediment: it was thrice destroyed and thrice rebuilt on the same foundation. When a regular intercourse had been established between Italy and Greece, the Italian artists

began to copy the works of their more refined neighbours; but, either through want of taste to appreciate the simple but sublime beauties of the Greek style, or unwilling to appear mere copyists, they undertook to vary the style, and increase the ornaments of the existing orders; and hence doubtless arose the *Roman*, or *Composite*, in which the volutes of the Ionic are united with the foliage of the Corinthian. But there is one particular in which Rome has an apparent right to assert her superiority, that is in the invention of the *arch* or *dome*. No trace whatever appears of such an arrangement of materials in the buildings of any nation prior to its intercourse with Rome; instances occur where an artificial perforation in the shape of an arch has been made in a solid wall, but such perforations cannot come under the name of "arch." Such methods have been practised in all countries in all times; but of that kind of arch, which consists of a number of wedge-like stones, disposed in a vertical plane, and supporting themselves in the air by their mutual pressure, we meet with no sign among the remains of the early architecture of Greece; even over the river Cephissus, which crosses the road to Athens, there was no bridge until one was erected by the Romans when they were in possession of the country. Whoever may have been the inventor of the arch, the Romans have the honour of bringing it into general use, and of applying it to the most important purposes. At Tusculum, near Rome, there is a conduit which is considered one of the earliest specimens of arches: it is a subterranean channel, issuing from a reservoir under a mountain; it has vertical sides, and is covered with stones exhibiting the principle of the arch—that is, a frustra of wedges abutting against each other at their oblique sides. Examples of the arch have been found in part of the ancient walls of Rome built by Tullius. The *Cloaca Maxima*, supposed to have been built by Tarquin the Elder, formed of immense blocks of stone joined together without any cement whatever, exhibits a semi-circular vault as perfect as any subsequently erected. The theatre of Marcellus, erected by Julius Cæsar, is adorned on the exterior with rows of arches; and as this theatre is said to have been an imitation of one erected by Pompey, and his theatre again to have been imitated from that at Mitylene, of the time of Alexander, it has been thence inferred that there must have been arches in the last mentioned buildings like those in the theatre of Marcellus. But as every trace of the theatre of Pompey, and that at Mitylene have disappeared, there is no possibility of ascertaining whether this is the fact or not. The Chinese have also laid claim to the honour of having invented the arch; it seems to have been known to them from time immemorial, and certainly long before its introduction into Europe. The arch covers the gateways in their great wall; they employed it in the construction of monuments to their illustrious dead, and in the formation of bridges. Arches must have been used in Rome long before the time of Vitruvius, who lived in the age of Augustus, from the unmistakable manner in which he speaks of them; and he gives directions for their construction in that workmanlike manner which must have been the result of long and intimate acquaintance with their structure.

SALE OF CONDEMNED JAIL STOCK.—A curious auction took place at Gloucester lately. The place of sale was the city gaol, and the articles sold were the bedsteads, bedding, and clothing provided for prisoners, including the tread-wheel. For a long time the gaol has been without prisoners, except a tortoise, forty years of age. The tread-wheel, which cost one hundred guineas, sold for five, to be broken up. There were inquiries for the gallows, but this will continue to be part of the city property.

ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

ON THE ARRANGEMENT OF CHURCHES.

(Concluded from page 7.)

Paper read by Mr. Blomfield, M.A., at the last meeting of the Architectural Association.

Next as to the Pulpit. At least two sermons are preached from it every Sunday in most cases, so that I suppose the preaching of sermons may be considered a fixed and essential part of our services, and if so it ought undoubtedly to find expression in the architecture of the church. Now here, where we are at perfect liberty to look for assistance to the best times of art (seeing that the conditions for addressing a congregation must be much the same in all ages and for all creeds), here, where we should find plenty of assistance if we did look for it, we seem to neglect it in an unaccountable manner. I will just read a short extract from Viollet le Duc's Dictionary on this point, which exactly illustrates my remarks. In the article on "Pulpits" he says:—"In France none of our ancient churches have, as far as we know, preserved any pulpits of an earlier date than the fifteenth century. It was customary, from the commencement of the twelfth century, in our northern churches to arrange a rood-loft at the entrance of the choir, from the top of which the Epistle and Gospel were read, and exhortations addressed to the faithful when occasion served. In every case these sermons, before the institution of preaching friars, only took place occasionally. It is probable that in particular cases sermons were preached from a movable pulpit, arranged in some part of the church for that occasion. The pulpit was then only a little wooden stage, closed on three sides, and covered in front with a hanging. But in the thirteenth century, when the preaching orders had been established to combat heresy, and to explain to the people the truths of Christianity, preaching became a necessity, which the architectural arrangements of religious edifices were compelled to obey. * Exactly to fulfil these conditions the Dominicans and the Jacobins, amongst others, built churches with two naves, one being reserved for the monks and divine service, and the other for preaching; then the pulpits became fixed and entered into the construction. They formed, as it were, a balcony projecting into the interior of the church, carried on corbelling, accompanied by a niche taken out of the wall, and generally lit by little windows. Access was gained by a little staircase contrived in the thickness of the wall." Thus we see the thirteenth century architect at once felt instinctively that when a sermon became a thing of fixed and regular recurrence, instead of an occasional address, he must express the fact in his building. It was no longer sufficient to provide a little movable wooden stage closed on three sides, but he must contrive a balcony, or some architectural feature, that should distinctly proclaim its original use as long as the building should stand. There is an instance of such a pulpit in the south nave of the great church of the Jacobin convent at Toulouse. It has long been disused, the balcony and corbelling shaved off, and the niche blocked up, but still there are the evident remains, and you must pull down the building before you can obliterate the traces of what it has once been. As I said just now, a particular form of pulpit can have no more to do with creed or doctrine than a particular kind of brick or stone in a building (although I have heard a stone pulpit objected to on principle), and if this method of treating a pulpit was right in the thirteenth century, it is right now; we ought to feel as instinctively as the architect of that day that "a wooden stage closed on three sides," in fact, any sort of pulpit not entering into the construction of the church, does not thoroughly satisfy a principle we all acknowledge in the abstract.

The examples of ancient pulpits treated in this thoroughly common-sense manner are very numerous, but we must not confine our search after the earliest and best examples to the interior of churches: we shall find some of the best in the refectories of monasteries, used for reading to the monks during their meals. A very fine example of this kind of pulpit exists in a building (formerly the refectory) attached to the cloisters at Chester, and now used as a school.

It is well worthy of careful study, and gives a peculiar character and interest to the building. The woodcut in Viollet le Duc of the beautiful pulpit in the refectory of St. Martin des Champs is, I presume, familiar to all. We find a great variety of later examples, both in the interiors of churches and exteriorly in the cloisters and elsewhere, such as the well-known examples at Beaulieu, Magdalen College, Oxford, and St. Lo, in Normandy. There is one peculiarity about nearly all ancient pulpits which, although belonging more strictly to the second part of the subject, I will allude to now as forming part of their construction—it is that they nearly invariably have what the French call an *abat-voix* or voice reflector (to avoid the obnoxious term of "sounding-board"). Where part of the pulpit was formed by a niche or recess, the roof of the recess of course acted as one; but, if attached to a wall or pier, some covering was almost always added. "For pulpits," says Viollet le Duc, "erected in the open air or in churches, the necessity was soon felt of suspending a ceiling over the preacher, to prevent the voice from losing itself in space." This is actually now done in the large churches in Italy, with exceedingly picturesque effect, by suspending a large cloth or awning by the four corners over the pulpit. I only mention these facts because there seems to be an unfounded prejudice now against sounding-boards altogether. This is probably owing to the monstrous erections of the last century, which seem, by some suspension of the laws of nature, to be balancing themselves on one corner, and to be ready at a moment's notice to shut down on the preacher like the lid of a trap. Although apparently of enormous weight, they are generally, in fact, made of thin wood, and comparatively light, and are altogether shams and abominations; but because they are bad in design, I see no reason why the use of sounding-boards should be condemned altogether. Those of you who heard our President's admirable paper on "Acoustics" last Monday, will have heard that they have a decidedly beneficial effect in many instances; and I think that though in most cases it may be unnecessary where there is any reason to suppose it may serve a useful purpose, it would be much better for the architect to incorporate it with his design, and put it up at once with the pulpit, than run the risk of his work being disfigured hereafter by its addition. In a church with which I am well acquainted, a fine building only lately finished, a sounding-board has been added to the pulpit within the last few months with exceedingly bad effect, cutting, as it does, into a beautifully carved capital; but the acoustic improvement is so great that we have to overlook its ugliness. I do not know whether the architect of the church was called upon to mar his own design in this instance, but I think it is a case where a sounding-board originally designed by him as part of the pulpit might have been made not an unpleasing feature.

There is still another part of our services which require notice, and that is the musical portion. The only point about it which I wish to enforce in this division of the subject is this. As an organ is now almost an invariable appendage to a church, and is generally considered necessary to the proper and decent celebration of our service, it should impart a distinctive character to that part of the building which is destined to receive it. I am aware that this is frequently attended to in modern churches, and always I think with a satisfactory effect; I could name instances of churches where such an arrangement has always appeared to me to give the chief interest and charm to the building. In small village churches where an harmonium takes the place of an organ, a recess in the thickness of the wall may be contrived with very good effect at a small cost, and with unmistakable fitness of purpose.

I have thus briefly and imperfectly noticed some of the points to which we should all give especial attention in order to make our churches what they ought to be—the architectural expression of the ritual of the Church of England. Let us now take a very cursory view of the other branch of the subject, namely, the customs, wants, and requirements of modern congregations, and the effect they ought to have on the architecture of our churches.

To begin with, I think that (arguing from the analogy of former ages) we may lay down the principle that, respect for precedent and sentiments of association should not pre-

vent us from discarding any peculiarity of construction or arrangement that is found distinctly inconvenient or unsuitable, and which does not express any part of our ritual. As a simple illustration of this principle, we find that the questionable associations which must still have clung to the heathen basilicas did not prevent the early Christian congregations from transferring their religious services to them from the baptisteries, which are now believed to have been the original ritual churches. This, of course, could only have been done because the hall of the basilica, with its side aisles, was found to be much more convenient for the decent celebration of their services than the circular and octagonal baptisteries. In the same way, I think that in any point where convenience is at stake, we ought not to be too much confined by the precedent of mediæval architecture. Neither our ritual nor our congregations are the same as those for which our ancient churches were built, and it is scarcely to be expected that if they were exactly suited to one they will be equally so to the other. We have seen that at the Reformation Gothic architecture had arrived at its last stage. King's College Chapel, its last great effort, commenced a century before, had been finished about twenty years; and there can be little doubt, that had it been possible for a new and true architecture to have sprung up with the Reformation from the ashes of the old, we should have had churches as beautiful, but as different from the mediæval buildings as they in their turn were from the early Christian basilicas.

Beyond the absolutely essential division of nave and chancel, I do not wish to occupy your time by saying much about conveniences of plan. This is a question which must depend so much upon peculiarities of site and the number of the congregation, as well as other points, that it would form a long paper in itself. Those eccentric varieties in the form of theatres and lecture halls I need only allude to, as I hope we are all agreed that turning a church into a great auditorium is not only subversive of all proper ritual expression in arrangement, but renders it almost impossible to conduct the service in a decent and reverent manner.

At this point, however, it will be as well to take some notice of the vexatious question of galleries. We all know the numberless objections to them, and I suppose no one would employ them by choice; but where they become actually a necessity, which is often the case, they should certainly be located as part of the construction, and their presence should be expressed externally. Great care should of course be taken as to their height and the steepings of the seats, so that they may neither overpower the church by being too high, nor oppress the occupants of the aisles by being too low. A flat ceiling under the galleries will be found to be much better for acoustic purposes, and more satisfactory to the eye than an inclined one. There is one position, however, for a gallery which is, in some churches, almost unobjectionable from its answering two good purposes—one, mentioned by our President last Monday, that of breaking up and dissipating the sounds from the east-end, and preventing echo; the other, that of clothing the conspicuous bareness of the west wall, which in many churches, is far from agreeable.

To return from this digression: let us start with the acknowledged necessity of a nave for the congregation, and a chancel (not too deep) for the clergy and choir; and let us take a modern congregation of say 1000 persons, and consider the wants and requirements we have to meet. The first thing to be noticed is that, according to received notions, the seats must be fixed; and if we may judge from the serious inconveniences which attend the use of chairs where they have been tried, they are not likely to come into general use, except as a temporary expedient. The next requirement is that all the congregation should have an uninterrupted view and hearing of the officiating minister. It may not seem at first evident that an uninterrupted view is necessary, but in point of fact nothing is so difficult or irksome as to keep up one's attention to a speaker who is unseen. This applies, of course, chiefly to preaching.

The next requirement, whether right or wrong, is that no one should feel too cold or too hot, and that there should be no draughts in the church. It may seem to many beneath the dignity of this subject to notice so trivial a detail, but as a matter of fact it will be found to be considered a most

important thing, and it is not for us to decide whether it is right or wrong. If the age demands warming and ventilation, we must give it them.

Now, let us compare with this medieval and earlier congregations. The warming of churches may be considered, I suppose, in the first place, quite a modern luxury; next, as to seats, in the basilicas there were certainly no fixed seats except for the clergy—the congregation, whether standing or kneeling, arranged themselves round three sides of the choir. No one would then place himself by choice immediately behind a column, a defect unfortunately unavoidable in a modern aisled church with fixed seats. In our medieval churches, on the other hand, distinct hearing of the services was a matter of no particular moment, as the loss of a syllable or two of an unknown tongue could not interfere with the devotions of the faithful, and sermons did not form a regular part of the service as they do with us. Now, I am far from wishing in large churches to abandon aisles and substitute a large nave under one roof, for I quite agree with our President in his remarks last Monday, that the form of nave and aisles, which is hallowed by so many centuries' use in the Christian church, is also the most convenient for the decent and reverent celebration of our services, for hearing and for economy of space, or rather cubic content. There is, however, one defect in our system of aisles which we are bound to remedy as far as we can, namely, the obstruction of view caused by the columns. I am aware that many architects think this practically nothing, but I have tried the experiment many times myself, and can, therefore, assert that in an ordinary aisled church there must always be a large proportion of sittings cut off from the view of either altar, reading-desk, or pulpit. The effect is practically very disagreeable, and, to my mind, inconsistent with the conscientious carrying out of the principles we profess. It appears to me that there are only two ways of overcoming the defect—one by no longer employing fixed seats, the other by diminishing the columns to such a diameter that the slightest movement of the head of anyone placed behind it will bring the minister into full view. The largest diameter which can be employed to effect this is from 9 to 10 and 11 inches. Now, it is obvious that such columns can be safely obtained by the employment of a material which has long been used without scruple for similar work in every modern building, but a church—I allude, of course, to iron. There seems to be an extraordinary feeling afloat against an iron column as unecclesiastical and ugly. Now, to say it is unecclesiastical is nothing more nor less than narrow-minded prejudice; and to say it is ugly is to acknowledge our own shortcomings in having left it so long. In defiance of art critics the civil engineer has long decided that it is good construction; and it is high time for the architect to take it in hand and make it good art. I believe a check has been given to progress in this really grand and almost new field of design, artistically speaking, by the solemn denunciations levelled against the use of iron in architecture (except as a tie) by an eminent authority a few years ago. The argument gravely advanced in support of his views—namely, that we find no mention of iron architecture in the Bible—might as well be used against stained glass in decoration. Whatever may have been the cause, it is a fact that church architects, until quite lately, have appeared to be ashamed of the use of iron as a constructive material. In cases where it has been used for columns, it has usually been from motives of economy, and instances are not wanting (happily no recent ones) where it has been neatly painted and sanded in imitation of stone. If used at all, the material should, of course, be treated as what it is, and I cannot doubt that, if properly handled and elaborated, iron columns may be made beautiful and attractive features in church architecture. It may be thought a very great innovation to gain but a small advantage, but there is a true principle involved in it. I do not see why an iron column (which cannot have less to do with our ritual than a stone one) should be thought unecclesiastical, nor why it need be ugly; nor do I like to hear distinctly useful and convenient materials and modes of construction objected to simply on grounds of precedent and association. One objection I have heard raised against them is the bad proportion they

would bear to the superincumbent walls, but this again I believe to be, according to true principles, simply a question of association. In using a new material in a new position we must create new feelings of association for ourselves. If a few good examples were erected, people would soon begin to get used to the proportion, and to like the thing as undoubtedly right and full of purpose.

Before leaving the question of association I have a few words to say about church warming. As I just now remarked, we find that this is a most important point, and nothing disgusts a congregation so much as finding themselves in a cold, draughty, or ill-ventilated church, where the ladies cough all the winter and faint all the summer. You need not fear that I am now going to enter into any discussion of the best means of warming and ventilation. I merely wish to point out that we, perhaps, oftener than necessary increase our difficulties, and impair the perfectness of the system adopted, by thinking it right to hide away as much as possible all the paraphernalia of chimneys, &c. For instance, I want a chimney for a vestry and one for the warming apparatus; but I am afraid of making a good stack and carrying them to the proper height, lest any one should tell me I have given my church too domestic a character. Ought I not rather to consider that when we insist on introducing domestic comforts into our churches, that fact must, under an intelligent architect, come out distinctly in the character of the building? Our congregations cannot be provided properly and truthfully with the comforts and luxuries of home without paying for it by the disfigurement—if it be a disfigurement—of their churches with domestic features.

The next consideration, convenience of hearing, has just been so fully discussed by our President in his admirable paper that there is little left for me to say. I also agree with his remarks on the acoustics of churches, and I was particularly satisfied with the opinion he expressed as to open roofs and lofty naves, contrasted with a low proportion and boarded ceilings, as completely coinciding with my own convictions on the subject, based on observation and comparison of many buildings.

We must recollect that in making observations on the acoustic qualities of churches, it is not sufficient to go yourself once and try how you can hear at any particular part, as there may be many disturbing causes acting at different times; one of the best tests is, whether it is what the clergy call an easy church. Inquire of a few clergymen who have done duty there what they think of it in this respect, and you will form a truer estimate of its qualities than if you ask half the congregation. I believe it is little known how many clergymen's health is seriously impaired by having to do duty, day after day, in a difficult church. It therefore becomes, not only a question of convenience to the congregation, but of health and comfort, in many cases, to the clergyman.

It now only remains for me to touch upon one requirement as to the musical arrangements of a church—and here let me say that though it can scarcely perhaps be expected of a church architect that he should be a musician, yet he should make it his business to understand something of the construction of the instruments used in a church. An organ, the most beautiful of instruments when in tune, is one of the most disagreeable when neglected, and every one should know how sensitive it is to damp and draughts, in order to guard against this in his arrangements for the reception of the instrument. If there is a choir the organ should always be placed close to them, and the proper place for it is either in a side aisle of the chancel or in an organ-chamber built expressly for it, which is better. The effect of the instrument will be much enhanced and it will be kept in better tune if the walls are lined with boarding on battens, and if not in a gallery, it should always be raised on a platform some feet from the floor. The worst place for the organ on every account is in the west gallery, if there is one, and I believe organs are never now placed there in new churches. Of course, I don't contemplate the possibility in these days of an organ appearing over the altar. In small village churches, where an organ can seldom be tuned, I think myself that an harmonium is much preferable; it has the advantage of not getting out of tune, and though it has always

something more or less wanting in the tone, as compared to an organ, it is quite sufficient to lead the singers.

I have now taken a slight and hasty survey of our modern wants and requirements, and the influence they should and must ultimately exercise on our church architecture; and I must beg you to excuse me if I seem to have expressed any opinion too strongly, or if I have dwelt too long on any points which may appear trite, commonplace, or trivial.

GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Thursday, Dec. 27 (St. John's-day), St. John's Church, Maidstone, which is situate in the Mote Park, the seat of the Earl of Romney, was consecrated by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. It consists of nave, chancel, vestry, organ chamber, north porch, and bell-turret at west end for three bells. The style of architecture adopted is Early English, slightly approaching the Decorated period, and the principal materials employed in its construction are Kentish rag stone for the outer walls, with dressings of Bath stone—the interior face of the walls being entirely of fair hassock in regular courses, relieved by dressings of Bath stone. The roofs are open timbered, that to the nave having six pair of curved principals with traceried spandrels, and that to the chancel being groined throughout. The curved ribs, both in the nave and chancel, spring from stone columns with carved capitals and bases, and the whole surface of roof is simply varnished, the principals and carved ribs alone being stained. The windows of the nave are glazed with amber-tinted glass, and fitted with patent ventilators instead of the ordinary opening casements; and the chancel windows are filled with polished plate glass. The floors are laid with Maw's encaustic tiles of appropriate pattern. The seats are unusually large and commodious, and are arranged to give accommodation for upwards of 200 people. The communion rail is of polished brass, with foliated standards. The pulpit and font are of Caen stone, with carved panels in the sides, while the eight columns to the font are of red serpentine marble. The church is warmed very effectively by a simple apparatus, consisting of several small fire-holes in the floor, with horizontal flues from each, meeting at the east end in one upright flue, which is carried up in the wall to the apex of the gable, where the products of combustion (for the smoke is consumed) escape without any chimney being visible. The sacred edifice has altogether a very neat and elegant appearance.

The new church which has just been built at Quernmore, near Lancaster, was consecrated a few days ago. The building has been erected at the sole expense of W. Garnett, Esq., of Quernmore Park (father of the M.P. for Lancaster), and in solidity and interior fittings will stand comparison with any church in the county. The total cost is about £3000. With regard to the architectural character of the new church (the foundation-stone of which was laid in February last), it may be described as of the early part of the fourteenth century, and consists of nave, 48 feet long by 22 feet wide, divided by an arcade of three richly moulded stone arches from a north aisle, 18 feet by 48 feet. A massive tower, 23 feet square and 60 feet high, is placed at the west end, and opens into the nave through a remarkably bold and effective archway. The church, 24 feet by 18 feet, is separated from the nave by an elegantly designed and highly ornamented arch, having the capitals carved with foliage, &c. The east window, of geometric pattern, is placed a considerable height above the floor, so as to give room for a stone "reredos," on each side of which are placed the creed, Lord's Prayer, and ten commandments, illuminated on tablets. In the centre compartment is a rich relief hanging. The arches, windows, door-frames—every part excepting the plain surface of the walls—are done in hewn stone; and instead of plaster, smooth red brick is used, and by its colour adds considerably to the ensemble of the interior.

The church of South Carlton, Lincolnshire, which has recently been restored, has been reopened. A few months since it was found that the roof was very defective, and it was thought necessary to rebuild the greater part of the church. The greater portion of the nave and chancel has been rebuilt: the south aisle has been rebuilt to the church; and the north aisle has also been rebuilt, the work having

been badly executed in 1851. The whole work will cost about £1000.

On Wednesday, the 18th ult, the ancient parish church of St. Mary Weston Turville (Buckinghamshire) was reopened, having been partially restored outside, and entirely repaired and rescatened internally. The whole of the seats have been replaced by others of a more suitable character; the gallery in the tower removed; all the piers and arches dividing the nave from the aisles, some of which were found to be in a dangerous state, have been thoroughly repaired and restored. The chancel has been repaired at the cost of the rector. The south and east walls have been rebuilt: a new east window has been introduced; and the three windows on the south side, against which heavy brick buttresses had been built, have been reopened and restored. The ceiling also has been removed, to show the timbers of a very handsome roof, and cornices of the fifteenth century. By the re-arrangement of the pews, accommodation is afforded for 250 adult persons and 110 children. The church possesses a handsome font of early date in excellent preservation; and some very interesting relics of an early date, some being Norman, which were found in rebuilding the walls, afford evidence of an earlier church having once stood upon the site.

The church of Ufton, Warwickshire, is being restored. The chief work of the present year has been the erection of a new roof, chancel arch, and porch, and rebuilding of south aisle. A cross, in red Kenilworth stone, has been introduced at the point of the arch. The north aisle is now decorated with three stained-glass windows, the gift of the churchwarden. The several compartments represent the prominent events in our Lord's history,—the Birth, Adoration of the Magi, the Triumphal Entry, Bearing the Cross, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. Messrs. Hardman were the artists. In the opposite aisle are four windows representing the Annunciation, the Ascension, the raising of the Widow's son, the Healing of the Diseases, and the Acts of Mercy. The west window contains the patron Saint after Guido. The window near the font represents our Saviour sending forth his disciples to teach and baptize all nations.

Through the liberality of Mr. Ambrose Hussey, of "The Close," Salisbury, according to the *Wilts Standard*, the chancel of Highworth Church, Wilts, is undergoing repair. Its old windows are to be taken out and new ones put in. The parishioners, too, have unanimously resolved "that it is desirable to restore, improve, and reseat the parish church." The sum already collected is nearly £700. A correspondent of the paper just named calls attention to an alleged objection to the substantial leaden roof of the church,—that "in frosty weather, when the sun shines out and melts the frozen particles on the roof, the water into which they are transformed penetrates *through the lead*, and subjects many ladies and gentlemen to great inconvenience by dropping upon their dresses and coats." He explains that, in all probability, "the damp air in the interior having become frozen to the inner part of the roof, becomes melted by the action of the sun on the lead, and, of course, drops, in its liquified state, from the roof on to the dresses of the ladies and on the coats of the gentlemen; and that a builder could, at no very great expense, provide a remedy for such a casualty without removing the enduring roof. More efficient ventilation beneath the roof may be all that is wanted."

The tower and spire of St. Paul's Church, Chippenham, are now nearly finished. The height of the whole from the ground is 172 feet, viz., the height of the tower, 74 feet; of the spire, 92 feet; and thence to the top of the weathercock, 6 feet.

The ancient parish church of Widcombe has undergone restoration, and been reopened by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. In addition to two memorial windows recently put up, a third has been placed in the old staircase to the rood-loft. It bears the inscription "Preach the Word. Be constant, in season and out of season." The ceiling of the tower has been raised ten feet; and the stained glass west window below it, which is in a good state of preservation, remains as before.

The parish church of Lowdham, in Nottinghamshire, and nearly equi-distant between Nottingham and Southwell, has recently undergone extensive restoration and repair,

and been reopened. The roofs and interior had long been in a sadly dilapidated condition; the internal walls were formerly plastered, and the church was disfigured by huge high-backed pews and an unsightly western gallery. The latter have been entirely swept away; and, by a new arrangement of the floor space, in the fitting up of open benches, a large number of persons can be accommodated with sittings. The area of the church has undergone no change. An archway has been opened in the tower below the belfry floor, and decorated tracery has been added to the new clerestory windows. The arches in the chancel have been reopened, forming a vestry and organ recess on the site of what was once a mortuary chapel, probably belonging to the Lowdham and Broughton families. The plastering of the walls has been removed, and the face of the stone dressed and pointed. A new roof has been added to the chancel, and the gable raised in accordance with it, and the nave and aisle roofs restored. A large tomb within the altar rails has been removed by permission of a descendant of the family to whom it belonged, and the floor inlaid with encaustic tiles at the expense of the vicar. A stained-glass window has been placed on the south side. The expense of the restoration will be about £1500.

The new Congregational Church, in Victoria-street, Derby, has been opened. The church and schools together form a parallelogram of 138 feet by 63 feet; the entrance front of the former being on the north side and facing Victoria-street. The schools and library are at the south end, and the approach to them is from Becketwell-lane, next which street the whole building presents a frontage of 140 feet. A tower 69 feet high occupies the north-west angle formed by these two streets, and is surmounted by a slated spire 60 feet high, terminating with a metal cross and vane. Near the south end of the church are transepts projecting east and west. There are galleries in the north-east and west sides of the church with open-work fronts. The dimensions of the building are as follows:—Church, 75 feet by 50 feet, exclusive of organ recess, corridors, and transepts; school-room, 60 feet by 30 feet; seven class-rooms, averaging 12 feet by 11 feet; and a library, 60 feet by 18 feet. The style is the Gothic of the fourteenth century.

St. Paul's Church, Birmingham, which has been under repair, has been reopened for Divine service. The interior of the edifice has been improved by the application of some colour in place of the former cold surface of the piers and columns, which have been relieved by contrasting the tints of red and grey granite with Sienna marble, the more ornamental architectural members being picked out in white and gold. It having been found necessary to remove the curtains hanging at the east end of the chancel, it was resolved also to decorate that portion of the building. The ceiling and the wall space behind the cross at the east end have been painted ultramarine, and are to be studded with gold stars. The other wall space of the chancel is to be decorated with panels formed with ornamental borders, together with the altar tablets, the latter being surmounted with symbols of Trinity and of the Redeemer. The painted window, by Egginton, which represents the conversion of St. Paul and other incidents in the life of that apostle, has been cleansed.

Alterations and restorations are in progress at St. Peter's Church, Bradford. Amongst other improvements, it has been resolved to remove the plaster ceiling of the nave and expose the old oak roof. A curious tradition exists as to the ceiling and concealing of this roof. At the vestry meeting (probably in 1724) held to consider the propriety of ceiling the roof, says the *Bradford Observer*, "there was some difference of opinion, and matters ran high. As each ratepayer went into the vestry the question put to him was, 'Are you for God or the Devil?' the promoters of a plaster ceiling being supposed to be for God, the opposite for the Devil!" The churchwardens and chapelwardens of the townships in the parish are said to have sent a written remonstrance to the vicar against enforcing the order in vestry.

The church of St. John, Chapel-town, Doncaster, has been consecrated by the Archbishop of York. The church

stands on an eminence overlooking the Blackburn valley, and cost about £1700. It is in the decorated Gothic style, and consists of nave, chancel, and south aisle, with tower and spire at the south-west, forming in their basement story a porch, and is capable of containing 420 persons.

A memorial window has been erected in the south aisle of Gloucester Cathedral to the memory of the late Mrs. Evans, of Highgrove. The design is composed of the vine, which runs through the whole of the window, and the panels for the groups are formed by the stems and tendrils. In the tracery are three groups and two Evangelists.

A stained-glass window, at the east end of the South Chapel of St. Michael's Church, Coventry, has been erected in memory of the late Archdeacon Spooner. The subjects are from the Old and New Testament;—in the top row, "Moses Delivering the Law," "Moses Smiting the Rock," "Passage of the Red Sea," and the "Falling of Manna;" below "The Nativity," and "Baptism of Our Lord," "The Woman of Samaria," and "The Supper at Emmaus;" in the tracery, the four Evangelists, with foliage.

The Whitley Schools, which have been erected mainly through efforts in St. Giles's, Reading, on a spot about about mid-way between Reading and Three Mile Cross, are now open. The schools are of flint and stone, with Bath stone dressings, and are in the Gothic style. The building comprises a school-room and class-room, and a residence for the schoolmaster and school-mistress is attached.

The newly-erected middle-school at Weymouth has been opened. It is situated upon the site of the old water-works, and built in the Tudor style, with red bricks, pointed with coal-ash mortar, and Bath stone dressings to the windows. The roof is covered with Bangor and Delabole slates. From the roof rises a turret, by means of which the ventilation is effected, and in which a bell is fixed. The entrance-hall is 27 feet by 12 feet. There is a class-room, 30 feet by 23 feet, and 14 feet high, on one side, accommodating forty-five boys; and on the other a smaller room, 23 feet by 16 feet, having a gallery. The principal school is ascended to by a stone staircase with iron hand-rail, and measures 60 feet by 30, and 24 feet in height, giving space for the tuition of nearly 200 boys. There are four starlight gas-pendants, and, to heat the room, a fire-place at each end, with stone chimney-pieces.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

LODGE PLATE.

In reply to the inquiry of "F. H. C." at p. 503 of your last volume, I beg to mention two instances of the possession of lodge-plate in this province. The John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 766) in this town has an elegant silver "loving-cup," on which is engraved a figure of John of Gaunt, copied from a contemporary illuminated MS. in the British Museum, and the names of all the Worshipful Masters of the lodge since its foundation, a new name being added after each installation. Prior to the erection of the Freemasons' Hall in Leicester, the cup was in the custody of the W.M. for the time being. And the Knights of Malta Lodge (No. 58), Hinckley, have a very handsome and capacious "loving-cup," which was presented in 1859 by the R.W. Bro. Earl Howe, Prov. G.M., in commemoration of his election to the Mastership of the lodge in two successive years.—WILLIAM KELLY, D. Prov. G.M., Leicester.

The Alfred Lodge (No. 425), and the Apollo University Lodge (No. 460), both holding their meetings at the Masonic Hall, Oxford, possess a large and valuable collection of table plate, it having been generally the custom, since 1832, for each brother, shortly after becoming a Master Mason, or on leaving the University, to make a present to his lodge, as a memorial of his connection with it. Each piece is engraved with the donor's name.—RICHARD JAMES SPIERS, D. Prov. G.M., Oxford.

WARRANT OF CONFIRMATION.

If "Ex. Ex.," who, at p. 408 of your last volume, requested to be furnished with a copy of a warrant of confirmation has not yet been supplied with what here requires, and will send me his address, I shall be happy to transmit one to him.—WILLIAM KELLY, D. Prov. G.M., Leicester.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

In reply to "F. M. M.," page 503, I may state that Bro. the Duke of Newcastle was initiated in the Apollo University Lodge (No. 460), Oxford, in February, 1832, he being then Earl of Lincoln, and with him the Duke of Hamilton, then Marquis of Douglas, the Marquis of Waterford, and Henry Glynne, Bro. of Sir Stephen Glynne. —A MEMBER.

LORD BYRON.

The American *Freemasons Mirror and Key-stone*, thus takes us to task:—

"The editor of the London FREEMASONS MAGAZINE answers, in reply to a correspondent:—'We are not aware that Lord Byron was a Mason.' Bro. Warren could not have read the records of his Grand Lodge, otherwise he would have replied differently to his correspondent. There are few intelligent Masons on this side of the Atlantic who are not well-read in the history of the Grand Lodge of England, from its formation in 1717 at least down to the present time. Lord Byron succeeded Lord Cranstown, as Grand Master, on the 30th of April, 1747. At that meeting were present, in addition to the officers and many distinguished members of the Grand Lodge, His Excellency Mons. Andrie, Minister from the King of Prussia; Mons. Hoffman, Minister from the King of Poland; and Baron Reydesel. The record reads:—'Dinner being ended, the Grand Master made the first procession round the hall, took leave of his brethren, and, being returned to his chair, ordered the *Grand Secretary* to proclaim the Right Hon. William Byron, Lord Byron, Baron of Rochdale, in the county of Lancaster, GRAND MASTER of *Masons*. Who, being placed with ceremony in Solomon's Chair, invested with the proper jewel of his high office, and having received the homage of the brethren, appointed Fotherly Baker, Esq., Deputy Grand Master,' &c. Lord Byron presided five years in succession as Grand Master, and, during his administration, provincial patents were issued for Denmark, Norway, Pennsylvania, Minorca, and New York."

[Had Bro. Hynemann been as well acquainted with general literature as with that of the Grand Lodge of England, he would have known that our reply bore reference to the celebrated poet, and not to the Lord Byron who flourished forty years before he was born. We make the same distinction between the Byron and a Byron as we should between the Washington and a Washington.]

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

The third and concluding volume of Mr. Robert Chamber's *Domestic Annals of Scotland*, now in the press, will treat of the period from 1589 to 1745, the year of the great Scottish rebellion.

The valuable library of the late Karl Ritter, the celebrated geographer, has been sold to a bookseller at Leipsic for 14,000 thalers.

A full-length portrait of the poet Pope, seated in an arm chair, with a lady (who is not known) in the back-ground, reaching down a book from a shelf, has been recently added to the National Portrait Gallery. It was painted by the poet's friend, Charles Jervas, the pupil of Sir Godfrey Kneller. This portrait was once the property of Dr. Copleston, Bishop of Llandaff.

A translation of Ecotte's *Pictures of Old England*, by Dr. Reinhold Pauli, is in preparation.

Joseph Sharpe, Esq., LL.D., Barrister-at-Law, will commence his lectures on jurisprudence at University College, London, on Monday, the 14th inst.

An excellent miniature of Queen Elizabeth, at the age of thirty-eight years, has been added to the National Portrait Gallery. It is the workmanship of the celebrated Nicholas Hilliard.

Pipes for gas, water, and sewerage purposes are at present being successfully manufactured in Australia from paper and bitumen. "A roll of paper is passed through a reservoir of melted bitumen," says the *Melbourne Argus*; "it is then tightly coiled round a mandril, and, when hardened, becomes a tube remarkable for strength, durability, and perfect inoxidability." The pipes are capable of resisting a pressure of 220lbs. of water to the square inch.

A strong desire having been manifested in many influential quarters to render some service and encouragement to Mr. Hullah, late of St. Martin's Hall, a committee has been formed, of which Mr. Charles Dickens is chairman, with a view of consolidating this

general feeling of goodwill. Mr. Hullah has devoted his best energies and acquirements, for some twenty years, to teaching vocal music to the people of this country, and tens of thousands, by his exertions, have been elevated in their tastes and morals; and we trust that the appeal on his behalf will be responded to in no niggardly manner. The Corporation of Worcester should do something, for it is an honour to their ancient city to have produced such a man as Mr. Hullah.

The Horticultural Society is henceforth, by her Majesty's commands, to be designated the Royal Horticultural Society.

A curious funeral custom in Vancouver's Island is thus described in a recently published book, entitled *A Cruise in the Pacific, from the Log of a Naval Officer*, edited by Capt. Fenton Aylmer:—"When one of them dies, his body is laid upon a raised platform or couch, erected in the middle of his lodge. Here it is left for nine days, to be seen and visited by the tribe; upon the tenth the funeral pile is erected, and a great gathering of friendly tribes and families takes place. The corpse is laid upon the top of the pile, the wife or wives of the deceased lying alongside; here she must remain until the presiding medicine-man permits her to rise, which permission is seldom accorded until she is terribly burnt. Even now her trials are not over; she must collect some of the oily matter which exudes from the burning flesh, and rub it over her own body, and if the limbs (as is frequently the case) of the body contract from the heat, it is her duty to keep them straight, and all this in a blazing fire of gum-wood. Should the wretched woman get through all this alive, she has to collect any remnants of charred bones, and tying them in a bundle, carry them on her back, day and night, for three years, at the end of which time she is free to take a second husband,—a trial, I should scarcely imagine, likely to find many brave enough to attempt."

Mr. W. Theed's statue of the late Sir William Peel has been placed in the Painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital. The statue was commissioned by the Right Hon. Frederic Peel, M.P.

There are worse philosophers than our friend *Punch*, as a glance at his *Almanack* for 1861 will show:—

"There's a use for every thing;
Never throw a thing away.
Save your corks and bits of string,
They will all come in some day.
Keep half-sheets of letters fair.
For your answers; into spills
Cut the others; never tear
Up, or burn, but file your bills."

And he bids us to "Live temperately, be abstemious, cultivate early hours, rise with the lark instead of going to bed after one, take plenty of exercise, don't be afraid of lots of cold water, make a practice of always being cheerful, avoid debt, draughts, bad company, bills, and wet feet, and you will soon get a frame cheap, and it shall be a frame, moreover, worth more than its weight in gold, such as shall enclose the very picture of health." *Punch* would solve riddles faster than all the Sphinxes in the world could propound them. Many of our old lodges used regularly to hold their Masonic bean feasts, although the origin of the custom was a mere matter for conjecture, and the following one of *Mr. Punch* is quite as good, if not better, than any other we have seen:—"Bricks and Beans." These terms are very respectable slang. They are of Masonic origin. Both 'brick' and 'bean' signify a good fellow. A brick is the individual constituent of a lodge, which consists of bricks cemented together by the mortar of good fellowship. Pythagoras, the Royal Arch Mason, forbade his followers to eat beans. This prohibition meant that Masons were not, by usury and extortion, to devour one another. Bean, a philanthropist; a beany fellow; one who is a benefactor to his species." Well done, *Mr. Punch*, prince of etymologists we shall propose you as President of the Society of Antiquaries.

An agriculturist, named M. Forgeot, has published a remedy for the dodder in clover. It consists of watering the field infected with a solution of two pounds of sulphate of iron for every ten gallons of water.

A new edition of the genial writings of Mr. Charles Dickens is about to be issued, illustrated with the whole of the original

plates. The first monthly volume will be issued on the 1st of February.

Professor Rogers is commencing a course of twenty lectures "On Political Economy," at King's College, London.

Professor Ramsay will lecture on geology at the South Kensington Museum, on Monday next.

Captain Hall, writing from the Arctic regions to Mr. Grinnell, of New York, says:—"My discoveries have already been such that I am satisfied Frobisher Strait is a myth. Nearly all atlases, charts, globes, &c., represent Cumberland Strait and Frobisher Strait as both running nearly parallel with Hudson Strait—Cumberland Strait a few degrees north of Frobisher Strait, and Frobisher Strait a few degrees north of Hudson Strait. Neither Frobisher nor Cumberland Straits exist. I am now within the so-called Cumberland Strait. It is but a deep inlet, running W.N.W. and E.S.E., its head being fifteen miles north-westerly of this harbour; its extent, south-easterly, thirty miles. The Admiralty charts of the islands north of the so-called Frobisher Strait are very imperfect."

Poetry.

GRATITUDE.

BY AN INMATE OF THE FREEMASONS' ASYLUM, CROYDON.

I live in a bright little world of my own,
It is not all sunshine or showers,
I have books, I have work, kind friends, and my plants,
For *could* it be bright without flowers?
From that storehouse, the mind, a book can be found
While sitting at work to think o'er;
Of what use was my reading the books I have read,
If I could not enjoy all my store!
With all for my use in my two pretty rooms,
What more can a mortal desire?
And now that the earth is all cover'd with snow—
In my grate burns a cheerful bright fire.
I can dig, I can work in my own bit of ground,
The Freemasons' gave it to me,
With the fresh smell of earth and the pure air above,
And the plants which in fancy I see.
I have a kind Lady who brings me some plants,
She is dear as the flowers to me;
Which, when all admiring I stand to behold;
'Tis *her* in the flowers I see.
A kind word, or look, how 'tis treasur'd by me,
To think over, and over again;
But, oh! the harsh word, how it grates on the ear,
And crushes the heart with the pain.
How great is the contrast! to what it once was,
The "Song of the Shirt" was my theme;
While stitching away from morning till night,
And haunted with shirts in my dream.
With words of encouragement, feeling and kind,
A Freemason came to my door,
He pointed the way that the Widow should go,
And helped me because I was poor.
With help from himself and many more friends,
I at last reached this haven of rest;
And, oh! all the storms I have battled before,
Makes me think myself doubly blest.
I have food, I have fire, and a sweet pretty home,
In which to remain during life;
How little I knew of the comforts in store,
From being a Freemason's wife;
"A Widow indeed" sought and found that relief,
Seeming almost too good to be true;
When worn out with work, with illness and grief,
And naught but this hope to pursue,
May success then attend all the Freemasons when,
Their Festival Meeting is o'er—
May blessings descend on the heads of them all,
Because they remember'd the poor.
And, oh! on that day may think with delight,
While sitting so jovial and glad,
Of the Widow and Fatherless, helped by their means,
No longer in poverty sad!

Written on the 25th of December, 1860.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—I was present at the installation of the W.M. of a lodge last week; the ceremony was not performed by the outgoing W.M., but by an old P.M. After the minutes of the previous lodge had been read and confirmed, the W.M. vacated the chair, which was occupied by the P.M. who had consented to install the newly-elected W.M. His first act was to ask the immediate P.M. for his collar and jewel. To this I objected, and informed the Installing Master that the proper time to invest the outgoing Master as P.M. was after the ceremony of installing the newly-elected W.M. had been completed. He insisted that he was right, and at once invested the W.M. After lodge was over I again explained to the Installing Master my views on the point. As he still persists that he was right, and that my ideas on the subject are wrong, I have written to you to ask to you to be kind enough to say when is the proper time to invest the outgoing W.M. as P.M. Allow me to congratulate you on the production of the "Remembrancer," which I think will be of great service to the Craft.

Yours truly and fraternally,

P.M. and Prov. G.S.D. Gloucestershire.

Cheltenham, 5th January, 1861.

[Our correspondent is correct, and the Installing Master decidedly wrong.]

THE GRAND MASTER OF CANADA.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—I have seen in your numbers of the 24th ult. and 1st inst., letters from an anonymous correspondent—"E. G. C."—slandering the Grand Lodge of Canada and certain of its members. The last one is wonderfully scurrilous, and sadly untrue. To prove to you the degree of credit to which his assertions are entitled, I send you, in the first place, an extract from the report of the committee, to whom was referred the address to the Grand Lodge of my worthy predecessor. It is as follows:—"The committee have given much attention to the paragraph relating to the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. They do not feel that an address to H.R.H. will be exactly in accordance with Masonic usage; but they venture to suggest that a move in the proper quarter may induce the Government to invite the co-operation of the Grand Lodge in those important ceremonials connected with the erection of the public buildings at Ottawa, which are to take place during the visit of his Royal Highness. The great obligations under which Masonry has ever been placed to the Royal Family of England for its fostering care can never be lost sight of by the Craft, and the recommendation of the committee against the presentation of an address is only founded on the grounds of Masonic usage already alluded to." The report, therefore, was my justification.

In the second place, there is a *Masonic Magazine* published in Canada, and my predecessor thought proper to allude to it in his address in the following commendatory manner:—"I have received several numbers of a Masonic periodical, *The Canadian Freemason*, published in Montreal; and I indulge in the hope that the spirit and ability displayed by its proprietor will be suitably acknowledged by the Fraternity generally." In addition to this, I affix the following article, written by him, appearing in the number for the current month, on the subject of the Ottawa business, and the leading article in your September number:—

In connection with this most unpleasant subject, I cannot avoid referring to an editorial which appeared in a September number of the London *FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE*, founded upon an article appeared in the *Toronto Globe*, with reference to the treatment which of the Masons at Ottawa. The writer of the article referred to must not only have been entirely ignorant of the real facts of the case, but must have been actuated by feelings of personal animosity to our M.W.G.M., otherwise he would not have written in the unkind and unmasonic spirit in which that article is penned; the position assumed by the G.M., on the occasion referred to, was undoubtedly the correct one, and I am satisfied that he will be

unanimously sustained and thanked by the Craft at large. The Grand Lodge of Canada stands deservedly high in the estimation of the Masonic world, and is second to none; and the writer of the article in question betrayed gross ignorance when he assumed that our distinguished brother, the Duke of Newcastle, who ranks as a P. Prov. G.M. merely, was entitled to take precedence of the actual G.M. of our independent Grand Lodge. Our G.M., although neither duke nor lord, holds a position in the Craft which would add lustre to either crown or coronet; and any attack made, or insult offered to him, will be resented by every Mason in Canada.

Yours fraternally,

Simcoe, C.W.

P.G.M.

You are a Mason of such old standing and experience, that the ignorance of your correspondent as to Grand Masters' rights, &c., must be transparent to you. As far as I am concerned individually, I simply refer him, for application, to the well known story of the stalwart navvy and his hasty little scold of a wife, who used her hands on him, and when his neighbours wondered at his quietude, the good-natured fellow only said, "Oh! it amuses her, and does not hurt me!" I never intentionally acted contrary to the fifth point of fellowship of our ancient Order before I became one of its members, and certainly I have not since forgotten my O. B. Had not the honour of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and of brethren deserving of the highest respect been impugned, I should not have taken the slightest notice of "E. G. C.'s" mis-statements published in your columns. Annexed you will also find a gratifying letter addressed to me by the Past Grand Master.

(Copy).

Simcoe, 1st November, 1860.

M.W. Sir and Dear Brother,—I have this day received your printed circular, explanatory of the Ottawa business, and hasten to assure you that, in my opinion, the Canadian Craft is much indebted to you for the firm and dignified manner in which you sustained the honour of our Grand Lodge upon that occasion. Among the fraternity this feeling is, I believe, universal, and I have no doubt that it will be expressed in a proper manner at the earliest opportunity.

Very truly and fraternally yours,

(Signed) WM. M. WILSON, P.G.M.

T. D. Harington, Esq., G.M.

This was followed by resolutions expressive of approval from numerous lodges.

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours very fraternally,

T. DOUGLAS HARRINGTON, G.M., &c.

Quebec, Canada, 18th December, 1860.

"THE FREEMASONS' REMEMBRANCER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I think you have hit on an excellent plan, and one that will be of great service. May I also offer a suggestion or two? Would it not be advisable to have the sheet folded in four, for the future. My copy came doubled up all manner of ways; and, as I am not *au fait* at folding, I had considerable trouble to cut it up before I could stitch it together. Also in your almanack for January, p. 3, Sunday is put last. Now, that day is usually considered to be "the first day of the week," and, I think, should stand so in your table. Where, also, are the high grades' meetings? I do not see the Metropolitan Chapter of Rose Croix, which holds a meeting to install its M.W.S. this month, nor do I see any notice of the extra meeting of Grand Conclave on the 24th. Hoping to see all Masonic meetings included for the future, and, as one considerably pleased by your plan, allow me to return you my thanks, and subscribe myself,

North Wales,

Yours fraternally,

CALENDARIUM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—You have done a great service to us country Masons by issuing such a little portable guide, and it is with intense disgust that I see the province to which I belong does not furnish you with a single item of information. This I will take care to bring before the Prov. Grand Lodge when it assembles—if indeed it does meet this year; and I shall also request the secretary of my own lodge to wipe out the stain from our number by furnishing you with the information, and if he does not choose to do so, will make it a matter of substantive motion in lodge.

Yours, an unrepresented brother,

Berkshire.

H. A. W.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

A Quarterly Court of the Governors and Subscribers to this School was held at the offices in Great Queen-street on Thursday last, Bro. Udall, V.P., in the chair.

The minutes of the various House Committees were read and passed. These involve an alteration in the management, the committee having determined that the governess shall in future be a lady competent to teach French and music; and, accordingly, the services of Miss Souther, Bro. M. Cooke, and Mdle. Messiard, will be dispensed with after next June, the committee paying a high compliment to the talent, ability, and zeal with which Bro. Cooke had given his services to the school. Also that Miss Davis, from the London Orphan Asylum, had been engaged at £84 a year, on the recommendation of the Rev. Mr. Dyer, one of the Diocesan Inspectors of Schools, in the Bishopric of London.

It was further announced that, in consequence of the children being now kept until years of age, there would be no vacancy before April, 1862.

A vote of thanks closed the proceedings.

THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

Bro. Isaacs, Prov. G. Sec. for Kent, has enclosed the following circular, to the various lodges in the provinces:

Chatham, December 14th, 1860.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The R.W. Prov. G.M., Lord Holmesdale, having consented to preside at the Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows on the 30th January next, 1861, and being desirous that this province should be represented on that occasion, I have sent in my name as a Steward, and beg your co-operation in obtaining donations. I find that this excellent Institution has great claims upon the Province of Kent from the fact that since the establishment for males in 1842, seven brethren from the county have been elected annuitants, five of whom were living on the 1st of this present month, receiving in the aggregate £116 per annum: and for widows in 1849, since which four have been elected, three of whom were living on the 1st of December, receiving in aggregate £60 per annum. Total, £176. I therefore think you will admit that the County of Kent is at present receiving a fair share of the bounty of the Craft, and on reference to the last list of subscribers printed you will find that very few lodges in the province, are governors or subscribers to either branch of the institution, neither does the Provincial Grand Lodge appear on the list.

Again begging the favour of your cordial co-operation, and a reply at your earliest convenience.

I am, dear Sir, yours, fraternally,

CHARLES ISAACS,

P.G. Secretary for Kent.

METROPOLITAN.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This lodge met on Monday last at the Freemasons' Tavern. The lodge was summoned at half-past four, Bro. Wm. Gladwin, W.M., in the chair. The business of the evening consisted of the installation and initiations at five. Bro. John Caldwell was installed, who appointed Bros. Caulcher, S.W.; Lyon, J.W.; George, S.D.; Matthews, J.D.; William Smith, C.E., I.G.; Watson, P.M., S.S.; Aphed, P.M., Treas.; Newton, P.M., Sec. There was a large assemblage of P.M.s, visitors, and members. Messrs. Low and Baldwin were initiated. The lodge was then called off and adjourned to the banquet, in the hall. Upwards of 100 brethren sat down, and the usual toasts were given. In the course of the evening it appeared that the appointment of a junior member of the lodge had given offence to a large body of the brethren, which, we hope, has been set at rest by the retirement of the S.D. The proceedings of the evening were, however, concluded by the excellent singing of Bro. Perren, who attended as a friend of the Master; and Bro. Young and Bro. Edney, who presided at the pianoforte, and the recitations of Bro. Clements, junr., and Bro. Baldwin, one of the initiates.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Tuesday evening, January 1st, at the Freemasons' Tavern. Bro. R. W. Swainston, W.M., presided; Bro.

J. W. Laughlin (W.M. elect), S.W.; and Bro. Waters, J.W. The following visitors were present:—Bros. Farnfield, Asst. Grand Secretary; J. How, Prov. G. Direc. of Ceremonies, Herts; Kennedy, 1115; Amos, 1044; Isidor Levinson, 72; C. Jackson, S.W., 212; Crew, P.M., No. 1; Winslow, 21; C. Scott, P.M., 21; Estwick, 1115; W. Blackburn, P.M., 169; Cheesewright, 955; Warr, J.W., 281; Shaboe (W.M. elect), 812; Dickie, W.M., 53; Reynolds, 318; Johnson, 156; Cumberland, 830; H. Thompson, S.D., 206; &c. The lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes read, Mr. William Manger and Mr. E. A. Power were severally introduced and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bros. Cooté and Scarborough were advanced to the degree of F.C. The lodge was next opened in the third degree, and Bros. Frisbee, Woodward, and Dorsett were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The W.M. then vacated the chair, which was taken by Bro. Kennedy, P.M. and Treasurer, who proceeded to install Bro. Laughlin into the chair of K.S. in a very able and impressive manner. The W.M. having received the customary salutes from the whole of the brethren, appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Waters, S.W. Hogg, J.W.; Emmens, Secretary; Davis, S.D.; Corben, J.D.; Green, I.G.; Dixsen and Moginie, Stewards; and Nicholson, P.M., Dir. of Cers. The W.M. said he had then a very pleasing duty to perform, which was to present Bro. Swainston with a Past Master's jewel, as a recognition by the brethren of his services during his year of office. The jewel bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. W. R. Swainston, P.M., by the Old Concord Lodge, as a mark of their esteem for his able services when presiding as Master. Jan. 1, 1861."—Bro. SWAINSTON expressed the great gratification he experienced at receiving that token of the approbation of the brethren, which he should ever wear with pride, as it would always remind him of the esteem of his brethren of the Old Concord Lodge.—The lodge was then closed, and the brethren, numbering about eighty, adjourned to the hall, where a splendid dinner was served in Bros. Elkington and Co.'s best style. This having been disposed of, and the cloth drawn, the W.M. gave "The Queen," which was enthusiastically received, as was "The Health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland." The next toast was that of "The Earl of Dalhousie, the Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of Masons," the W.M. observing that he believed that would be one of the first lodges in which the health of Lord Panmure would be honoured under his new title of the Earl of Dalhousie. He coupled with the toast the healths of Bros. Farnfield and Levinson. The toast was most cordially received.—Bro. FARNFIELD returned thanks.—The W.M. said, the next toast he had to propose was one which might be considered always a standing toast in that lodge. It was the health of the two gentlemen who had come forward to join the Old Concord Lodge that evening; and, therefore, he gave them "The Health of their Brother Initiates." They were always most happy to see gentlemen come into Freemasonry in that lodge, as they were not merely doing the lodge, but themselves great service; and he could speak with confidence upon that point, as the principal part of his relatives were Masons, and he was a zealous one himself. To his newly-initiated brethren he would say that they had that night taken a good step, and one which they would never regret. He could sincerely say that he never regretted the step which he had himself taken five years ago, for had he repented of it he would have withdrawn from it. He would have considered and respected his obligation, but he would never have induced any one else to enter into it. So far from that, as the minister of a large and populous parish, he could sincerely assure his newly-initiated brethren that they had taken a wise and useful step; and the more they saw of Freemasonry, and carried out its principles, the happier would be their progress through life. He was then in a peculiar position, for formerly he had only to offer a few words to them as chaplain; but now he combined with that the office of Master, and he might have to address them sometimes in one character and sometimes in the other. To their initiated brethren he might say that they had honoured the Old Concord Lodge by coming amongst them to be initiated, and he exhorted them to persevere so that they might be the better enabled to inculcate the great principles of the Craft. He hoped they would endeavour to obtain instruction so as to fit them to carry out the principles of the G.A.O.T.U., to faithfully discharge their duty to mankind, and as became a body of men who endeavoured to regulate their principles according to the Divine law, and be at peace with all mankind. Freemasonry did not interfere with any particular line of politics—it did not profess any particular system of theology; and all that was requested from its candidates was an adherence to the principles laid down for their guidance in the volume of the Sacred Law. They had taken a good and proper step by joining the ranks of Freemasons, for by doing so no portion of their liberty would be curtailed, but, on the contrary, they would have opportunities of doing more good amongst their fellow-creatures, and thus extend the circle of their benevolence to worthy

men, and, he trusted, to worthy men alone.—The toast was very cordially received, for which Bro. Manger returned thanks.—Bro. SWAINSTON, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said he wished he had the ability to expatiate upon his qualities, for no lodge ever had a better officer than their W.M. while he filled the office of J.W., and he had no doubt that he would prove equal in ability to any Master who had ever come to the chair. He was able to perform his duties as a Mason in an eminent degree, and at the end of his year of office he felt assured that the members of the Old Concord Lodge would have nothing to regret in having elected him as their Master.—The W.M., in responding to the toast, said he had done his best to fit himself for the duties of the lodge, and to endeavour to promote harmony, brotherly love, and concord amongst them. At present, as he had no experience, he must throw himself upon the P.M.s, and take advantage of their counsel. It was a delightful thing to think on that the first day of the year; and he would take that opportunity of wishing all the brethren "A happy new year"—that they had commenced so auspiciously, and he hoped that month by month they should go on and prosper. He thanked the brethren for the courtesy with which they had drank his health, and for the very great kindness with which they had received him upon that as well as on all former occasions.—The W.M. next gave "The Health of the Visitors," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. How.—Bro. How, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. for Herts, returned thanks for the visitors, and congratulated the W.M. on his accession to the chair of that lodge, for with such a Master the lodge must be prosperous.—The W.M. next gave "The P.M.s of the Lodge," and said it was highly gratifying to him that one of those Past Masters who had introduced him into Freemasonry had that night placed him in the proud and honourable position of W.M.—Bro. SWAINSTON returned thanks.—The W.M. next gave "The Health of the Treasurer of the Lodge," for which Bro. KENNEDY, Past Master, returned thanks, and congratulated the brethren on the flourishing condition of the finances of the lodge.—The W.M. gave "The Masonic Charities," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Crew.—Bro. CREW, in a lengthened speech, warmly advocated a liberal support of their Masonic Institution.—The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the Father of the Lodge, Bro. Emmens," and enlarged on the great services, extending over a long series of years, which he had rendered to the lodge.—Bro. EMMENS, P.M. and Secretary, said it was with peculiar gratitude he returned his sincere thanks for the kind manner in which the brethren had responded to the toast. His absence from the last lodge was caused by severe indisposition, and at one time he did not think that he should have had the happiness of being present that night. His connection with the Old Concord Lodge now amounted to a quarter of a century, and it had pleased the Almighty Architect to restore him to health, by which he was enabled to be present that night; but during his illness he had received so many kind inquiries from the brethren of the Old Concord Lodge, that it showed to him the respect which attached to his name as Past Master and Secretary of the lodge. He thanked them most sincerely, and hoped that he should long continue to be their Secretary, and to do his best to carry out its duties, and to do all he could to promote the interests of the lodge.—The W.M. proposed "The Officers of the Lodge," for which Bro. WATERS, S.W., returned thanks.—The W.M. next gave, "Prosperity to the New Concord Lodge," coupling with the toast "The Health of Bro. Shaboe, Chaplain of the Lodge."—Bro. SHABOE returned thanks, and alluded to the great prosperity which had attended the New Concord Lodge.—Some other toasts were given, and the proceedings terminated about 11 o'clock. The pleasures of the evening were greatly enhanced by the vocal and instrumental performances of Bros. Fielding, Shoubridge, Champion, Stroud, Wollams, and Reynolds.

YARBOROUGH LODGE (No. 812).—The annual installation meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Thursday, January 3rd, at the George Hotel, Commercial-road East. Bro. S. Vasey, W.M., presided, attended by his Wardens, Rev. Bros. D. Shaboe and W. Waight. There was a large amount of business, initiation, passing, and raising, which closed Bro. Vasey's busy year of office. The W.M. then resigned the chair to Bro. Winne, P.M., and Bro. Rev. D. Shaboe, the W.M. elect, being presented for installation, was placed in the chair according to the accustomed rites. There were several brethren present at the Board of Installed Masters; among others, Bro. George Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Bro. Rule, P.G. Purst.; Rev. Bro. J. W. Laughlin, W.M., No. 201; Bro. Scotcher, P.M., No. 63; Bro. Maney, P.M., No. 201; Bro. J. How, Prov. G.D.C. Herts; Bro. Freeman, P.M., No. 247; and Bro. G. Manton, P.M., No. 1083. Bros. Rev. J. H. Grice, Winne, and Thompson were also among the visitors. The W.M. appointed and invested as his officers, Bros. William Waight, S.W.; T. Middleton, J.W.; Samuel Vasey, P.M., Sec.; J. R. Carr, S.D.; W. Hamilton, P.M., J.D.; Joseph Hudson, D.C.; Henry Goodman, I.G.; F. B. Read and J. Simmons, Stewards. Bro. Winne, who had been re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Speight, the Tyler, were also invested with the

collars of office. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren re-assembled in the banquet-room.—The dinner concluded, and thanks offered to the G. A. O. T. U. by the Rev. Brother in the chair, the W.M. gave the usual toasts of "The Queen and the Craft;" also "The M.W. Grand Master." In the next toast, that of "The Earl of Dalhousie and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present," was included two brethren who honoured the lodge with their company, Bros. Biggs and Rule.—In responding, Bro. BIGGS referred to his being so regularly called on in the Yarrowburgh to acknowledge this compliment to the Grand Officers, and Bro. RULE mentioned that this was the first visit he had paid to the lodge since its consecration twelve years ago, and noticed that during the period that had elapsed from its small beginning it had grown to a most extensive body.—Bro. VASEY then rose and said, as he was for a brief space in possession of the symbol of authority, he should, as the brethren might expect, use its power to call up a spirit of congratulation at seeing Bro. Shaboe in the chair of the Yarrowburgh; he had been some time a member, had gone through several offices, and thoroughly perfected himself for the duties of his important office, and had made up his mind to govern the lodge with that spirit of equality which would, he was sure, give satisfaction to all.—The W.M., after thanking the brethren for the warm reception of the toast, acknowledged it had long been the desire of his heart to fill the post to which he had that day been elevated. He referred to his having five years ago filled the S.W.'s chair for an especial purpose; but, not to deprive those who by time had earlier claims to the chair, he had taken lower offices, and had at last arrived at the summit of his ambition. He felt great pleasure in having the presence of the Rev. Bros. Laughlin and Grice, and so numerous an attendance of brethren to greet his installation.—The W.M., in proposing "The Past Masters of the Lodge," referred to their great services. Bro. Vasey, had that day completed his year of office, and they had all seen how admirably he had performed his duties. Bro. Winne also, who, beside his efficiency as a P.M., so well discharged the important trust of Treasurer, was entitled to their gratitude. Bro. Kindred, also, always ready to fill any office where a brother might unavoidably be absent—in fact, every P.M. of the lodge, although no more were then present, had in his time done good suit and service to the lodge.—Bro. VASEY, in responding, said he had been greatly aided in his year of office by his predecessors, and particularly referred to Bros. Kindred and Winne.—The W.M. said it was next his duty and pleasure to propose "The Visitors," and again expressed his gratification at the presence of Bros. Laughlin and Grice, the latter having journeyed two hundred miles for the occasion; he also noticed Bros. Maney and How, whom they all knew.—Bro. LAUGHLIN, who was called on to reply, said he was delighted to see his friend and brother labourer in the ministry elevated to the chair, a position which was the laudable ambition of every good Mason, as it was the reward of labour. He considered it no trifling matter to be elevated to the high distinction of governing a body belonging to so glorious an institution.—The W.M. proposed a special acknowledgment of the services of the Treasurer, and an enthusiastic reception having been given to the toast, Bro. Winne briefly replied.—The W.M. then proposed "The Officers," being certain, from their antecedents, he should (D.V.) have to thank them twelve months hence for good service. To this Bro. Waight, S.W., responded, and the Tyler's toast concluded a pleasing meeting.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

NEWBURY.—*Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope* (No. 839).—This lodge met on Friday, the 4th inst., when Bros. Douglas Vernon and Thomas Parr having passed a satisfactory examination, received promotion to the degree of F.C. Capt. Arthur Mainwaring was, on a ballot, unanimously approved as a candidate for initiation; and, being present, was introduced to the mystery of the degree of E.A. Bro. G. Phipps, of the Royal Cumberland (No. 48), visited the lodge. On the retiring W.M. (Bro. Cave), leaving the chair, Bro. E. S. Cossens, P.M., 1097, installed Bro. Thomas Deller, the W.M. elect, in the chair of K.S. in ancient form, and in the most effective manner. The new W.M. was proclaimed and saluted in the accustomed manner, and the Installing Master delivered the usual addresses to the W.M., the Wardens, and the brethren. The W.M. appointed Bro. W. W. King as the S.W.; Bro. F. G. Hall, J.W.; Bro. E. S. Cossens, Sec. and Ahnener; and invested Bro. W. H. Cave as the P.M. of the lodge. The Masonic toasts were given and responded to Masonically. On the health of Bro. E. S. Cossens being given, with an unanimous expression of thanks for the admirable manner in which he had installed the W.M., he took occasion to make an original address to the brethren, reminding them that it was not merely the wearing of the badge with which they had been invested, that truly denoted the

to be Freemasons, but the faithful, impartial, and sincere performance of those three great duties which devolved upon each of them—their duty to the lodge, their duty to their W.M., but, above all, their duty to the G. A. O. T. U. He gave a general explanation of those several duties, and created sensations of no ordinary character—communicating light and information to the brethren of the lodge, greatly to increase their knowledge of what became their duty, in the hope that the brethren might be benefitted thereby, and that they might henceforth practise, out of the lodge, those excellent precepts which were taught within it. The brethren, after enjoying a most pleasant evening, retired at an early hour.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONPORT.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 280).—For twenty years past the number of lodges in the three towns of Devonport, Stonehouse, and Plymouth, has been seven; but in Devonport, during the last seven years, only one lodge has existed. Several worthy brethren, who had the prosperity of the Craft at heart, having long considered that this was a state of things which ought not to be permitted, resolved to petition, the P.G.M., Earl Fortescue, K.G., on the subject. They placed before him the most conclusive evidence, that one lodge was insufficient for the Masonic wants of such an important military and naval station, and prayed that he would permit the removal to this town of Lodge "Fidelity" (No. 280). This lodge was formerly held at Tiverton, in this province, and was at one period the most flourishing lodge in it; but for some time, the number of members has been very small, and it was considered that a more genial soil might probably infuse new life into the old tree. Our noble Prov. G.M., whose desire and exertions to promote the true interests of Masonry have made him beloved by all the members of the Craft, granted the boon sought to be obtained, and the lodge was accordingly removed to Cumberland Ope, Devonport, in November last, and placed in charge of the petitioners, several of whom are honourably known as enthusiastic workers on the edifice of Freemasonry, and are also distinguished members of the Grand Lodge of this province. On Thursday, 27th December, being St. John's day, the brethren proceeded to install their Master, and that responsible honour was duly conferred on Bro. John May Mackay, merchant of this town, in the presence of the members of the lodge, and of many visiting brethren and Grand Officers of the province. The beautiful and solemn service which the occasion demanded, was rendered more than usually effective by its being performed by Bro. P.M. J. J. Clase, P. Prov. G.D.C., whose impressive style, so well known to the brethren of this locality, lent an additional charm to the ceremony. Very rarely has any lodge possessed such various and great advantages as have fallen to the lot of the brethren to whom the working of this lodge is now entrusted, and it is hoped that the excellence of its work, and the well-known qualities of its members may ere long entitle it to rank, second to none in the province for efficiency and success.

DORSETSHIRE.

WEYMOUTH.—*All Souls' Lodge* (No. 199).—The brethren assembled in the Masonic Hall, Weymouth, on Thursday, December 27th, 1860, at high 12, being St. John's Day. The lodge was opened by Bro. J. Style, W.M., assisted by a full board of P.M.s, when the minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. John Bosworth, Esq., the S.W., who had been duly elected as W.M. for the ensuing year, was presented for installation by Bro. J. Maunders, S.M. The ancient charges having been read by the Secretary, and responded to by the W.M. elect, the lodge was opened in the third degree, when Bro. J. Jacob, P.M., proceeded with the ceremony of installation in a very impressive manner. After the ceremony, which was completed in due form, the W.M. invested his officers, for the ensuing year, as follows:—Bro. G. R. Crickway, S.W.; Bro. G. Frampton, J.W.; Bro. W. Smith, Sec.; Bro. R. Besant, S.D.; Bro. J. Lundie, J.D.; Bro. R. Talbot, I.G.; Bro. J. Robertson, P.M., and Bro. J. Style, P.M., Stewards. Bro. J. Lowe was re-elected as Tyler. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed by the brethren to Bro. Jacob, P.M., for the very able manner in which he performed the ceremony; also to Bro. J. Maunders, P.M., for his kind assistance at the same. At the conclusion of the business, the lodge was duly closed. The brethren reassembled at 6 p.m. at the banquet, at the Crown Hotel. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured, with several others, which were heartily responded to.

HAMPSHIRE.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Royal Gloucester Lodge* (No. 152).—A large meeting of the brethren of this lodge was held in Freemasons' Hall on the 27th ult. The lodge was opened at the hour of twelve, and Bro. Abraham installed Bro. G. M. Passenger as Master for the



ensuing year, after which the Master proceeded to invest the following officers:—Bros. W. H. Preece, S.W.; Collis, J.W.; T. Falvey, S.D.; H. Miles, J.D.; H. Abraham, P.M.; J. R. Weston, Treas.; A. Weston, Sec.; and J. G. Bemister, P.M., 139, Dir. of Cers. A vote of thanks was awarded to Bro. Abraham for the manner in which he had performed the ceremony of installation, and the lodge was then adjourned until six o'clock, when the brethren assembled again to dine in open lodge, to celebrate the Festival of St. John. Bro. G. M. Passenger, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., Prov. G.M.; C. E. Deacon, D. Prov. G.M.; Capt. F. Perkins (ex-Mayor); J. R. Stebbing, J.P.; G. Dunlop, Douglas, Payne, Abraham, and other P.M.s; Falvey, S.D., and Kinsbury, P. Prov. G. Organist of Somersetshire. Bro. W. H. Preece, S.W., filled the vice-chair. The cloth having been removed, and grace said, Bro. PASSENGER, W.M., rose and said the toast he was then about to propose needed no comment. It was always drunk with the greatest sincerity in a Masons' lodge. He would, therefore, propose, with all loyalty and fraternal feeling, "The Queen and the Craft."—This toast having been duly honoured, the MASTER proposed "The Health of the M.W. Grand Master of England, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland," who had presided over the Craft for a very long period, with an honest zeal and singleness of purpose, of which Masonry had lately received a remarkable proof, by the effort his Lordship had so successfully made to induce their brother, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, to accept the Prov. Grand Mastership of Nottinghamshire. He (the Master) believed that the appointment was fraught with the greatest good to the Craft—(cheers)—and he called upon them to drink the health of that distinguished nobleman, and illustrious and worthy brother, the M.W. Grand Master of England. (Applause).—Bro. PASSENGER then rose and said: Brethren, the toast I am about to propose relates to the R.W. Brother and gallant Admiral on my right. He is a member of this lodge, and although not among us so often as we wish, I have no doubt it is as often as his important duties will permit, and certainly often enough to make us thoroughly acquainted with his virtues and excellence as a man and as a Mason. He has presided over this province more than twenty years, and the best comment I can make upon the value and success of his services, will be to call your attention to the present state of Masonry in this province, the progress it has made in this town, where four ~~edges~~ ^{edges} and two chapters now meet, the resuscitation of old edges, the manner in which they are worked, and the reputation Hampshire Masonry has achieved throughout the Craft. These facts are a practical eulogy upon our Prov. Grand Master. Personally, we cordially greet him with unlimited esteem and affection, and shall always reflect with pleasure upon the knowledge that one who has acquired honour in the service of his Queen and country, has, during a busy and brilliant professional career, been able to do so much for the promotion of Masonry, especially in the province of Hampshire. Brethren, I call upon you to drink "Health and Happiness to our R.W. Prov. G.M., Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis," which call the brethren responded to with great enthusiasm.—The PROV. GRAND MASTER, in returning thanks, congratulated the lodge upon the immense progress Masonry had made while he had presided over the province, the great strength of the various lodges, and his constant desire to protect its interest, and preserve the old landmarks of the Order. He had, happily, been greatly assisted in this object by his worthy deputy, Bro. Deacon, for whom he entertained the highest regard. He became a member of that lodge twenty-two years back, and had presided over the province nearly a quarter of a century, and as long as the G.A.O.T.U. spared him, he would not fail in taking the same interest in the welfare of the Craft as he had hitherto done, especially in the prosperity of the Royal Gloucester Lodge, where he was always received with such brotherly goodwill.—The W.M. then proposed "The Health of Bro. C. E. Deacon, D. Prov. G.M." That brother gave every evidence of his attachment to Freemasonry by his constant attendance among them, and the Masonic spirit which he threw into everything connected with that lodge; his high position in Masonry demanded their respect, his genial and courteous demeanour had won their warmest regards, and he (the W.M.) trusted that the brethren would have the pleasure of his presence, and the advantage of his experience for many years to come.—Bro. DEACON said he rose with feelings of heartfelt pleasure to thank the brethren for the cordial manner in which his health had been proposed and drunk. He delighted to serve his chief, the G.M. of the province, and was grateful for these repeated proofs of his confidence; and, after complimenting the lodge in pleasing terms, and at considerable length, resumed his seat amid the plaudits of the brethren.—The Prov. G.M., Admiral Sir LUCIUS CURTIS, Bart., then rose and congratulated the brethren upon having chosen Bro. Passenger to preside over them, and after complimenting that brother upon his attainments and courtesy, called upon the brethren to drink to the

health of their W.M., wishing him a successful year of office.—Bro. PASSENGER replied as follows:—If I were to lay claim to the kind words uttered by the R.W. brother who has proposed my health, I should display a large amount of egotism; if, on the other hand, I were to avow myself unworthy of any of them, the brethren might take that for mere affectation. Permit me, then, to compromise the matter by assuring you that I will do all I can in future to render myself worthy of your kind consideration. With these few words, brethren, allow me to pass away from all that is personal to myself and my position here, and say a few words upon the aim and object of our institution, in which I see everything great and good. I was much struck by a very unfair criticism upon Freemasonry in one of our leading periodicals, in which the reviewer says, in course of a critique upon Bro. Dr. Mackey's new work, entitled, *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, that the history of our Order exists only in the imagination of its disciples. If there is any one thing more self-evident than another it is the history of our Order. We see it in the classic remains of the antique world, in which are registered the intellectual status and physical condition of the various groups of the human race; and although the origin of Freemasonry lies far back in the obscure depths of antiquity—we can trace it to that elder Egypt which contributed powerfully to the influence of our Order, and gave, in gigantic characters, and according to the rules of the Craft, the impress of its times to posterity. It was from this Egypt that one favoured by our omnipotent Master wandered forth to become illustrious among nations, so that the greatness of this inspired law-giver and mighty legislator—Moses—should not pass away unrecorded. The piety of King Solomon called into requisition the capability of Hiram, the capability of the one being evidenced by the construction of the first great temple, and the piety of the other proved by dedicating to the supreme Master of all, that first great work which recorded the rise, progress, and condition of his favoured people as a nation. What a mighty, what a powerful order was Masonry then—this art of recording the world's history with the materials dug from her own bosom. What should we have been without it? The plain facts of history would have passed away with each generation, or have been construed into the burlesque of heathen mythology; and even now if the kindling mind of the West wishes to pass into the reality of the past, it goes forth and feasts itself upon the pure virgin unalloyed fact as there recorded, unbiassed by partial historian, ungarbled by imperfect translation, but standing forth in all its primitive truth and candour, speaking one universal tongue to all. Thus the sphinxes and pyramids of Egypt inform us of the slavery and superstition of a group of our species, where the multitude possessed little more knowledge of the truth than the mean creation they worshipped, while the grandeur and regularity of their palaces and temples speak of a people far advanced in the industrial refinements of life. Thus ancient ruins inform us with more accuracy than ancient authors. From these remains of operative Masonry, we learn that the Egyptian mind was sombre and superstitious. Their theology, dark and mysterious, partook of the gloomy character of their lives. Everything connected with them was deep, grand, vast, and powerful. Their early records show nothing like lyrical poetry; the solitary pastoral landscape, the verdant dales, the blooming woodland scenery, with its mossy banks and rippling streams, which gave rise to the lyrical poetry of the West, was to them unknown, while the grand and solemn nature of their scenery, as depicted in the sandy desert, heights, the mighty Nile, the immense sweep of cloudless sky, all stamped upon their character and art a mysterious sublimity, while the impenetrable vastness and silence of its unexplored sandy waste urged their primitive minds to the solemn grandeur we behold in their palaces and temples. Pass on from them to the race by whom they were conquered, the Persians. In the ancient ruins of Persia we read of a people who conquered and were conquered. Look at the descendants of those conquerors. We can no more read their pedigree in them that we can that of an Arab steed in a roadside hack; but turn to their remains of operative Masonry, every stone is a page, every group of ruins a volume that informs you with as much truth and accuracy as the first hour the craftsmen placed them. Pass on to the Greek—the brave, the free, the all-accomplished Greek. His mind was the type of his person—all that was great and beautiful. Greece elevated Masonry to the height of Attic art with a simplicity, elegance, and chasteness which revelled in all that was beautiful. Her manner of embodying the ideal seemed to endow stone with life. It was at this time that the chisel was wielded with such magical effect as to produce the Corinthian, Doric, and Ionic orders—those orders of architecture, which first gave form and substance to the poetry of the mind, and are destined, by their purity, to continue to the last period of recorded time; and it was here also that the genius of Ictinus and Phidias, fostered by the taste of Pericles, gave such a practical development of the fundamental rules of art, as to defy all attempts at innovation, so much so that the profanity of Roman conquests only

impeded, instead of terminating its career. The Roman possessed little Masonic knowledge. He could slay and destroy; he waded through the blood of those who were not base enough passively to submit, yet not strong enough successfully to resist, to rob refinement of the fruits of her genius, and decorate himself with ornaments which became him as little as those pilfered from some unfortunate traveller hanging on a painted savage, who understands neither their value or uses. It was the barbarous triumph of bone and muscle to enslave genius and destroy her creations; but Greece achieved a noble and bloodless vengeance. Wherever she went her manner of improving the real and embodying the ideal created for herself a new world, rendered her coarse unwieldy conqueror ludicrous in his attempts to imitate, compelled him to accept, at her hands, all that he possessed of pure art in Rome, and finally, it was the emigrating genius of Hellenic art that gave the Romans a new order of architecture in Tuscany. A more glorious, a more Masonic revenge was never yet effected. It was chastising her conqueror by rendering good for evil, and in those dark ages which followed the extinction of Roman supremacy, and which lasted nearly a thousand years, Masonry neither slumbered nor slept. Those savage hordes, which has at one time laid waste a large portion of the East and West, now called in the aid of that Masonry whose creations they had destroyed in a spirit of mischievous derision. The descendants of Brennus, Alaric, and Mahomet, found it was the only means by which they could ennoble themselves, and glorify their gods; and the early Christian Church, in the ninth century, when its sway was rapidly becoming universal, contributed materially to her influence by receiving at the hands of the Craft a new order of architecture in the pointed Gothic style. It was at this time our order acquired its greatest numerical strength, and it was doubtless under the influence of these magnificent Gothic structures that our emblems became so beautifully figurative. With what rapturous emotion must the Mason have gazed upon the first of those Gothic cathedrals, which was the work of his hands. What could be more fancifully picturesque than those groups of slender columns bearing arches poised one on another, the obscure depth of each recess, the vastness of the dome, the whole grandeur of the regular mass as it presented itself in miniature to the eye of the beholder. It spoke to him in language symbolical and eloquent, and inspired him with feelings of natural and spontaneous religion. To judge of its effect, let us enter the nave of one of our cathedrals, look along the groined roof in which the arches are poised, throw our eye along the choir, terminated by an immense window skilfully divided into perpendicular lights by mullions, which bear tracery rich, deep, and massive, the whole encompassed by spandrels equally admirable in character; while from the north and south transept, which the eye can encompass but not penetrate, we receive the idea of vastness—all this rendered the more impressive by being broken up by innumerable groups of columns, between which the light of day streams, bearing here and there the deep, rich, and brilliant tints from the stained glass windows, producing a depth of light and shade so solemnly grand, that it kindles all the enthusiasm of our nature, and invokes that veneration which urged the ancient Druid to the romance of cruelty, but the Mason whose hands reared it to charity, truth, and brotherly love. Under such influences as these, Masonry could not lose its vitality, and when it was no longer needed in its operative character, it transformed itself into a splendid moral allegory, to win mankind to all that is good and true, through the beauty and sublimity of the picturesque. It knows no country, no clime, no creed, but those which are universal, glory to God on high, and peace to man on earth. We feel its home influences, we hear of them afar off. It was only very recently in this lodge a brother from India told us how, during the mutiny in that country, a Mahomedan Mason divulged to the Master of his lodge a conspiracy to massacre the whole of the Christian population, and thus, in discharge of a Masonic duty, he saved thousands of valuable lives, and a wealthy town from pillage. Similar events have occurred elsewhere, in the Crimea and Italy, under the shadow of the Redan, and on the banks of the Mincio, recently in the Italian peninsula, in the kingdom of the two Sicilies, in that cradle of classic liberty, and of which every spot is sacred, and where the ancient Roman stood forth in the splendour and majesty of an advanced civilisation. Our own countrymen struggled in mortal conflict with his fellow-man, a cry has gone forth from Venice, and we know not how soon that death struggle will re-commence.

Where few shall part though many meet,
The snow shall be their winding sheet,
And every sod beneath their feet,
Shall be a soldier's sepulchre;

and then and there, amidst the shrieks of the wounded, and the groans of the dying, some little Masonic sign may again turn the deadly thrust aside, and Masonry may strike the heart of man, as Moses did the rock of old, and out may gush the pure living waters

of pity, compassion, and love; the hand that sought to slay may extend help and relief; the destroyer may become preserver, and the recording angel, who notes down every deed of blood done there with a tearful eye and a trembling hand, will record that deed of love and mercy with a smile of joy, and carrying it up to the throne of the most High, lay it at the feet of Him from whom all good emanates, and he will doubtless accept it as a proof that Masonry is faithfully and unostentatiously fulfilling her powerful and glorious mission, by complying with that high behest which says, "Do you unto others as you would have others do unto you." Such are the glorious principles of Freemasonry, and while we continue to practise them let us bear in mind that life is short. To some it is a rough and boisterous passage—then it seems long and dreary; to others it is an easy sunny journey—then it seems short and pleasant; but whether we ride out the passage of life in a dark or tempestuous night, or voyage it along in the joyous light of a sunny day, with all the pleasures of life spread out before us like a sea of gold, mirroring the brightness and beauty of the world above, we all wish to be fondly remembered by those we leave behind us; then bear in mind that although we pass away every work of our hands, every action of our lives, remain here to bless or curse humanity for ages to come. Then let the object of our lives be the pursuit of truth—the work of our hands, a superstructure of goodness for our own honour, the glory of the Craft, and the happiness of generations to come. Bro. Passenger resumed his seat amidst the cheer of the brethren.—The usual toast on behalf of the poor and distressed brethren was then given, and an appeal made by the W.M. on behalf of a poor and afflicted brother, who was already on the funds of the lodge. The W.M. said at this festive season the distressed brother would fully appreciate any practical proof of their sympathy, when two guineas were immediately collected by the brethren present, and handed over to the W.M. to present to the brother referred to. The usual questions were then put, and the lodge duly closed, after prayer in due form. The festivities of the evening continued, and several other toasts were proposed, and Bro. J. R. Stebbing responded to the toast of "The Masters of other Lodges in the Town."—Bro. T. FALVEY, S.D., proposed "Prosperity to Masonry in general, and the province of Hampshire in particular," and said that the great and benevolent principles on which the Institution was founded were, if faithfully adhered to, calculated to be of immense service to society.—Other Masonic toasts were proposed.—"The P.M.'s," to which Bro. T. P. PAYNE responded.—"The Visitors," responded to by Bro. KINGSBURY.—The W.M. reminded the brethren that a distinguished brother was present, who had filled the chair of that lodge for two years successively, and was Mayor of Southampton during the past year. He alluded to Bro. Captain Perkins, one who stood high in the estimation not only of all his brother Masons, but all his fellow townsmen. He knew every brother present would feel pleasure in drinking health and happiness to the ex-Mayor.—Bro. Capt. PERKINS, in reply, thanked the lodge for the very warm and cordial manner in which it had responded to the call of the Master. He highly appreciated the compliment from that lodge, because it was the most numerous and influential in the South of England. He had always been received among them in a true Masonic spirit, and by the whole of his fellow townsmen with a hearty goodwill. It was very pleasing to him to hold the good opinion of his fellow men. He reciprocated that feeling most thoroughly, especially towards his brethren of the Royal Gloucester Lodge.—The usual final toast was given soon afterwards, when the brethren separated. Bro. Kingsbury, P. Prov. G. Organist of Somersetshire, contributed much to the pleasure of the brethren by a most brilliant execution of some choice pieces on the pianoforte.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

BERKHAMSTEAD LODGE (No. 742).—The annual installation meeting was held on Wednesday, January 2, at the King's Arms Hotel, Great Berkhamstead. At three p.m., several brethren being in attendance, the lodge was opened. The minutes of the preceding lodge, comprising the election of W.M. and Treas., having been confirmed, the Sec. said that Bro. How (Prov. G.D.C., Herts), observing that occasionally there was some time unoccupied, had volunteered to address the brethren on the three grand pillars that supports a Mason's lodge; he therefore called on this brother to fulfil his proposal. Bro. How then began his lecture on wisdom, strength, and beauty, which embodied the result of much reading, and illustrated the characters of the three ancient G.M.s,—Solomon, Hiram of Tyre, and Hiram, the widow's son, with a few occasional references to the language of the established lectures of the volume of the Sacred Law was the fount of inspiration with the lecturer, the illustrations being drawn from the writings of King Solomon and the books of Kings and Chronicles. At the conclusion, Bro. How, who had been requested to undertake the ceremony of installation, placed in the chair Bro. Henry George Lane, who had been elected at the preceding lodge. The W.M. appointed and

invested as his officers—Bros. J. Burton, S.W.; George Lambert, J.W.; C. H. Law, P.M., Sec.; J. B. Newall, S.D.; Hart, J.D.; J. G. Richards, D.C.; Lunley, I.G.; John Law, P.M., who had been elected Treas., and Bro. T. Thomas, Tyler, were also invested. Bro. Newall gave notice of a motion to the effect of giving the lodge, by an additional grant permanently, two votes in the Benevolent Institution. The lodge having been closed, the brethren assembled around the new Master at the banquet. In the course of a very pleasant evening, the Rev. Bro. F. B. Harvey, P.M. and P. Prov. G. Chaplain, in reply to some observations on the difficulty a small lodge in a town like Berkhamstead had, in getting Masonic instruction, referred to the activity and talent some of its members possessed, and especially in the manly game of cricket, and expressed his desire to see clever London Masons meet there for a trial of skill in an old English sport. The pleasure of the evening was enlivened by the vocal ability of Bros. Dr. Barringer, Charles How, of No. 276, Newall and Lunley. Bro. James Terry, J.W., of No. 276, was also a visitor.

KENT.

RAMSGATE.—*Royal Navy Lodge* (No. 621).—A numerous assemblage of brethren of this lodge took place on the occasion of the annual festival, on the 2nd inst., at 2.30 p.m. The appointment of that early hour for the dispatch of business was consequent on an anticipated heavy amount of work, which appeared by the summons to comprise one initiation, three passings, and three raisings (two of the candidates being foreigners and unacquainted with the English language—every sentence would be required to be interpreted), besides the installation of the W.M. elect. Fortunately for the serenity of mind of the *chef de cuisine*, some of the candidates were prevented attending to take their degrees, and the business was gone through in time for the appointed banquet hour. Bros. C. Hewitt, O. A. Beer, and F. de Emechazura were passed to the degree of F. C., the ceremony being ably performed in two instances by Bro. Cowley W.M., in the other by Bro. Hodge, P.M. P. Prov. J.G.W., assisted by Bro. Bennett as Spanish interpreter. *En passant* it may be remarked that this distinguished linguist, competent as he is to interpret the several ceremonies into nearly every language, has rendered his brethren of this lodge essential service. Many captains and mates of foreign ships resorting to the Royal Harbour of this port have, through his assistance, been initiated, passed, and raised in this lodge.—The W.M. then called upon the talented and worthy Bro. O. G. Phipps, P.M. P. Prov. S.G.W., to officiate as Installing Master, and Bro. Finch, W.M. elect., was duly installed in the chair of K.S. In this ceremony Bro. Phipps displayed his usual good taste, gentlemanlike bearing, and perfection in working, with an energy and impressiveness peculiarly his own. At the previous meeting Bro. Finch had been chosen by the unanimous votes of the brethren, a result as flattering in its unanimity as it was deserved. The W.M. invested the following as his officers for the ensuing year, namely:—Bro. H. Cowley as P.M.; T. H. G. Snowden, Prov. G. Reg., as S.W.; J. Hickling, J.W.; S. Beeching, P.M., P. Prov. D.C., Treasurer; B. Z. Hiscocks, P.M., Hon. Sec.; R. Rolfe, S.D.; J. Fenwick, J.D.; J. White, S.S.; E. C. Palmer, J.S.; J. T. Cooke, I.G.; G. Meager, Tyler. The lodge was favoured by the presence of several visitors, among whom were Bros. W. C. Brasier, W.M. Union Lodge (No. 149); Prov. G. Steward; J. R. Feakins, P.M. P. Prov. J. G. D.; W. W. Wyatt, P.M. Alfred Lodge, Oxford; M. N. Sale, Rugby Lodge; H. C. Strong, Antiquity Lodge, Chatham. Before the lodge was closed, Bro. Phipps, in an appropriate address (in which he referred to the fact of there having been twenty-five initiations during the year of Bro. Cowley's rule) presented Bro. H. Cowley with a P.M.'s jewel in the name of the lodge "as a token of their high esteem for the efficient manner in which he has conducted the affairs of this lodge during his year of office as W.M., and for the zeal and ability he has evinced for the interests of Masonry in general," the words in inverted commas being engraven on the jewel. The lodge having been closed in ancient form, the brethren adjourned to partake of a sumptuous banquet, on the preparation of which the aforesaid cook had evidently bestowed his best pains. The usual loyal and other Masonic toasts and sentiments were proposed and drunk, and the brethren separated after an evening passed in true fraternal love and harmony.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 348).—The annual festival of this lodge was celebrated at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 2nd inst. Among those present were Bros. Cummings, W.M.; W. Weare, W.M. elect; Kelly, P.M. and D. Prov. G.M.; Underwood, P.M.; Windram, P.M.; Pettifer, P.M.; Gill, P.M. and Sec.; Dr. Sloane, J.W.; Marris, S.D.; Denton, I.G.; Herbert; L.A. Clarke, and others. Visitors:—Bros. Klein, Prov. G.S. and P.M. No. 21, London; Capt. Brewin, W.M.; Goodyer, P.M.; W. B. Smith, P.M.; Lloyd, Bithrey, and Foster, of the John of Gaunt

Lodge (No. 766). The lodge having been opened by the W.M., and the minutes of the last lodge, including the election of W.M., read and confirmed, a Fellow Craft's Lodge was opened, and Bro. Wm. Weare was presented for installation, which ceremony was performed by Bro. Underwood, P.M.; the address to the W.M. in the third degree, and to the brethren generally, at the close of the ceremony, being given by the D. Prov. G.M. The following brethren were appointed as the officers for the ensuing year:—Dr. Sloane, S.W.; W. H. Marris, J.W.; Gill, P.M. and Sec.; Crawford, P.M. and Treas. (re-elected); W. Herbert, S.D.; W. Jackson, J.D.; Clarke, I.G.; Bembridge, Tyler. On the motion of the D. Prov. G.M., a unanimous vote of thanks was presented to the retiring W.M., Bro. Cummings, for his efficient services in the chair, coupled with the congratulations of the brethren on his recovery from serious illness, which was duly acknowledged. A vote of thanks was also accorded to the Treasurer, Bro. Crawford, P.M., who was absent from indisposition. Two gentlemen having been proposed as candidates, the brethren were called off to refreshment, when a pleasant evening was spent under the presidency of the newly-installed W.M.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*St. Peter's Lodge* (No. 607).—The installation festival of this lodge was celebrated at the Star and Garter Hotel on Thursday, the 3rd inst. The lodge having been duly opened, &c., a ballot was taken for Mr. Alfred Pratt, which being unanimous, the candidate was admitted and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. The ceremony being most satisfactorily performed by the retiring W.M., Bro. J. Betts. The charge having been delivered, Bro. J. Haseler was regularly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, and afterwards appointed his officers. The ceremony of installation was, together with the subsequent addresses, most admirably rendered by P.M. Bro. Foster Gough, 769. The respected P.G.M. Lieut.-Col. Vernon was present during the whole of the evening. The business being ended, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was of the most sumptuous kind, and reflected credit upon Bro. Trigger. Toasts, harmony, and good fellowship was the order of the evening. Amongst the visitors were W.M. Bro. Humphreys (769), Bro. J. Drake, W.M. (1028), and Bro. Tucker (769).

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

CANADA (WEST).

We (*Hamilton Spectator*) learn that the Godfrey De Bouillon Encampment of the Royal, Exalted, Religious, and Military Order of Masonic Knights Templar, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Conclave of England and Wales, has been for some time past established in this city.—On Friday, Dec. 5, the annual installation of officers took place. The ceremony was performed by Eminent Sir Knt. Captain Thompson Wilson of London, C.W. The following are the names of the officers:—Eminent Sir Kt. Thomas B. Harris, Em. Com.; Col. W.M. Wilson, P. Com.; Col. Geo. W. Whitehead, Prelate; Charles Magill, 1st Capt. Commanding Columns; Dougal McInnis, 2nd Capt. Commanding Columns; Thomas McCracken, Reg.; Robert J. Hamilton, Treas.; M. P. Shaler, Exp.; Oliver Gable, Alm.; Jno. W. Murton, Capt. of Lines; S. B. Campbell, 1st H.; William Irwin, 2nd H.; Jno. Morrison, Eq.

IRELAND.

SKIBBEREEN.—*Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland*.—The brethren of the above lodge met at their rooms on Thursday, the 13th instant, it being their regular monthly night. The lodge having been opened in due and ancient form, and the minutes of the last communication read and approved of, Bro. Potter, jun., handed in a proposition to the following effect, which was seconded by the W.M., Bro. Hadden, M.D.:—"That refreshment be abolished in this lodge, except when its members shall desire to entertain a brother by special invitation, of which the brethren shall get due notice." There being no other business of importance, the lodge closed in harmony, when the brethren repaired to the supper-room, where a splendid repast awaited them. This was given in honour of a worthy member of the lodge, Bro. John Sampson Lewis, M.D., M.R.C.S.L., who was about to leave the land of his birth, having just been appointed Acting Assistant-Surgeon on board H.M.S. *Victory*, flagship, 104 guns. The viands being disposed of, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk. Then came the toast of the evening, which was proposed by the W.M., "Bro. Hadden, M.D.," with all the warmth of good feeling and brotherly love peculiar to

this amiable brother. The manner in which the health of our guest was received fully testified the estimation in which he was held by his fellows, as, at the conclusion of the Chairman's speech, there was a burst of applause that seemed to electrify our young friend, and render him speechless for some seconds; however, he was soon himself again, when he returned his heartfelt thanks for the honour conferred on him in a speech replete with exquisite Masonic sentiments. Various toasts followed, whilst Masonic and other songs added much to the hilarity of the evening, which terminated about half-past eleven o'clock. Another meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 27th ult., at noon. The lodge was opened in ancient form by Dr. Hadden, and amongst the P.M.'s present were Bros. Fuller, Henry Hungerford, Paul Limrick, Edward J. Doherty, and James C. Mooney; Bros. Robert Atkins, John Hungerford, and William Atkins were also present. Bro. Frederick P. E. Potter being duly installed W.M. for the ensuing six months, he invested his officers as follows:—Dr. Sommerville, S.W.; John F. Levis, J.W.; Richard Beamish, Sec.; Thomas Atteridge, Treas.; Saml. K. Vickery, S.D.; James McCarthy Levis, J.D.; and John W. Potter, jun., I.G. The ceremony of installation being concluded, lodge closed, and the brethren re-assembled at their room, North-street, at six o'clock, to celebrate the festival of St. John. Present were:—Bros. Dr. Hadden, Paul Limrick, Samuel Townsend, J.P.; Ralph Fuller, Robert G. Rountree, John F. Levis, John W. Potter, jun., J. Hungerford, James Mooney, Richard Beamish, Edward J. Doherty, John W. Potter, sen., Thomas Trinder, James McCarthy Levis, Samuel K. Vickery, F. P. E. Potter, and John O'Donoghue. The chair was occupied by the newly appointed Master, and (owing to the unavoidable absence of Dr. Sommerville) Dr. Hadden was unanimously voted to the vice-chair. The dinner was done ample justice to by all present. Dr. Hadden having been unexpectedly called to visit a patient, the vice-chair was occupied by Bro. John F. Levis during his absence. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given and duly responded to, Bro. Doherty felt great pleasure in proposing the health of their newly elected W.M., who, he was proud to say, always evinced great zeal for the Craft, and was ever anxious to promote its interests. In reply Bro. Potter sincerely thanked the brethren for the manner in which the toast was received, and for the high honour conferred by placing him at the head of this ancient and thriving lodge. It had taught him a beautiful and striking lesson in Masonry, that when they entered the lodge men were equal, and stood side by side as brothers, whatever their social position may be. It regarded none for their worldly wealth—it was the internal and not the external qualifications that recommended a man to Masonry. He hoped, by the aid of the officers and members of the lodge, it would prosper, as it had under the reign of their late and worthy W.M.—In the absence of Dr. Hadden, Bro. J. F. LEVIS proposed the health of the newly elected S.W., which was received with due honours, and responded to by Bro. Vickery. The CHAIRMAN, fearing Dr. Hadden would not be able to join them again that evening, begged to propose his health. It was he was aware, the toast of the evening, and would have been given first had it not been that he was obliged to leave. He referred to the many excellent traits in his character, which endeared him to every person in the community. He also referred to his attention to the duties of Masonry, and of Lodge 15 in particular, and felt sure it was a great source of pleasure to him (Dr. Hadden) to perceive the rapid progress of the Skibbereen Lodge during his term of office. After some further eulogy on this worthy brother's affability and capability, the toast was drunk with all honours, and enthusiastically received, and responded to by Bro. J. F. Levis, in appropriate language. Numerous other toasts were given and duly responded to, amongst which were the healths of Bros. Townsend, H. Hungerford, Doherty, Mooney, and Fuller. The enjoyments of the evening were greatly increased by songs from several of the brethren, and an interesting recitation by Bro. Vickery.

AMERICA.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ILLINOIS.

We (American *Crystal and Masonic Journal*) receive with sincere delight the proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois, at its Convention in Springfield, September, 1860. In no direction have we looked with deeper interest to discover what might be the result of the action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States at its last session, than to the great central State of Illinois.

It will be remembered that the most intense hostility to the formation of a General Grand Lodge or North American Masonic Congress at Chicago came from Illinois. By far the ablest speech against the measure, and the only one we deemed it necessary then to reply to, was made by Comp. H. G. Reynolds, the accomplished

Grand Secretary of both the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of that State. It is also well understood that the opposition in that State arose from the impatience with the conflicts and agitations in the general Grand Chapter. It is therefore with peculiar gratification that we find Comp. Reynolds commenting and copying as he does from other Grand Chapters.

Of South Carolina he says: "The address of Comps. Mackay, G. H. Priest, and the G. G. H. Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, occupies eight pages, and is a well written production." After adverting concisely to matters in that jurisdiction—all of a local character—he passes to the legislation and proceedings of the General Grand Chapter at Chicago, one year since.

Speaking of the amendments, he remarks: "It has been urged by some of the opponents of these amendments, that their effect is entirely to destroy the usefulness of the Confederation and to divest the General Grand Chapter of all power and dignity—without prerogative, without authority, and necessarily without any necessity for its future existence. I have in vain examined those amendments, both before and since their adoption, to find in them any such dire effect. And I conscientiously believe that the General Grand Chapter of the United States now possesses more power for good and less for evil than it ever before had since its organization in the year 1806."

After commenting on the amendment, he says: "Now it was time that the unmeaning menace that the General Grand Chapter possessed the power to suspend State Grand Chapters, when it was well known that it had never exercised, and never would and never could exercise any such prerogative, should be stricken from the constitution, as a ridiculous assumption on its part, and a needless insult to the State Grand Chapters. The supporters of the amendment were of the opinion that it was better to declare what has always been the truth,—that the General Grand Chapter had no such power of discipline,—and to leave its strength to convict, as it really does in the mighty moral influence that such a confederacy must always exercise over the whole body of the Craft. The G.G. Chapter having thrown aside this unmeaning assumption of despotic power, and trusted itself to the affection of its constituents, and to the influence of its own wise and prudent counsels, is now, I believe, far stronger, and possessed of better elements of perpetuity than at any previous time in its history. A striking evidence of this fact and an unanswerable argument in behalf of the amendments is that the representatives of four Grand Chapters, those of Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan, who came to the convocation, under the instructions of their constituents, with the purpose of asking for permission to withdraw, and if this request was refused, to use all their exertions to obtain the dissolution of the General Grand Body, immediately after the amendments had been passed, withdrew all action on the subject, and declared their determination to go home and use their influence for the purpose of changing the adverse views of their constituents."

[Companion Mackay might have added that the P.G. High Priest of Indiana, Companion Hacker, who had been one of the most resolute opponents of the General Grand Chapter, cheerfully accepted an important office in that body after the adoption of the amendments].

Companion Reynolds, in his review of Michigan, says:—"Just at the close of the Grand Chapter, the long severance of harmony and union was dissolved by the action of Companion Jacobs, of Monroe Chapter, No. 1, by placing on record the endorsement of Peninsular Chapter by said Monroe Chapter, when a scene occurred which we will give in the language of the proceedings: 'Companions alienated for years rushed to the altar, many right hands were clasped, and many eyes were moistened over it. Our venerable Companion Blanchard, our Grand Lecturer, essayed to speak, but could only utter, 'Now, my sons.'—At one moment the hall rang with acclaim, at another it was hushed by emotions too deep for utterance. Masonic harmony rules again."

Companion Reynolds had previously copied the following remarks of the Michigan Committee on Foreign Correspondence, in relation to the action of the General Grand Chapter.

"By such action of the General Grand Chapter, touching Michigan, the matter, which, originating with us—having a small beginning, widening, like the waves created by a pebble dropped in the ocean, until its influences have embraced the world,—has at length—through the legitimate action of the highest Court of Masonic appeals, found its proper solution.—This solution, doing no violence to any known law, treating with fair consideration all parties involved, sustaining the action of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, except in a point of conflict on the legal construction of a phrase on which all views had already been harmonised, sustaining honourably the position of Peninsular Chapter and its individual Companions, as Royal Arch Masons, fairly untying the Gordian knot, has again encircled all Royal Arch Masons with a cord not easily broken."

Obituary.

BRO. THOMAS BELL.

Another striking instance of the uncertainty of life is afforded in the sudden decease of Bro. Thomas Bell, barrister-at-law, a member of the Midland Circuit, which melancholy event occurred on Monday, the 31st ult. On Sunday evening Bro. Bell arrived at Nottingham from London, to be in readiness for the sessions on the following day. Apparently he was as well as usual, and after partaking of a hearty breakfast on Monday morning, he walked down to the Shire Hall, where the sessions are held, in company with one or two other barristers. In the robing-room, however, he was seized with a fit of apoplexy, and was conveyed back to his hotel, where he was attended by three medical gentlemen. Their efforts, unfortunately, were of no avail, for the learned gentleman sank gradually, and, after remaining entirely unconscious during the interim, about four o'clock in the afternoon he expired. Bro. Bell was so well known and so highly esteemed in the Midland Counties, and his progress at the bar (giving promise as it did of such high success eventually) was watched by so large a circle of friends and acquaintance, that the news of its termination in so sudden and sad a manner will be received with deep and universal regret. Bro. Bell, who was born in Leicester in 1815, like his friend, Br. Adams (the present highly-respected Chief Justice of Hong-Kong, by whom he was accompanied in his initiation into Masonry), was a self-made man. He commenced the work of life in the office of Bro. Bond, solicitor, Leicester, and after remaining in his employ several years, and subsequently for some time in that of Mr. T. Dalby, he entered the office of Mr. W. Gregory as managing clerk, and while with that gentleman he obtained considerable reputation in conducting common law cases before the magistrates in Petty Sessions, and was highly respected by the magisterial authorities. About 1850 he left Leicester to study for the bar, and having gone through the necessary course satisfactorily, he was called about seven years ago, closing the Midland Circuit, in which his thorough knowledge of his profession and his undoubted talent secured for him at once a large practice, far, in fact, beyond the share which usually falls to a barrister in the outset of his career; and there can be no question that if his life and health had been preserved he would have taken his place in the foremost ranks of English advocates. Whilst thus, unquestionably, successful as a pleader, he seems to have exhibited the greatest judgment and skill in electioneering tactics. In this employment he showed great sagacity, and his services were justly and highly valued. In the keen contest of politics, however, he ever managed to steer clear of creating enemies; he was regarded with esteem by his opponents, so that we may infer that his battles were fairly and honourably fought. These facts require no enforcement to establish the belief that he was a man of indisputable talent. In private life he was characterised by great generosity and benevolence, and those whom he knew never applied to him in vain for either legal advice or pecuniary assistance. Perhaps his fault was in being too liberal to those who importuned him, for it may be surmised that, in many instances, he injured himself by the exercise of too much generosity. *Requiescat in pace.* Bro. Bell was initiated into Masonry some years ago in the John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 766), Leicester, but owing to his residing in London, and his numerous professional engagements, he never held office, and only occasionally visited the lodge when in Leicester on Circuit. Had he entered the order earlier in life there can be no question that, from his literary taste and undoubted talent, he would have highly distinguished himself in the Craft. Bro. Bell, we believe, was twice married, and leaves a widow, but no family.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and family remain in excellent health at Osborne. The Prince of Wales is about to enter at the University of Cambridge. The Court has gone into mourning for three weeks, for the late King of Prussia.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The intense cold continues to exercise its deadly effects on the ill-clad, ill-fed of the poorer classes, and on the suffering and debilitated of all ranks. In the last two weeks of the departed year, and the week terminating on Saturday last, the deaths were respectively 1239, 1407, and 1707, according to the metropolitan returns. The true value of the excess will be better appreciated when it is stated the corrected average for last week would be 1388—that is to say, deducting this number from 1707, 319 over the usual rate of mortality. There were last week 1892 births registered in London—1003 boys and 889 girls. For the last thirteen weeks of 1860, the deaths were 15,197. For the corresponding periods of 1859 and 1858, it was 15,736 and 17,688 respectively, proving a gradual and important decrease in these three years.

—Owing to the frost the state of the rails on the various lines is such that there has been a failure in the arrival of several of the mail bags at the Post-office. Much more than usual care is required during the present weather to prevent the driving wheels of the engines from getting off the way, added to which is the danger arising from the contractile power of the extreme cold in shortening rails and rendering all iron-work exceedingly brittle.—On Tuesday the foundation stone of a building, to be called the Hartley Institution, and designed for literary and scientific purposes, was laid at Southampton. The ceremony was performed by Lord Palmerston, his lordship being received by the mayor and corporation, and escorted to the site by a procession, the Volunteer Rifle Corps forming a guard of honour. In the afternoon a *déjeuner* was given by the mayor at the Audit-house.—The Right Hon. Sidney Herbert has, in an address to his constituents, the electors of South Wilts, announced his retirement from the representation of their interests in the House of Commons—a duty he has discharged uninterruptedly for twenty-eight. Mr. Herbert is about to be elevated to the peerage as Baron Herbert, one of the titles of the earldom of Pembroke, to which he is at present heir presumptive, being eldest son to the eleventh earl of that name. The new peer retains his office of Secretary for War; but in consequence of his translation to the Upper House Earl de Grey must resign the post of Under Secretary for that department.—A large meeting of the landowners and hop planters of the counties of Kent and Sussex was held on Tuesday afternoon at Battle, to consider what means should be taken to further the objects of the association for the total repeal of the hop duty. The chair was occupied by Lord Harry Vane, and several resolutions were adopted consonant with the purpose of the meeting.—Many are the channels in which public benevolence flows, and that portion of it which passes through the poor-boxes of our metropolitan police-courts is by no means unimportant, whether considered in reference to its amount, or the mode of distribution, and character of its recipients. There are probably several thousands of pounds every year dispensed in this way by the magistrates to what are considered the deserving poor of the districts in which the courts are situated. At present the mode of applying these funds is to afford relief to applicants who are ascertained upon inquiry to be worthy and in want. Now, however, this work has so increased that several of the magistrates are complaining of the serious draft on their time in attending to applications, and also of the impropriety of the duties of relieving officers being imposed upon them in detriment to the public interests connected with the discharge of their own proper work.—The convict Twigg, sentenced to death at the late Staffordshire assizes for the murder of his wife, at Bilston, by stabbing her with a knife, suffered the penalty of his crime on Saturday morning, at Stafford. After his conviction, the criminal showed much contrition for his offence, and displayed throughout a spirit of sincere penitence.—A woman named Sarah Sadleir was charged at the bar of Clerkenwell Police-court, on Saturday, with manslaughter. The prisoner had committed an assault on Mr. Collins, a baker, in Islington, with whom she had cohabited for some time, which resulted in his death.—On Friday a shocking disaster occurred at the farm of Mr. Holmes, Langton, near Malton, by the explosion of the boiler of a steam thrashing machine. Unfortunately, all the people employed in connection with the machine were standing around it, taking one of their meals, at the time the boiler burst. One man was killed instantaneously, another died on Sunday morning from the injuries he received, whilst four more were seriously scalded. There is every probability that this fatality is to be attributed to the frost.—On Monday a boy named William Baker was committed for trial at the Mansion House on his own confession of having robbed his employers. Engaged as clerk in the City, he had been, in the month of October last, sent with a sum of money to the Bank, but, instead of depositing it as ordered, absconded, carrying the amount with him. Up to Sunday night he had succeeded in keeping out of the way, when, finding his resources at an end, he went to a police-station and gave himself up.—On Monday morning a stableman in Astley's Theatre, named John Smith or Jarvey, was torn to death by one of the lions kept there for taking a part in certain performances. It appears that all the three lions—one female and two males—had forcibly effected their escape from the iron cage by breaking or bending some of the bars, and were, in fact, roaming at large through the place when the unfortunate man, in the exercise of his duties, fell into the clutches of one of them, and so lost his life. The proprietor of the lions, Mr. Crockett, acted with much courage on the occasion, going in unattended, and rescuing the body of the poor fellow from further mutilation.—On Friday morning an accident occurred to the mail train leaving Liverpool for London, through the breaking of the tire of one of the engine wheels. The train fortunately came to an immediate standstill, and, save a few contusions and other slight injuries, no personal damage was sustained by the passengers.—The express

train from Shrewsbury due at Hereford at 2.40 p.m. on Friday ran off the line, in consequence of an axle breaking, six miles from Hereford, where the line runs on an embankment, with a deep dike on either side, the land for miles being inundated by the River Lugg. The carriages all ran off the line, the passengers were immersed in the water, and an appalling scene ensued. There was a perfect wreck, and two women were drowned before they could be rescued. The guard narrowly escaped by swimming, and a lady and her child were marvellously rescued. The other passengers were providentially saved. The engine proceeded to Hereford for medical aid, which was promptly rendered.—Mr. William Kelly, a commercial agent, has been killed on the North-Western Railway. The unfortunate gentleman had been a passenger by the train due in London at eleven o'clock on Friday night, and was found crushed to death under a first-class carriage, which, with a larger portion of the train, had become detached and upset at Primrose-hill tunnel. How the detachment occurred is at present unascertained.—On Monday an inquest was held on the bodies of James Plaisted, John Ogden, and John Maddison, the three men who were killed by the accident on Saturday, near Teynham, on the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway. It was shown that the accident occurred through the breaking of a part of the engine, which had the effect of causing it to leave the line, and so drag the attached carriages with it. A verdict of accidental death, coupled with a statement to that effect.—In the Sheriff's Court a writ of inquiry was executed to assess the compensation to be awarded for a breach of promise of marriage. The defendant, named Dameron, was the son of a shipprigger, at Wapping; the plaintiff being Elizabeth Sladden, a barmaid. Judgment had been allowed to go by default, and the damages were laid at £500. These, however, the jury, after hearing evidence, reduced to £150.—On Monday, the sittings at the Central Criminal Court were resumed, with the small number of 47 prisoners on the calendar.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The new King of Prussia, William I., has issued a proclamation addressed "To my people." He expresses the pride with which he sees himself surrounded by a brave and faithful people and a glorious army, and pledges himself to remain faithful to the tradition of his house in endeavouring to elevate and strengthen the patriotic feeling of the nation, in maintaining the institutions which emanated from the late King, and by faithfulness to his oath to protect the constitution and laws of the kingdom. As a German Prince he feels bound to strengthen Prussia in that position which she must legitimately occupy amongst the German States. Though confidence in the peace of Europe is shaken, yet his Majesty says he will endeavour to preserve the blessings of peace. Nevertheless, dangers may arise for Prussia and Germany, for the overcoming of which, under God, the King will trust in the faithfulness and perseverance of his people.—The Emperor of Russia, the *Nord* asserts, is resolved not to delay the publication of the order for the abolition of serfdom, and that the Imperial manifesto for effecting this social revolution will appear on the 3rd of March.—The agitation prevailing throughout Hungary is continually giving rise to popular outbreaks. One of these disturbances occurred at Kerskemet, on the 5th instant, of so serious a nature that the garrison were called out, and the riot was not suppressed till the soldiers used their fire-arms, and wounded several of the rioters. The Polish province of Austria is following the example of the other nationalities in demanding independent institutions. A deputation from Galicia was received on Thursday by M. de Schmerling, which presented an address asking, among other things, for indivisibility of the province, convocation of a diet for provincial affairs, use of the Polish language in official affairs and in schools, and, finally, that Galicia may send members to the Council of the Empire. By an autograph letter, dated the 7th instant, the Emperor has granted a very comprehensive amnesty for Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia, and Slavonia on account of such penal acts as have merely aimed at a change in the system of government as established before Oct. 20, 1860, or which were in any way connected with such a purpose.—On New Year's-day the Pope received the French officers, and in reply to the congratulations of General Goyon, who refrained from any political allusions, his Holiness expressed his approval of the expeditions to Syria and China, and said that in defending Gaeta the French fleet was serving a just and holy cause.—The *Turin Gazette* of Tuesday says that the Sardinian Government, deferring to the wishes of the Emperor Napoleon, has suspended hostilities before Gaeta until the 19th inst., with the object of negotiating for its surrender. The French fleet will leave Gaeta immediately, one vessel alone remaining to guarantee the armistice. If the armistice should fail of its object General Cialdini will resume his operations on the 19th for the reduction of the fortress, and will then be supported by the vigorous co-operation of the Italian fleet. The last accounts of the siege of Gaeta, however, come down to the 5th, at which time the Sardinian fire was causing great destruction in the

city, one shell having penetrated into the room above the King, and others had reached the central hospital. It can scarcely be possible that, under these circumstances, Victor Emmanuel has agreed to the proposed armistice for a fortnight, unless on the express understanding that in the event of the truce failing he will meet with no further opposition from the French fleet, but be allowed to pursue, unmolested, his operations, both by land and sea, against the fortress, the reduction of which and the disengagement of his army are so necessary to the re-establishment of order in his new dominions.—So numerous of late have been the assassinations at Bologna that the city is in a state of great excitement and indignation, and there was some intention of making a public demonstration against the syndic. Ultimately, however, an address was presented to him, when he promised to take measures to repress the crime, and apply to the Government for assistance.—Naples continues in a very troubled state. The prolonged resistance of King Francis II. at Gaeta evidently encourages the priests and other Royal adherents, who are exciting the lazzaroni to riotous movements against the present Government. One of those disturbances took place on the 29th ult., which was suppressed by the Sardinian troops, fortunately without bloodshed. A conspiracy, said to be of little importance, was discovered a day or two after, and four Royalist generals, with some agents from Gaeta, were arrested. The new Lieutenant-General of Naples, Prince Carignan, is expected to arrive on the 15th instant. A new programme, emanating from the "party of action," has been circulated by thousands in Italy, in which the writers protest their devotion to the King, so long as he is the defender and representative of unity, and is firm in his design of giving Rome and Venice to Italy. They also indicate the means by which the object aimed at is to be attained. This programme is one among many indications of the daily increasing distrust among Italians of their French "ally." The protection afforded by the French fleet to Francis II., and the support given by French arms to the tottering throne of the Pope, are attributed to some sinister design on the part of the Emperor to thwart the establishment of Italian unity, and advance his idea of a confederation.—The official *Gazette* of Turin publishes the electoral law for all Italy. It is only a modification of that of Piedmont, adapted to the altered circumstances. The number of deputies for the whole kingdom is fixed at 443.—The Minister of Marine for Spain has informed the naval authorities that it has been resolved to introduce rifled cannon into the Spanish navy. An official account states the floating debt on the 1st of the month at 1,013,999,701 reals.—The appointment of Sir J. Crampton as English Minister at Madrid has, it appears, given much satisfaction to the Liberal party. An agitation was commencing in order to obtain a similar concession as to passports for Spaniards in France as that accorded to Englishmen, and with this view it was proposed that the Spanish Government should adopt a similar measure for Frenchmen in Spain. Baron Rothschild, it is stated, has refused to comply with the request of the Emperor of Morocco to make him a loan to enable him to pay the indemnity due to Spain.

INDIA.—By the arrival of the Overland Mail we have news from Bombay to the 12th ult. The aversion to the income tax had not abated, and in Surat and Bassein the opposition to its enforcement had been so threatening that the police force had to be summoned before the rioters could be dispersed, and several of the ringleaders—among them some of the most wealthy and influential of the community—were committed to gaol. The native merchants in Bombay also continued to abstain from all dealings in English goods, and the European merchants were becoming alarmed at the combination. An order had been issued for the transformation of the whole of the Bombay Cavalry into irregular or *Sillidar* regiments. Out of the ten corps now on service fourteen new regiments will be made, each of which will have four English officers attached. The arrangements as to pay and pension are liberal, and the uniform and clothing are to be changed and adapted to native habits. The force which Dr. Campbell sent into Sikkin in October last to occupy a tract of country to the west of the great Runjeet River, the Rajah of Sikkin having declined to make reparation for certain aggressions and kidnappings made by his subjects on our territory, is reported to have been defeated, with the loss of thirty or forty killed, and the capture of the gun which accompanied the force. The cause of this disaster is, no doubt, to be attributed to the insufficient force, amounting only to 100 men and one gun, with which Dr. Campbell attempted to overawe the Rajah. The trial of the officers implicated in the late unseemly proceedings in Cairo, commenced at Calcutta on the 3rd ult. The *Calcutta Englishman* says it has taken some trouble to inquire about the death of the infamous Nana, on which some doubt had been thrown, and from reliable reports has ascertained that this scoundrel died on the hills immediately below Nepal in Srawun Budee Punchumee, in August, 1858, with some 200 followers around him.

AMERICA.—The news from the United States is of the highest importance. South Carolina has declared herself no longer a mem-

ber of the North American Confederation by a unanimous vote of her Legislature, and we shall probably learn within the next fortnight that seven other slave states have followed her example. President Buchanan has still further alienated his Northern supporters by ordering the commandant Fort Moultrie to surrender that position if attacked; and we learn that the officer has retired, with his little force of seventy men, to the adjacent Fort Sumpter, in Charleston Harbour. Fort Moultrie, Castle Pinckney, the custom-house, post-office, and arsenal being occupied by the state troops. The opinion gains ground that a collision between the Federal authorities and the citizens of Charleston cannot long be avoided, consequent upon the collection of the United States revenue. The *Springfield Journal*, Mr. Lincoln's present organ, declares this armed secession is treason, and that the President will have no alternative but to treat it as such, and, if we may judge of the feeling of Northern citizens by the action of Republican representatives and senators at Washington, such opinion will be endorsed by all supporters of the President elect. In minor news, the Pacific Railroad Bill (through the Northern States) has passed the Lower House, and the trial of Colonel Corcoran had commenced in New York. Colonel Corcoran, it will be remembered by our readers, refused to parade his regiment (Irish), as part of the escort to the Prince of Wales during his Royal Highness's late visit to the Empire City.—The New York money market is reported as easier, and the stock market is steady. On the 25th the Secretary of the Treasury opened the proposal for the five million Treasury bills, of which less than half was bid for, at an average of twelve per cent.

CANADA.—A decision of the Court of Queen's Bench at Toronto, in the case of a fugitive slave, Anderson, was delivered on the 15th December, and, contrary to general expectation, and to the regret of every one, the Court was in favour of giving up the fugitive to the United States' authorities. One of the judges dissented from the decision, and an appeal has been made. It is seventy years since the poor fellow, by a desperate adventure, escaped from slavery, during which period he has enjoyed with his wife the sweets of liberty and home, of which, unless the decision be reversed, he will now be deprived, and remitted to all the horrors of slavery, if not to death, for to such punishment he is liable under the atrocious slave laws.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA.

Mr. Alfred Mellon's opera of "*Victorine*" was revived on Monday evening, with a success as complete as that which attended its first performance. The short and not very thankful part of *Julien* is now assumed by Mr. Wharton, in the place of Mr. Santley; Mr. Wailworth resigns his original character of *Captain Claude* to Mr. T. Distin, and himself supersedes Mr. G. Honey as *Griffon*—whilst, most important of all, the part of *Victorine* herself has fallen into the hands of Miss Louisa Pyne, who, both as regards acting and singing, does it complete justice. Mr. Henry Haigh is still the representative of the fortunate lover *Michel*; Mr. H. Corri retains the part of *Hector*, which he sings and acts so admirably, and Miss Thirlwall is again the *Louise* of the piece. In almost every respect the character of *Victorine* is particularly suited to Miss Louisa Pyne, who not only sings the whole of the music allotted to the part with the utmost brilliancy and expression, but portrays successfully the various changes of position and station to which the puzzled seamstress is subjected in the course of the drama. Miss Pyne was encored in the cavatina in the second act, whilst her execution of the rondo finale received the loudest testimonials of applause from the audience. Mr. Henry Haigh, whose sweet voice seems to gain upon the audience as he is brought more prominently before them, was encored in the ballads, "This flower, dear maid," and "The heart that is too lightly won." Mr. H. Corri deserves praise for his rendering the scene in the third act, and for the dramatic force of his death scene. The general performance of the opera is effective, and the band and chorus are in their usual state of admirable training. The curtain had to be raised after the close of the opera for the principal artistes to receive the well-earned applause of the audience, and Mr. Alfred Mellon was compelled to make his bow upon the stage, in compliance with a very general call for his appearance.

PRINCESS'S.

The performances of Mr. Fechter, which have been interrupted during the first nights of the pantomime, are now resumed, and he appears every evening in the duplex character of *Fabian* and *Louis de Franchi* in his own version of "*The Corsican Brothers*." There is so much grace and art, and at the same time so much genuine power, displayed in his personation of these characters, that it must be ranked amongst the very highest dramatic assumptions of our time. In ease and finish of manner, expressive action, and fine

deportment, Mr. Fechter is unrivalled, and his performance should be seen by every student as well as every admirer of good acting.

LYCEUM.

The Christmas burlesque here, with its graceful and fanciful concluding scene, was preceded on Monday evening by a drama written by Mr. Brougham, and new at least to the London stage, called "*The Irish Emigrant*." The piece is of the class called domestic, and the story is based chiefly upon the adventures of a lost pocket-book—the various incidents combining, not very happily, a union of the commonplace with the improbable. There are, however, two well-drawn and distinct characters, each giving to the actor who represents it numerous opportunities for characteristic acting; and it is probably on account of this that the piece has been produced. One is a New York carman, who united great bluntness of demeanour with remarkable irresolution of conduct; and the other an Irishman, just arrived in New York, in a state of extreme distress. The former was carefully played by Mr. G. Vining; and the latter, which is the part of the piece, gives Mr. John Drew in some of the scenes more scope for displaying his powers of personation than any part he has hitherto performed—indeed, exhibits him in a far more favourable light as an artist and humorist than he has till this time enabled the public to view him in. The awkward manner of his entrance, with his reluctance to ask assistance, and his simple avowal of his distress, the look of keen hunger with which he regards the dinner table, his burst of grateful feeling upon receiving food, and the eager manner of his swallowing it, joined with a thorough consistency of demeanour and a rich brogue, produced a most favourable impression upon the audience; nor was the scene in which he finds the pocket-book, although perhaps a little extravagant, a whit less effective. Indeed, throughout the part Mr. Drew exhibited such numerous traits of genuine conception of character and of alternate humour and feeling, that he evidently only wants better parts than he has played to give him a much stronger position with the public than he has yet taken.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

It is understood that the representations of Mr. Balfe's opera will be resumed at the Royal English Opera as soon as the arrangements of the theatre will permit; and we believe that Mr. Howard Glover's opera of "*Ruy Blas*" will be one of the novelties of the present season.

A stir has been of late made in Germany to improve, purify, and rearrange the words of Mozart's "*Don Juan*," which, as every lover of that master-work knows, is anything but satisfactory. A new text, with corrected stage directions, has been put forward by Baron Alfred von Wolzogen—and yet another new text, by Prof. Bischoff, of Cologne, has lately been published.

During the coming season of his concerts, Dr. Wylde announces as a feature the "*Antigone*" music of Mendelssohn. This, let it be here said (to point the attraction), has never till now been decently executed in London.

Among other opera rumours it is said that Mr. Smith intends to produce "*Un Ballo in Maschera*," Signor Verdi's last opera, at Her Majesty's Theatre; and that Madlle. Tietjens and Signor Giuglini may possibly sing at the Covent Garden Opera.

Gluck's "*Armide*," we understand from Paris, is about to be produced at the Théâtre Lyrique for Madame Viardot in the course of the spring.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OUR TITLE PAGE.—Owing to an unfortunate error in the title page presented with our number of December 29th. We have deemed it necessary to reprint it, and shall feel obliged by our subscribers handing it to their binder in order that the volume may be properly described.

R.R.—Is at liberty to hold his own opinion; but he evidently knows nothing of Masonry.

PAST GRAND OFFICER.—The proceedings will be carefully watched and, if necessary, we shall not hesitate to comment on them.

CHARLES SOUTH.—Never put faith in such promises, many state they will do things which they afterwards recede from.

JABEZ.—Consult our remembrancer.

A VISITOR (No. 25).—We do not understand quarrels in Masonry. Brethren may sometimes disagree, but the end will be an increase of love. Third parties are more likely to secure the ill-will of both than the good-will of either by unnecessary interference.

N.N.—We do not know how far it concerns you, but if you wish particularly to know, we may reply, twenty years last Monday.

THE CAKE.—Ask one of the naughty boys. Rich things are not good for the digestion.