

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1861.

GRAND LODGE.

The proceedings at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, on Wednesday evening, were not—with the exception of explaining the vote giving power to the M.W. Grand Master of appointing honorary Past Grand Officers—productive of any great practical results, though in the course of the evening more than one rather important discussion took place.

The first business, after the usual formalities had been gone through, was the nomination of the M.W. Grand Master for re-election, and to which there was of course—after the repeated expressions of opinion that any opposition, however honestly brought forward, could only be regarded as a mark of disrespect to the M.W. Grand Master—no objection. But we cannot let the opportunity pass without reiterating our conviction that repeated re-elections do not add to the strength of the Order,—and this we do, though fully admitting that the distinguished brother who holds the office has discharged his duties to the general satisfaction of the Craft. We speak only from principle, and that principle we feel bound to assert on every legitimate occasion.

The Grand Master then brought forward a case, happily very rare in English Freemasonry—the suspension of a brother from his Masonic duties and privileges, under circumstances which may lead to his expulsion from the Craft. It appears that a brother—whose name we refrain from publishing for the present, as he is to be summoned to next Grand Lodge to show cause why he should not be expelled—is charged that he, being a resident of the Isle of Wight, and about to become a bankrupt, made use of the Masonic Hall, Newport, to which he had access, to conceal some of his furniture and goods, which were removed between twelve at night and three in the morning, from his creditors; and for this the Prov. Grand Master of the Isle of Wight has suspended him from his Masonic duties. The Grand Lodge confirmed the suspension until next Grand Lodge, and we shall refrain from further comment, trusting that the conduct of our brother is susceptible of explanation—and we feel ourselves the more bound to this because the brother has hitherto held the highest character for uprightness and integrity, and through his Masonic career has shown himself to be a firm upholder of its principles and a liberal supporter of its charities. At the same time we feel that in taking the course of summoning our unfortunate brother to appear before Grand Lodge, the M.W. Grand Master and his advisers have been somewhat too precipitate—as a reference to the Board of General Purposes would have been equally efficient and more likely to elicit the truth, as explanations might be more easily entered into before a Committee than they can before a body of two or three hundred men; and we can even imagine a case where a person by removing his goods, instead of trying to de-

fraud his creditors, might be endeavouring to protect the interests of the whole against the harsh proceedings of one. We regret, however, that he did not find a more appropriate warehouse than a Masonic Hall.

Passing this painful subject, and the formal reception of the Report of the Board of General Purposes, we come to the first resolution arising out of it; and in order to make it intelligible, we will quote the paragraph from the Report of the Board:—

“The Board beg also to report that their attention has been directed to the resolution adopted by Grand Lodge at its meeting in June last, by which the M.W. Grand Master was empowered to appoint brethren of eminence and distinction to be members of Grand Lodge, with such rank and distinction as he might think proper; and to the resolution adopted at the same meeting of Grand Lodge, by which it was resolved ‘That at and after the Grand Festival of 1862, two additional Grand Deacons should be appointed.’ It has been stated to the Board that serious doubts exist as to whether the power given by those resolutions to the M.W. Grand Master, or a power similar thereto, has been, by such resolutions, bestowed upon Provincial Grand Masters. The Board having given the subject their best attention, consider that it is very desirable that any doubts that may be entertained should be removed as soon as possible, and for that purpose they beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following proviso to be added to each of the before mentioned resolutions:—

“Provided that nothing herein contained shall empower Provincial Grand Masters to make similar appointments in their respective provinces.”

Bro. McIntyre, the President of the Board, in moving this proviso, stated that he did so because doubts had arisen in certain quarters whether the giving the power to the Grand Master did not also confer it on the Provincial Grand Masters, in consequence of a clause in the *Book of Constitutions*, which states, that “By this patent the brother is invested with a rank and power in his particular district similar to those possessed by the Grand Master.” Bro. McIntyre argued, however, that the reading by which the Prov. Grand Masters were to take advantage of the law giving power to the Grand Master to grant honorary rank, was fallacious, inasmuch as it was clearly laid down at the time the resolution was brought forward that it was to enable the Grand Master to reward brethren who had done good service to Masonry, but who, in consequence of the distance they resided from the metropolis, were debarred from attending Grand Lodge and partaking of its honours, by conferring upon them a distinction which should be more extensive than any which could be given by the Prov. Grand Masters, inasmuch as it would give them rank throughout the whole Masonic jurisdiction of England; whereas, any rank granted by a Prov. Grand Master, must be confined to his own district. The motion having been seconded, Bro. Stebbing wished its consideration to be postponed, on the ground of some attack on the privileges of the Grand Master, which he states to be in meditation for next Grand Lodge, but the nature of which he did not designate. After a short discussion, the M.W. Grand Master explained that he had understood the proposed privilege to be confined to the Grand Master—not that he had any objection to share it

with the Prov. Grand Masters, but he felt bound to preserve the rights and privileges of his successors. He would remind them that Provincial Grand Masters had the right of delegating their powers to their deputies, so that if the privilege was conferred upon the provinces, the number who had the right of exercising it would be so extensive that there could be no inducement for the Grand Master ever to confer honour on country brethren, as the Prov. Grand Masters in their own area would have power far more extensive than the Grand Master himself. An amendment was moved to the resolution, but on a show of hands it was affirmed—only two hands being held up against it.

That we approve of this decision we need not say, having already fully expressed our opinion that the power was one to be confined to the M.W. Grand Master alone; and were it to be made otherwise, it would be rendering office so cheap as to detract from its value, and leave the simple blue a greater distinction than the purple. The M.W. Grand Master might, had he been so disposed, have illustrated his argument by showing that the conferring of honorary rank, through which the doubt as to the powers of the Prov. Grand Masters had been raised, was the act of a D. Prov. Grand Master (a Past Grand Warden of England who never attended to his duties), and that in a province, too, where the general complaint is that the honours are not equally distributed, it being a practice only to change the Grand Officers once in five or seven years, and, in many instances, only in case of death.

That the District or Colonial Grand Lodges should have fuller powers than Provincial Grand Lodges, in consequence of their greater distance from head quarters, we fully admit—yet we doubt whether the power of granting honorary offices is one; but in some districts it is exerted to a very heavy extent, we having now before us a report of a District Grand Lodge of Bengal, in which no less than five such distinctions were granted. We fully admit that if the power is wanted anywhere it is in India, where the stations lie so distant one from the other; but the power should be legally obtained from the Supreme Grand Lodge before it is exercised.

This question settled, the President of the Board of General Purposes brought forward that relative to the Grand Lodge property; he stated that the Board had now several plans for altering the property so as to more fully adapt it to the purposes of the Craft, but it was impossible they could come to any decision prior to the expiration of the lease of the Tavern in June next. He moved, therefore, that Messrs. Elkington and Co. be accepted as yearly tenants on the expiration of their lease, “provided they agree to pay the same rent as at present, all sewers rates and land tax, and to be subject to their tenancy being determined by six months’ notice, at any of the usual quarter days, and subject to all the covenants of their present lease.”

The motion was carried without observation; and we are not disposed now to further refer to the subject,

having so recently alluded to it, beyond observing that we propose to lay our plan of utilising the property before the Craft at no distant day.

The report of the Colonial Board having been received, Bro. Henry G. Warren brought forward the motion, of which he had given notice, to omit in clause 1, page 50, of the *Book of Constitutions*, “Of the other Provincial Grand Officers,” all the words after “therein,” line 3. As every brother who reads this may not have the last edition of the *Book of Constitutions* at hand, we copy the clause, italicising the words which Bro. Warren proposed to omit:—

“These (the other Prov. Grand Officers) must all be resident within the province, and subscribing members to some lodge therein; *but the M.W. Grand Master may grant a dispensation for non-residence. A fee of two guineas for Grand Wardens, and one guinea for any subordinate officer, shall be paid to the General Fund of Charity for such dispensation.*”

Bro. Warren, disclaiming all intention of interfering with the privileges of the M.W. Grand Master, based his argument for the repeal of the law on the ground that it was inoperative, and that no law should be maintained on a statute-book which could not be enforced. It was notorious that the M.W. Grand Master objected to granting such dispensations; in some provinces the Prov. Grand Master granted them; whilst in others the offices were given without even the form of dispensation, and they could scarcely enter any lodge without meeting with a brother wearing the provincial purple who had neither obtained the legal dispensation, or paid the fees to the Fund of Benevolence. Such a state of things he thought unfair to the other brethren, and, if the law could not be enforced, that it ought to be repealed. The Grand Registrar agreed with Bro. Warren that a law which could not be enforced was a blot on the statute book; but he looked upon this as a most salutary law, and its having been evaded was no reason for its repeal; but the offenders ought to be brought before the Board of General Purposes, whose business it was to maintain their laws. Bro. Warren having stated that there was no means of putting the law in motion but by some brother turning common informer, the motion having nearly fallen through for want of a seconder, and one or two brethren having expressed their opinions on the law, Bro. Warren withdrew his motion; upon which the Grand Master said he could not allow the opportunity to pass without expressing his thanks to Bro. Warren for having brought the subject forward. He had long felt there was a great abuse of the law, and that it ought to be enforced. He had studiously kept from granting these dispensations, and he had not done so in more than in one or two instances since he had been Grand Master, feeling that even if he did so where he had good reasons, he might offend in refusing others, where no such reason existed. He believed that some of the Prov. Grand Masters had granted dispensations to too great an extent, and he doubted whether they should have done so at all. He felt the infraction of the law ought not to be allowed

and he trusted that prior to the next Grand Lodge, Bro. Warren, or some other brother, would mature a scheme under which the law might be more efficiently carried out. Whilst thanking the M. W. Grand Master for the expression of his opinion that the law should be carried out, and that dispensations should be used as sparingly as possible, we must be allowed to express our opinion that the Grand Master has laid down for himself too stringent a rule, and one which has led to the most ridiculous results. Thus, a few years since his lordship refused a dispensation to an Architect to hold the office of Superintendent of Works in a province adjoining the metropolis, and the brother who now holds the office—a most estimable man and Mason—has no further knowledge of the art of design and measuring buildings than is to be gained from the practice of measuring cloth and building coats. There are three offices which should always be confined to particular brethren; the chaplain, to clergymen; the Supt. of Works, to architects; and the Organist, to musicians; and, if qualified brethren cannot be found for these offices within a province, we see no objection to their being drawn from other districts; indeed, it were better that it should be so than that they should be made the laughing-stock of the world.—non-Masons, as well as Masons—by the manner in which the offices are too often filled. As regards Organists, however, some latitude may be allowed; a good amateur musician if an organist, being as well fitted for the office as a professional; but amateur clergymen, or amateur architects, will not do. Again, there are other instances in which dispensations might be granted without impropriety. There are lodges near the metropolis and other large towns which could not be supported by the resident brethren; and it does appear somewhat unfair to a brother who has perhaps been almost the sole support of a lodge for many years, to deprive him of a participation in the honours, but then he should be compelled to receive them legally, or not at all; and if the means of obtaining these honours are wholly withdrawn, we can name many lodges which are likely to be placed in a position to be expunged from the Calendar within the next three years. We own there is difficulty in drawing the line, but the M. W. Grand Master should not be deterred from meeting the difficulty, and his granting a dispensation in a really good case ought not to be drawn into a precedent for a dozen applications, the whole of which, on their merits, must be refused.

We have been asked what we would do with the brethren who have already taken office in districts in which they do not live, without a dispensation; would we disrobe them, or bring them before the Board of General Purposes? And we answer, we would do neither. The law has been violated under an impression that it was virtually a dead letter. We would, therefore, confirm those gentleman in their offices (on payment of the dispensation fee to the Fund of Benevolence) and declare that the law in the future must be

enforced. And here we would observe that the law never can be fully carried out without a period of residence within a province being fixed. A brother cannot be made a Grand Steward until he has been twelve months a subscribing member of the lodge from whence he serves; and why should not a Prov. Grand Officer be subject to a twelvemonth's residence within the province before receiving office. But we shall return to this subject.

We cannot close without observing that on the motion for confirming the minutes, the M. W. Grand Master stated that though not present at the Grand Lodge meeting of September, he fully concurred in the vote of thanks to Bro. Havers, as President of the Board of General Purposes, and gave notice of his intention, in March, to move the presentation of a more substantial mark of the approval of Grand Lodge to Bro. Havers for those services—a notice of motion which was loudly applauded.

Neither should we be doing our duty were we not to notice a letter from the P. D. Grand Master, Earl Dalhousie, acknowledging the vote of thanks of the brethren for his past services, and expressing his regret that he could not attend Grand Lodge to do so personally, being compelled to go south in search of health. We are sure every brother will deeply sympathise in the cause which deprived them of the presence of the noble Earl, and none will more sincerely rejoice to hear of his recovery than his brethren in Freemasonry.

FREEMASONRY IN FRANCE.

Prince Murat has addressed the following letter to the "Grand Conservators of the Masonic Order in France":—

"Compiègne, Nov. 6.

"GENTLEMEN,—Permit the man whom the Masonic Order has twice chosen for its chief, and who has had the honour for more than nine years of directing its labours, to give, on separating from you, some counsels which are inspired by the desire of seeing the French Masons retain the esteem of their brethren in all parts of the globe. Masonry cannot be entirely compared to the charitable societies, the principal merit of the members of which is for some to open a generous hand, and for the others to be worthy of the relief granted them. Both these classes of persons are entitled to our esteem and our sympathies. But it is not on such grounds alone that we Masons give each other the designation of brothers. Charitable societies are numerous; their statutes differ from each other, and it is the Government which has the right to nominate their presidents. Masonry, whilst performing acts of kindness, requires from its members greater merit, more serious guarantees; for a Mason is not only a member of his lodge, nor only of French Masonry taken altogether, but belongs to the great family which regards as brothers all the Masons of the universe. For that reason, gentlemen, you are bound to maintain intact the Masonic constitution, and to cause it to be respected by all the Masons of the French obedience. If the demon of destruction should succeed in suppressing Masonry in France, he will injure the great moralising principles which have outlived all revolutions and all governments up to this day. From the fear of such an eventuality, I exhort you to display the greatest prudence in your relations with the Government, and whilst respecting the law not to expose yourselves in future to the reproach of having adopted a

suicidal policy. It is to you that it belongs to show to the Government, and to make known to it that the Masonic authority in France is composed as follows: of the Grand Master, who holds the executive, administrative, and directing power; of the Grand Master in his council, of all the Presidents of the lodges who, united, form the legislative assembly of the Grand Orient. The Grand Master possesses powers which are set forth in the constitution, and the Grand Master in his council also possesses powers. The council has only a consultative voice, for it cannot meet except on the convocation of the Grand Master, and he can take no decisions without its approbation. As to the assembly of the Presidents of lodges, it has legislative powers, but only on matters submitted to it by the Grand Master. I do not doubt that the Government, for the sake of the general interest, the principal object, I am sure, of its pre-occupations, will, from respect to our laws, and without listening to the factious men who want to seize power for purposes contrary to the interests of Masonry, and I venture to say of the Government itself—the Government, I say, will render easy the accomplishment of the duties which, in nominating you, I imposed on you. My dear brothers, in calling you to the eminent functions you fulfil, I by that act proclaimed the sentiments of esteem and of real fraternity with which you inspired me during the period in which we laboured together for the welfare of Masonry. I have ceased to be Grand Master; I have no longer any authority; and yet I am morally responsible for all your acts towards our brothers; but I am without apprehension, for I know you all.—Believe me, &c.,

“L. MURAT.”

ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCE.

The new chapel at Stowmarket for the Independents has been opened. The building is in the Decorated style. The interior dimensions are 62 feet from east to west, by 46 feet from north to south; with north and south transepts, 63 feet long by 21 feet wide. The edifice is divided transversely by three arches of carved timberwork forming the roof; the centre arch being 29 feet wide and 48 feet high to the apex of the ridge, and the side arches spanning the galleries, which extend round three sides and into the transepts; the fronts being formed of moulded woodwork, filled in with open cast-iron panels. Cast-iron columns of ornamental design, from the foundry of Messrs. Turner, of Ipswich, carry the galleries, and extend upwards to receive the arched principals of the roof. The ceiling is formed of wrought timber and boarding, stained and varnished. At the west end of the chapel are the school buildings, consisting of, on the ground story, infant school, 35 feet by 21 feet, and 14 feet high, to be used also for week-day service, with four class-rooms adjoining, and minister's vestry: above these is a school-room, 60 feet by 25 feet, open to the ridge, and communicating with the galleries in the transepts; a room is attached for the preparation of refreshments on public occasions. The exterior has its principal front to the street. The entrance to the ground story is through an open porch, with stone archway 15 feet high by 11 feet wide. On either side is the entrance to the gallery stairs, having corresponding arches of stone, moulded and finished with carved crocketed canopies. Between the gables of the staircases on the apex of the roof is a central spirelet of timber, 67 feet high to the top of the vane, which acts as a ventilator to receive the foul air. To the west is the gable of the front transepts, in which is a four-light decorated window below. Further west is the entrance to the schools, formed in a wide buttress from the angle of the transepts; and beyond is the school gable with large three-light window to the upper room, and two lower windows to the class-rooms. This is designed in a simpler and less decorated style. The materials are Kentish rag stone facings and Caen stone details, with slated roofs and ornamental ridges of brick-earth. The windows are glazed in lead

quarries, with crimson borders, executed by Mr. Stearn, of Ipswich. The chapel will contain 1054 sittings—560 on the ground-floor, 323 in the galleries, and 166 children,—all in open benches of stained deal, with carved traceried panels in the bench ends.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, at Low Leyton, Tower Hamlets, has been consecrated. The cemetery is situate in Union-lane, closely adjoining the Low Leyton station of the Eastern Counties Railway. It covers an area of something like twelve acres of gently rising ground, with gravel subsoil, the whole being drained to a depth of 12ft., and surrounded by an oak fence. The entrance to the grounds is from Union-lane, by pannelled iron gates of ecclesiastical design, harmonizing with the character of the erections in the rear, and with that of the institution itself. The group of buildings which adjoins the gateway is of Gothic architecture. It consists of a sexton's lodge, with a covered porchway and cloister for monumental inscriptions and tablets, leading into the transept of the chapel, and by a staircase to the catacombs beneath. The chapel itself is 70ft. long, and 25ft. wide. At its western extremity is a rose window, surmounting a group of lancet windows, whilst the eastern end is occupied by the altar, standing in an apse, which as well as the chancel is vaulted under the wood roof, the nave having a plain open roof, with stained timber. The altar has a front of alabaster, with bosses of serpentine, sienna, and Irish green marbles, arranged in cruciform ornamentation. On the north side of the chapel is a porch, arcaded at the sides, with shafts of red stone, and affording a means of exit to the grounds. These are intersected by broad gravelled paths, laid out in the form of the cross; and at the central and most elevated point is a conspicuous ornamental monument, consisting of a base, a shaft of coloured stone, and foliated capital carrying a large plain cross of Calvary worked in polished grey granite. The roof of the chapel is surmounted by a “Holy Rood,” the figures being nearly life-size and painted.

The church (St. John's) Little Barford, Beds., which is a chapel under Adderbury, has recently undergone considerable alterations and repairs. The north, south, and east walls have been taken down and rebuilt, and the tower has been removed from its former position, within the square of the nave at the south-west corner, to the outside, forming a porch topped with a broach. The old Norman doorway and the windows have been reset. The roof is new, of a good pitch, and on arched timbers. The seats are open benches, as at Deddington, and of stained deal. The pulpit has its base of stone, the upper part being of carved oak, and open. The masonry of the interior walls is bare, and the floor covered with small encaustic tiles. The church is, as it were, re-arranged. The old porch was between the two southern windows, by which arrangement the congregation was divided. The tower, of the date of Archbishop Laud, was inside the church, the bell-ropes hanging in view. The chief points in the alterations are, as regards the exterior, the new tower and broach, the cross over the chancel arch, and the restoration of the old windows; and in the interior, the roof and the pulpit.

The accommodation of Christ Church, Sandown, Isle of Wight, is about to be considerably augmented by the erection of a new north aisle and other works. Additional sittings will be provided for upwards of 200 persons. The funds have been aided by grants from the Incorporated and Diocesan Church Building Societies; but there is still a considerable deficiency, and the incumbent and churchwardens appeal, not only to the residents, but to the visitors of this part of the island, for pecuniary help.

The ancient chantry or crypt of St. John's Church, Yeovil, is advancing towards completion as vestry accommodation. If funds are forthcoming, the work of restoration will be continued. The Town Council have liberally voted two sums of £50 each, for the purpose of commencing the improvement of the churchyard and its approaches.

Christ Church, Shieldfield (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), has been consecrated. The plan of the edifice comprises nave and chancel, with north and south aisles to each, a vestry under a distinct gable at the north-east corner, and a tower, crowned with a spire, at the south-west corner; as well as a north-west porch. The last is triangular in plan, to suit

the obliquity of the street; which, under the desire to make all the space available, has had some influence on the plan of the west end of the building. The style is Geometrical. The nave is divided from the aisles and chancel by clustered piers and moulded stone arches. The arch of the chancel is adorned with corbel shafts of coloured stone and marble. The roofs are of good pitch, divided into bays by moulded principals, with arched braces, stained and varnished. The church is lighted by traceried windows; those on the north and south of three lights, that to the west of five lights, and to the east of four lights each. These have been filled with stained diaphanous glass, designed to obstruct the view of adjoining houses. The church is seated throughout with open stall seats. The capitals in the nave and the corbel shafts of the chancel are ornamented with foliage of various kinds, carved in stone.

A new church and burial-ground have been consecrated at Lumley, Durham, by the bishop of the diocese. The church has been much needed for many years past; and has been erected chiefly through the exertions of the Rev. J. Dodd. The cost of the church, including boundary-wall, &c., is about £1300. It is of the Decorated period of Gothic architecture, and consists of tower and spire, north porch, nave, chancel, and vestry. It is fitted up with open seats, and has an open timber roof; the whole of the woodwork being stained and varnished in imitation of oak.

Four stained glass windows, the gift of Sir Henry and Lady Dymoke, of Scrivelsby Court, have recently been inserted in Wood Ederby Church (Horncastle). Three of these windows are of early Decorated Style. Each has a circular opening in the tracery; and they are filled with richly-coloured stained glass, the work of Lady Dymoke, an amateur painter in this art. Each of the principal lights contains a ribbon on a white ground with gold edges, and lined alternately with ruby and blue, and on them are written various texts. These are worked into a back-ground composed of Early Decorated quarries, with oak leaves similar in design to Merton College, Oxford; and a line of coloured glass surrounds each light. On the round openings of the tracery are the monograms I.H.S., X.P.C., and a broken chalice on a book, with wine spilling, being the emblem of St. Benedict, the patron saint of the church. The fourth window is that of the east chancel, and is also decorated. It consists of three lights and three quatrefoils in the tracery. The centre light shows our Saviour after His resurrection appearing to Mary Magdalene; the figure stands in a halo of glory in a *vesica piscis* form, with the left hand pointing to Mary. (John, xx. 17.) On the right-hand light is the figure of Mary Magdalene, kneeling to our Lord, and resting her hand on the "pot of ointment;" and on the left an angel clothed in white, sitting at the entrance of the empty sepulchre. This window also derives interest from the ornamental portion of it, in rich foliage, being in a great proportion the work of Lady Dymoke.

A window on the south side of St. James's Church, Gravesend, has been recently filled with stained glass, presented by the Rev. H. Hutchinson Swinny, Principal of Cuddesdon College, Oxford, as a memorial to several of his deceased relatives. The two lower openings of the window are occupied by a representation of our Lord in the tomb of Lazarus; the sisters Martha and Mary kneeling at the feet of their Saviour, who points to heaven. Above, on a scroll, is inscribed, "I am the resurrection and the life." Within the quatrefoil opening in the head is the "Agnus Dei," encircled by the crown of thorns; the points of a foliated cross showing behind.

The new schools lately erected at Tipton, Staffordshire, have been formally opened. The erection is of a plain character, and the material used is red and blue brick. The building is in the form of the letter H, and is 130ft. 6in. long, by 22ft., with a projecting wing at each end 55ft. by 18ft. The visitors' entrances are in the wings, through small passages laid with tessellated pavement. Over the centre of the roof is an ornamental clock-turret, 60ft. or 70ft. high. In the interior the floor is boarded, and the lower portion of the walls is built of white glazed brick, surmounted by a tessellated border. The height is 17ft., and lighting is provided for by thirty-four windows. The boys' and girls' schools, which can be thrown into one, can ac-

commodate together about 500 children. There are also class and cloak rooms and lavatories. The building is covered in with slates, with ornamental ridge-tiles. The height from the floor to the wall-plate is 15ft. The principal beams are exposed and varnished. The estimated cost was from £1,800 to £2,000.

The foundation-stone has been laid for extensive alterations and additions to Pepper Hall, near Northallerton, the seat of Mr. Henry Hood, formerly the family seat of the late Lord Alvanley, which title is now extinct. The present proprietor proposes to restore and beautify the old mansion from the designs prepared by Messrs. Dobson and Chorley, of Leeds. The architects propose to dispense with all the servants' offices, which have hitherto been on the cellar floor level, and make them into wine and beer cellars, and build new offices at the north end of the present mansion. The external dimensions of the new wing will be 129ft. by 140ft., and this put to the west front of the present building will make a frontage of 230ft. The house will contain upwards of 100 rooms when completed. The supply of water for the house and stables will be in the clock-tower, 100ft. high, pumped up by an engine. The whole of the external walls will be of red and white pressed bricks alternately, with stone dressings. The estimated cost of the fabric is £14,000, exclusive of the internal decorations, door and window furniture, grates, and marble chimney-pieces.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR DIPLOMAS.

Is there any difference between the Old Irish Knights Templar Diploma and that used in Canada? I am informed the latter is derived from the former.—Ex. Ex.—[We append the form of both. The Irish one is above sixty years old, the Canadian modern, say some ten or twelve years of age.

IRISH.

In the name of the Most Holy, Glorious, and undivided Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We, the Grand Master, Captain General, &c., of the General Assembly of Knight Templars and Knights of Malta, held under the sanction of Lodge No. 84, do hereby certify that the bearer hereof, our faithful, true, and well beloved Brother, was by us dubbed a Knight of that Holy, Invincible, and Magnanimous Order of Knight Templars and Knights of Malta. (The true and faithful soldiers of Jesus Christ.) He having, with honour and fortitude, justly supported the amazing trials attending his admission; and, as such, we recommend him to all Knight Templars and Knights of Malta on the face of the Globe.

Given under our hands and Seal of our General Assembly in this day of Anno \dagger Lutiae,

....., G. M.
....., C. G.
....., G. W.
....., G. S.

CANADIAN.

In the name of the Holy, Glorious, and undivided Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We greet you well.

We, the Captain General, &c., of the Grand Assembly of Knight Templars of Malta, of St. Paul's Lodge No. 12, held in the City of Montreal, in the Province of Lower Canada, Do hereby Certify, that the bearer hereof, our trusty and well-beloved Companion, was by us dubbed a Knight of that most Holy, Invincible, and Magnanimous Order of Knight Templars, the true and faithful soldiers of Jesus Christ, as also of the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem, and Knights of Malta. He having, with due honour and fortitude, justly supported the amazing trials of skill and valor attending his admission; and, as such, we recommend him to all true and faithful Brother Knight Templars and Knights of Malta round the Globe.

Given from under our hands, and the Seal of our said Grand Assembly, in the City of Montreal, this day of, in the year of our Lord Christ, and of Malta

....., Cap. General.
....., 1st Cap.
....., 2d Cap.

AGE FOR VARIOUS DEGREES.

Can you give us a list of the various ages which candidates should be when they apply for degrees in Masonry? I am told in the higher grades certain regulations on this point are imperative.—S.E.T.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

Viscount Gage has issued a second edition of his able pamphlet on *The Question of Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister*, in which he contends that both Scripture and human reason are rather in favour of than opposed to such unions. It is not our province to enter into the merits of this question, but we give one short extract as a sample of the pamphlet. "We have," says the noble Viscount, "the very best comment that it is possible to have upon the Jewish law, as regards the main point in question, marriage with the sister of a deceased wife; and that is in the practice of the Jews themselves. They have never amalgamated with any other nation, but have kept their own traditions; and if they have altered in aught, it has been on the side of restriction, not of relaxation, of any known or supposed law. Now, how do they interpret their own laws upon this subject? So far from this marriage being forbidden among them, it is encouraged, especially where the first wife has left children; the sister is considered the most desirable of step-mothers. Thus we have no direct prohibition, but a very strongly implied permission, in the eighteenth verse [of *Leviticus* xviii.], and the practice of the people to whose ancestors the law was given, and who still profess to be guided by it, and no proof that their customs or opinions were ever different."

Men like a peep into the studios of painters and sculptors, the library of the author, and the laboratory of the chemist. In *The Life of M. W. Turner, R.A.*, by Mr. Walter Thornbury, just published, we are told that—"Turner painted in Queen Anne Street, in what he called his drawing-room, in which there was a good north light. Here he would be surrounded by water-colour drawings in all states of progress." * * The sordid and unhappy-looking room in Queen Anne Street was remarkable for a dusty and dirty buffet, bought at some second-hand Jew broker's. In this Turner kept the immemorial sherry bottle with the broken cork that served him for a decanter, and which no joking of friends could get him to change. This was the identical bottle and buffet of which the old story was current at the clubs. A friend came to see Turner, and was treated with a glass of sherry from the old bottle and the old buffet—one glass. About the same time next year the artist came, again, had another glass, and praised the wine. 'It ought to be good,' said Turner, 'it's the same bottle you tasted before.' * * And here, I may as well introduce a vivid picture of the house in general, communicated to me by Dr. Shaw, a relation of Turner's on the mother's side. My informant went to claim relationship with the great man, a mode of introduction that Turner regarded with peculiar abhorrence. His other relations, no doubt, had ignored him when in poverty, and now that he was rich they buzzed round his door, like flesh-flies round a carcase. The narrator was not one of these. Dr. Shaw says:—"I once had an interview with the great artist, and once only, with a view to claim the relationship. A time was duly appointed for an interview. Accordingly I went to his residence in Queen Anne Street, when I was ushered into a dark-room, where the mantelpiece was so covered with dust that I had great difficulty in ascertaining whether it was wood or marble, in the testing of which a large finger-mark remained as an evidence of careless and bad management in housekeeping. The door outside was as shabby as if it had formed part of a ruin; a circular space surrounding the knocker showed the original grain of the wood, all the paint having disappeared for many years past. This circular space was a remarkable feature of the door, being nearly white, and this vividly contrasted with the dingy accumulated paint and dirt which was visible on every other part of the door. The iron chain communicating with the kitchen-bell outside was as thoroughly rusted as if it had lain twenty years in a desert, without shelter from the oxidizing influences of rain and dew. It could not have been painted for twenty years at least, perhaps not for forty. As I had to wait some ten minutes before Mr. Turner made his appearance, I had leisure to examine the room and its contents. I have now forgotten the kind of furniture, but I well remember the dark, dirty, murky-looking windows. They appeared to me as though they had been cleaned but once and that must have been when they first came from the hands of the glazier. The room appeared to be less under the influence of the beautiful light of heaven than any other apartment I ever remember to have seen. It was a comparative dungeon with two dark-lanterns for windows. In the midst of various cogitations which necessarily occupied my mind while alone in this dirty dungeon, of a sudden the great artist made his appearance," And he says of Turner's strange way

of absconding, as it were, to Chelsea, "without his poor old house-keeper even knowing where he was:—"Many legends were afterwards told of Turner's reasons for thus hiding himself at Chelsea, like a runaway bankrupt. The most generally believed story is the following. Turner, requiring change of air for his health, went to Chelsea in search of lodgings, and found at last a little cottage very cheap, not far from the present Cremorne pier. The cottage looked on the river, and had a railed-in roof, from whence he could observe sky effects. The landlady, seeing a little thick-set, shabby man, asked him for 'reference.' Turner replied, angrily, 'My good woman, I'll buy the house outright.' Then the landlady wanted to draw up an agreement. Turner again parried this by showing a roll of bank-notes, and offering to pay in advance. There was still a difficulty—the landlady wanted her new lodger's name. 'In case, sir, any gentleman should call, you know.'—'Name, name,' the legend goes on to report Turner as growling—'what is your name?'—'My name is Mrs. Booth.'—'Then, I'm Mr. Booth,' and by that name Turner went. 'But, unfortunately for the story, Turner did not carry about rolls of bank-notes which he could flourish. All that was found in his pockets after his death was a solitary black half-crown—black from long seclusion in a grimy unvisited pocket. In the streets of Chelsea, and all along the shore of the Thames, Turner was known to the street-boys, as 'Puggy Booth,' and by the small tradesmen he was designated 'Admiral Booth'; for the story ran that he was an old admiral in reduced circumstances. I am told that up to the period of his very last illness Turner would often rise at daybreak, leave his bed, with some blanket or dressing-gown carelessly thrown over him, and go up on the railed-in roof to see the sun rise and to observe the colour flow, flushing back into the pale morning sky. To me, there is in this tenacity of the dying man to his old love something very touching, something very sublime."

The fiendish doings of an infuriated soldiery let loose to sack a city may be judged of from the deeds of our own troops at Badajoz, which are thus described in the recently-issued *Autobiography and Services of Sir James M'Grigor, Bart*:—"In a little time the whole of the soldiers appeared to be in a state of mad drunkenness. In every street and in every corner we met them forcing their way like furies into houses, firing through the key-holes of the doors so as to force the locks, or at any person they saw at a window imploring mercy. In passing some houses which they had entered, we heard the shrieks of females, and sometimes the groans of those whom they were no doubt butchering. All was disorder and dire confusion. Soldiers, whom we met in the streets, having lost all respect for the uniform of an officer, looked at him with a threatening aspect if addressed; and if threatened, they would sometimes point their muskets at him. In one street, I met General Philippon, the governor, with his two daughters, holding each by the hand; all three with their hair dishevelled, and with them were two British officers, each holding one of the ladies by the arm, and with their drawn swords making thrusts occasionally at soldiers who attempted to drag the ladies away. I am glad to say that these two British officers succeeded in conveying the governor and his daughters safely through the breach to the camp. With the exception of these ladies, I was told that very few females, old or young, escaped violation by our brutal soldiery, mad with brandy and with passion. At any other time, the rank and age of General Philippon, bare-headed, with his grey hair streaming in the wind, would have protected him from any soldiers. When I saw them pulling at these two ladies, and endeavouring to drag them away from their father, and the two young officers who so gallantly defended them at the peril of their lives, I could not forbear going up, and endeavouring with threats to bring to the recollections of two soldiers of my old regiment, the 88th, how much they tarnished the glory which the Connaught Rangers had ever earned in the field, by such cowardly conduct. But it was only by my reminding them that I was an old Connaught Ranger, who felt for the glory of the corps, that I disarmed their rage towards me, and that their raised muskets were lowered. Going towards the cathedral and castle, or wherever I went, I encountered nothing but a scene of savage riot and wild drunkenness, in which at length some of the wives even of our soldiers were active participators."

The inauguration of Mr. Bacon's statue of the brave but ill-fated Sir John Franklin took place at Spilsby, in Lincolnshire, on Tuesday, Nov. 26th. The Arctic hero is represented in a naval uniform, with a telescope in his right hand, and his left hand resting on an anchor. The statue is said to be very creditable to the sculptor. It stands in the market-place, and was uncovered by Sir John's companion in two voyages, Sir John Richardson. Spilsby has the high honour of being Sir John Franklin's native place, and we are glad that the inhabitants have had the public spirit to raise a monument to their truly noble townsman.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

SUPREME GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was held in Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday last, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., supported by Bro. Hall, P.G. Reg., Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire, as D.G.M.; Bro. Col. Brownrigg, C.B., P.G.W., as S.G.W.; Bro. Novelli, J.G.W.; Bro. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Bro. Roxburgh, G. Reg.; Bro. Clarke, G. Sec.; Bro. McIntyre, G.S.D. and President of the Board of General Purposes; Bro. Hutton Gregory, J.G.D.; Bro. the Rev. Dr. Senior, G. Chap.; Bro. Hyde Pullen, G.S.B.; Bro. Woods, G.D.C.; Bro. Daukes, G. Supt. Works; Bro. Farnfield, A.G. Sec.; Bro. Adams, G. Purst.; Bro. Farmer, Assist. G. Purst.; Bro. Fleming, Prov. G.M. Isle of Wight; Bro. Col. Adair, Prov. G.M. Suffolk; Bro. Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M. Bengal; Bro. Dundas, M.P., and A. Perkins, P.G.W's.; Bro. White, P.G. Sec.; Bros. Havers, Slight, S. B. Wilson, Scott, Hervey, Phillips, Crombie Potter, Nelson, Savage, and Wheeler, P.G.D's.; Evans, Le Veau, Bridges, Spiers, and Patten, P.G.S.B's.; Jennings and Harcourt, M.D., P.G.D.C's.; Breitling and Smith, P.G. Pursts.; Hugenin, Rep. from Switzerland; Hinxman, M.D., W.M. of the Grand Stewards Lodge; several Present and Past Grand Stewards, and about 200 other brethren.

The minutes of the last quarterly communication having been read,

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES (Bro. McIntyre) said that at the last meeting the confirmation of the erasure of the Peveril of the Peak Lodge (No. 940) had been delayed three months, to enable it to make the necessary returns. That it had not yet done, but that morning the Grand Sec. had received a letter stating that they had enclosed the first half of a five pound note, and, on an acknowledgment of its receipt, the other half and the balance of the dues should be forwarded. But owing, he supposed, to an oversight of the Secretary of the Peveril of the Peak Lodge, for he could not imagine that it was a ruse to gain time, the half of the five pound note was not enclosed; he would therefore move that, to enable them to send up not only the one half, but the two halves, of the note (laughter), and any balance of dues there might be, that the consideration of the question of expunging that lodge be further adjourned until the next quarterly communication.

The motion having been seconded, was carried *nem. con.*

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. HAVERS.

The M.W.G. MASTER said that before putting the minutes for confirmation, he wished to state that though not present at the communication in September, when the vote of thanks for his valuable services was passed to Bro. Havers, he most fully concurred in it, and that not only so, but he wished to give notice that at the Quarterly Communication in March next, it was his intention to move that they present a more solid appreciation of his services to that distinguished brother (cheers), and that the exact words of his motion should be forwarded in time to be laid before the Board of Masters, prior to the meeting of Grand Lodge. (Cheers.)

The minutes were then put and confirmed.

NOMINATION OF GRAND MASTER.

Bro. GREENHALGH, M.D., No. 4, had great pleasure in rising to nominate the M.W. Grand Master for re-election in March next. (Cheers.) For seventeen years the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland had filled that responsible and important position with credit to himself and honour to the Craft. (Cheers.) During that period the noble earl had occasionally had many difficulties to contend with, requiring qualities of great tact, patience, and zeal to overcome, and yet he had so succeeded as to meet with the approbation and applause of every true Mason. (Cheers.) The noble lord had throughout his long career so acted as to conciliate the love and affection of the Craft, which had ample opportunities of judging of his high qualities, and therefore it was that he had great pleasure in nominating the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland for re-election as Grand Master. (Cheers.)

THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE, P.D. GRAND MASTER.

After a short pause the M.W. GRAND MASTER said he did not know whether any brother wished to nominate any other person for

the office of Grand Master. (No, no.) If not, he should call upon the G. Sec. to read a letter which he had received from the late D. Grand Master, the Earl of Dalhousie.

Bro. CLARKE, G. Sec., then read a letter dated Nov. 25th, 1861, stating that he (the Earl of Dalhousie), had received a letter from the Grand Secretary, conveying a vote of thanks from the Grand Lodge, for his past services, for which he begged to tender his best acknowledgments, regretting that the necessity of going south in search of health would prevent him being present at Grand Lodge to personally acknowledge their kindness, and if his life should be spared and his health restored, he trusted to be enabled to show the Grand Lodge hereafter, that his thanks were not intended to be confined to mere words. (Applause.)

On the motion of the M.W. Grand Master, the letter of the noble P.D. Grand Master was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

SUSPENSION FROM THE ORDER.

The M.W.G.M. then said that he had received a notification from the Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight, setting forth that he had suspended a brother for having, when a bankrupt, used the lodge-room at Newport to secrete his goods from his creditors. He had, he said, fully considered the case, and looked upon it as one of gross delinquency, and he had now to bring it forward as a matter of privilege, else the offending brother would escape with a suspension of a week or two. He would call upon the Grand Secretary to read the letter of the Prov. G.M., and also the evidence in the case. Unless offences of this kind were promptly and energetically dealt with, great discredit would be brought upon the Craft. (Hear, hear.) He would leave Grand Lodge to deal with the case, but he would recommend that the suspension pronounced by the Prov. G.M. be continued until the next meeting of Grand Lodge, to which the brother in question should be summoned to show cause why he should not be expelled the Craft.

The G. SEC. having read the papers connected with the charge,

Bro. ROXBURGH, G. Reg., moved a resolution in support of the recommendation of M.W. the G.M.

The M.W.G.M. then said it was but fair that he should mention that the brother whose conduct they were called upon to investigate, had been, as he had been informed by the Prov. G.M., up to the occurrence now complained of, an exceedingly good Mason. It was a painful thing to see a man so fall away from duty and principle, but there was, he believed, no other course open to Grand Lodge than that which it was now proposed they should adopt.

Bro. MCINTYRE having seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved of.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The following brethren were then appointed as the Board of Benevolence for the ensuing year:—Frederick Adlard, No. 7; Geo. Barrett, 212; James Brett, 206; Charlent Cottebrune, 1036; Samuel Gale, 19; Thos. G. Dickie, 53; Benjamin Head, 5; Charles Lee, 9; Morris Levinson, 19; Henry Potter, 11; James K. Sbeen, 237; Thos. Tyrrell, 168.

The report of the Board of Benevolence was then brought up and agreed to.

Bro. GALE rose to oppose the next vote, but was called to order, it not having been moved.

Bro. MCINTYRE proposed that the recommendation of the Board to the effect that £50 be voted to the relief of the widow of the late Bro. T—— M——, of the Royal Yorkshire Lodge (No. 332), Keighley. Although there had not been a very large attendance of the Board on the night the recommendation was made, still the case had been fully investigated; and although there had been some difference of opinion with respect to the amount, a large majority was in favour of recommending a vote of £50 to the petitioner, instead of £30 as originally proposed, as the widow was in deep distress, and he hoped Grand Lodge would not run counter to the recommendation of the Board.

Bro. ALGERNON PERKINS, P.G.W., seconded the proposal.

Bro. GALE moved as an amendment, that the vote be reduced to £20. The brother, whose widow they proposed to relieve, had not, during his Masonic career, made any extraordinary exertions in the cause of benevolence, and if Grand Lodge now voted the amount recommended, it would be an encouragement to every obscure Mason in Yorkshire and the other provinces to apply to Grand Lodge for assistance. They should in votes of this kind, look to what had been the position of the deceased brother. Bro. M—— had been for several years the Tyler of his lodge, and had been supported by Masonry.

Bro. SAVAGE seconded the amendment, but wished the amount to be £30 instead of £20. He wished to have the petition read, that Grand Lodge might itself judge of the merits of the case. He had not been present at the Board of Benevolence when the case had been investigated. He had, however, since heard of it, and he believed £20 was as much as it deserved; £30 would be

something beyond the mark, but £50 would be altogether out of proportion.

Bro. GREGORY was sure that had Bro. Savage been present when the case was investigated he would himself have been the person to recommend a vote of £50. He had often known Grand Lodge go beyond the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence, but there was no precedent with which he was acquainted of its having ever reduced the amount recommended by the Board. It was true Bro. M—— had only been an operative Mason; but by his industry he had acquired some little property, and become a freeholder in a province which contributed more than any other, except Middlesex, to the Charities of the Order. Owing to Bro. M——'s fraternal kindness to a brother Mason, the little property he had acquired became involved, and he left his widow in distress. He had been for twenty-four years and a half a subscribing member of his lodge, and had been the support and maintenance, by his Masonic teaching, of more than one lodge in the province.

The M.W.G.M. said, as there was so much difference of opinion upon the recommendation of the Board he should require the G.Sec. to read the petition. The G.Sec. then read the petition, which detailed the facts mentioned by Mr. Gregory.

Bro. SMITH thoroughly supported the original resolution.

Bro. CROMBIE inquired whether the Board had had any evidence before it to show the present value of the property left by Bro. M——, or if anything had been realized out of the estate of the brother whose failure had placed him in the pecuniary difficulties mentioned in the petition of the widow.

The W.M. then put the amendment, altered as suggested by Bro. Savage, and declared it lost by a considerable majority.

He next put the original resolution which was agreed to.

Bro. S. B. WILSON then proposed that £50 be voted in relief of Bro. J—— H——, of the lodge Union (No. 45), Chichester. The case had been minutely investigated by a full meeting of the Board, and the amount recommended agreed upon.

Bro. SAVAGE seconded the motion, observing that if the last case called for a vote of £50, this was one well deserving of £100.

The motion having been unanimously agreed to,

Bro. POWELL said he was present as the representative of No. 45, Chichester, and he felt he would not be doing his duty to his lodge if he did not on his own and its behalf express his acknowledgments to Grand Lodge for the kindness it had shown a worthy and esteemed brother. (Hear and cheers.)

Bro. S. B. WILSON then proposed that a vote of £30 be granted to the relief of Bro. R—— H——, of the Lodge of Unanimity (No. 424), Penrith.

The motion having been duly seconded, was unanimously agreed to.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES—HONORARY GRAND OFFICERS.

The Report of the Board of General Purposes having been received,

Bro. McINTIRE said there were some portions of the Report which it would be necessary for Grand Lodge to confirm. The first to which he would call attention was the proposition that the power given to the M.W.G.M. to appoint brothers of eminence to such rank as he might confer upon them should not be understood to extend to Prov. Grand Masters. It was obvious that, when Grand Lodge passed the resolution conferring the power referred to upon the M.W.G.M., they did so upon the understanding that he alone should have the power, but, although the case was thus clear, still some of the Prov. Grand Masters, from the wording of the *Book of Constitutions*, considered they had a similar right within their own jurisdictions, and the resolution now proposed was to set the question at rest. It was desirable that the Grand Master should have the power to confer the honours of the craft upon brethren who had done good suit and service in the cause of Masonry, but who resided so far from London that they were unable to attend the meetings of Grand Lodge, and therefore partake in its honours; but if the Prov. Grand Masters were to have the same power, then the only intention of the original resolution would be defeated.

Bro. H. SMITH, P.M. No. 10, seconded the motion.

Bro. STEBBING opposed the resolution, as he understood on good authority that a resolution was to be brought forward at the next meeting of Grand Lodge to greatly curtail the privileges of the Prov. Grand Masters, and he wished to have the whole question of the proper extent of their prerogatives and rights judged of at one and the same time. He did not expect to defeat the present resolution, which was fair and reasonable, but as the proposition behind it was odious and unfair, he would give notice that he would, at the next meeting of Grand Lodge, raise the whole question upon the confirmation of the minutes, and he hoped he should have the support of the provinces on that occasion.

The M.W.G.M. said he believed it would be admitted that the Board of General Purposes wished to limit the power of conferring these new honours to the Grand Master. He was perfectly indifferent

in regard to the matter, for he had no jealousy whatever of the Prov. G.M.'s, but it was only right and just that the reasons of the original resolution should be fully understood. If under the resolution the Prov. G.M.'s were to have the power of conferring these honours, they would become invested with a right which had never been intended for them. It was principally with the view of enabling the Grand Master to confer distinctions upon eminent Masons in the provinces, but who were unable to attend Grand Lodge, that the resolution had been originally adopted, but that object would be defeated if the disposal of these honours were to be placed in the hands of the Prov. G.M.'s, who would then have so great a power as to render it unnecessary for the Grand Master to seek to confer honours upon the provincial brethren.

Bro. HOLMES COOTE, P.M. No. 5, said that there could be no doubt that the vote was intended to be a personal compliment to the M.W. Grand Master, mainly to enable him to confer honorary distinction on brethren of eminence in the country. As such, the resolution had been passed, and as such it ought to be sustained.

After a few words from Bro. JOHNSON, of No. 51 Bath, maintaining, as it was understood, the granting of further powers to the Prov. Grand Masters,

Bro. SPIERS, P. G. S. B., D. Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire, said he differed entirely from what had been said by Bro. Stebbing. He represented a Provincial Grand Lodge, and, from his experience of the provinces generally, he believed that the honours of the Prov. Grand Lodges were very fairly distributed. Comparing the provinces with London, a much larger proportion of the brethren received the honour of the purple than were similarly honoured in Grand Lodge; and it was the general wish of the provincial brethren to limit the number of Grand Officers as much as possible, that there might be a sufficient number of privates. In Yorkshire, for instance, only one or two brethren were annually appointed to Grand Office. The first appointment made was that of G. Purs., and the brother so honoured was yearly advanced a stage until he became G.W.

Bro. BRADLEY, No. 177, said he came from East Lancashire to oppose the resolution. They had in that province as many as fifty-two lodges, and unless the Prov. G.M., concurrently with the G.M., had the right of similarly honouring deserving Masons who could not attend Grand Lodge, those who worked hard in the cause of Masonry would be debarred from the full share of its honours to which they were entitled.

Bro. PERKINS, P.G.W., supported the resolution.

Bro. McINTIRE, in reply, called attention to the fact that it was wholly in the interest of the provincial brethren that the resolution had been framed, and not through any desire to infringe upon their rights.

The motion was then put, and carried by an overwhelming majority.

THE TAVERN.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES then rose to propose a resolution authorising the re-letting of the tavern to Messrs. Elkington and Co. as yearly tenants, subject to a six months notice, and all the covenants of their present lease. The Board had had many plans for the improvement of the tavern and Grand Lodge property under their consideration; but finding that they could not come to a decision in time to lay a report before Grand Lodge at a sufficiently early period to enable it to make the necessary arrangements before the expiration of the lease in June, 1862, for any alterations in the property, they had determined to recommend the continuance of the tenancy of Messrs. Elkington and Co. on the terms stated.

This was seconded by Bro. STEBBING, and unanimously approved.

THE COLONIAL BOARD.

The PRESIDENT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD (Bro. Evans, P.G.S.B.) said, that in moving the reception and adoption of the report of the Board, which had already been printed and circulated, he desired to express the regret which, in common with his colleagues at the Board, he felt in being obliged to use such strong observations in reference to the proceedings of their Canadian brethren; but he had felt that an aggressive spirit, much to be lamented, had been evinced by the Grand Lodge of Canada against those lodges in Canada which still adhered in their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. The case of the St. Lawrence Lodge had been investigated by the Colonial Board in a spirit of the completest impartiality without bias, and the mature opinion of the Board on its merits was expressed in the report. He did not intend to ask for the action of Grand Lodge at present, but should, unfortunately, the hope of an amicable termination of the differences not be realised, it would be the duty of the Board hereafter to advise such a course of proceeding as should appear best adapted for asserting the dignity of Grand Lodge of England. He should

now move that the report of the Colonial Board be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes.

The resolution was seconded by Bro. JOS. SMITH, P.G. Purst., and carried unanimously.

PROV. GRAND OFFICERS.—DISPENSATIONS.

BRO. HENRY G. WARREN, P.M. Grand Stewards Lodge, rose to bring forward a resolution of which he had given notice, to omit all the words after therein in article 1 "of the other Provincial Grand Masters," page 50 of the *Book of Constitutions*. In doing so, he must be permitted, in the first instance, to disavow any intention or wish to interfere with the privileges of the M.W. Grand Master, but he brought forward his resolution on the ground that a law which had become a dead letter, or could no longer be enforced, should be expunged from the statute book. Perhaps it would be as well that he should inform the brethren that the law, the most important part of which he proposed to repeal was, that all Provincial Grand Officers, other than the Prov. G.M., and the D. Prov. G.M. "must be resident within the province and subscribing members therein, but the M.W. Grand Master may grant a dispensation for non-residence. A fee of two guineas for Grand Wardens, and one guinea for any subordinate officer, shall be paid to the general fund of charity for such dispensation." Now, he proposed to repeal all that portion of the law relative to the dispensations and fees, because it had become virtually inoperative, at least so far the provinces immediately surrounding the metropolis was concerned. He was aware that in some provinces it was enforced; but how? A few years since he was at a Prov. Grand Lodge of Wiltshire, when the question was raised with regard to some brethren residing in Somersetshire, and the Prov. Grand Master at once gave them a dispensation; they were appointed to office, and paid the fees which he had no reason to doubt found their way to the Fund of Benevolence. But it was not even so in every province. A few years since, on the advancement of a distinguished brother, who was then upon the dais, to office in Grand Lodge, his son applied for a dispensation to be enabled to succeed him as Grand Sup. of Works for a neighbouring province. His application was refused, and from that day the law appeared to have been set at naught by the Prov. Grand Masters and brethren of the lodges of two or three of the home counties; the dispensations were not applied for; the fees were not paid, yet metropolitan brethren were constantly taking offices in provinces; the utmost stake in which they ever possessed, consisting of the amount they had in their pockets when they visited their lodges. (Laughter.) And they could not visit a lodge without meeting some of the brethren who had so taken provincial honors, nor even look around Grand Lodge without seeing them parading their peacock plumes—(Laughter.) He did not say that brethren who supported lodges in provinces in which they did not reside should not be allowed to partake of the honors; but he did maintain that they should not be permitted to do so illegally. Neither should a diversity of practice be suffered to exist in different provinces merely at the will of the Prov. Grand Masters; what was law in one province should be law in all. He believed that there were few districts guiltless of evading the law, and it was in order to place it upon a proper foundation that he brought forward his motion. With these observations he should leave it in the hands of Grand Lodge, merely reminding them that the fees for dispensations went in augmentation of the Fund of Benevolence, which it was the duty of every brother to protect and support. (Hear.)

After some delay, Bro. WILLIAMS, P.M., 202, seconded the motion.

BRO. ROXBURGH, G.Reg., agreed so far with Bro. Warren that a law which could not be enforced was a blot on the statute book, but that was no reason why, if a good law, as he believed this to be, was evaded, they should do away with it. The evasion of it was a matter for the cognizance of the Board of General Purposes, which would doubtless know how to deal with a brother who took provincial grand office without having obtained the necessary dispensation, or with the Prov. Grand Lodge in which the honour was conferred.

BRO. WARREN observed it might be so, but unfortunately there was no means of putting the Board in motion, except by some brother turning common informer. (Laughter.)

BRO. SPIERS, P.G.B., said there might be occasionally great injustice in excluding a brother from Prov. Grand rank merely because his residence was not within the particular province in which his lodge was situated, and instanced a town in the provinces which he represented which was in two counties, so that a very worthy brother might be deprived of office because he lived a few yards out of the province, his lodge being situated in another part of the town. He thought that the proper course for Bro. Warren to have taken would have been to try and strengthen the Grand Master's hands by proposing a fine on those breaking the laws, and he trusted Bro. Warren would now withdraw his resolution.

BRO. WARREN said he should not trouble Grand Lodge to divide; he had elicited an expression of opinion on the subject, and that was all he wished for.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER said Bro. Warren had asked permission of Grand Lodge to withdraw his motion, but he could not permit him to do so without expressing his obligations to Bro. Warren for having directed attention to the subject, having himself long felt that the law was greatly abused. He could assure Bro. Warren that he did not look upon his motion as any attack upon his privileges, and he should at any time be personally prepared to lay down any privilege; but he must protect those of his successors, if he did not see that an advantage would accrue to the Craft by surrendering them. He had ever been very careful how he exercised the peculiar privilege in question, and he had no hesitation in stating that as a rule he should refuse any application for such a dispensation, and there were not above one or two instances in which he had granted them since he had been Grand Master. It was a very delicate duty to perform and if he yielded and granted a dispensation in one case, however good the grounds upon which he did so, there was great difficulty in refusing it in another, without giving offence, where no such grounds existed. Though he had himself been very careful of exercising the privilege, he believed it had been too frequently used by the Prov. Grand Masters, though he had some doubt of their right to do so. He was of opinion that the law ought to be maintained, and repeating that, he was glad Bro. Warren had directed their attention to the subject, he could now only express a hope that if the law was not efficient as it at present stood, Bro. Warren or some other brother would maturely consider the means of rendering it so, when he was sure it would receive every attention from Grand Lodge. (Hear.)

The motion was then withdrawn, and Grand Lodge was closed in ample form.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 1173).—This select lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, 27th November, at Bro. Stevens', Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford. In consequence of the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. W. Scott, S.W., opened the lodge. The W.M., Dr. Dixon, on his arrival immediately proceeded with the initiation of Mr. Baatz, which ceremony he performed in his usual superior style, assisted by his officers, Bros. Scott, Wilton, Smyth, Stahr, Weir, and Walters. At the request of the W.M., Bro. Scott, S.W., gave a full explanation of the tracing board, to the entire satisfaction of all the brethren. Bro. Walters, Sec., was then requested to give the charge of the Entered Apprentice, which he did in his accustomed happy manner. The W.M. reminded the lodge that he had received the announcement that the festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution was to be held next January. The lodge, in reply to the W.M., voted one pound to the aged Freemasons', and ten shillings to the Widows' Fund. In consequence of the next lodge meeting falling on Christmas Day, the brethren were unanimous in the opinion to defer it until January. All business being ended, the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren then adjourned to an excellent banquet, served in Bro. Stevens' well-known style. The cloth being removed, the usual loyal Masonic toasts were given and received. In responding to the health of the officers, Bro. Walters, Sec., observed he regretted he had neglected to mention during lodge hours that their worthy and esteemed W.M., Dr. Dixon, had presented to the lodge seven bound volumes of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, a Masonic Song Book, and a splendid engraved likeness of the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland; and that he had also the pleasure himself of presenting the lodge with one bound volume of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. The members of the lodge were unanimous in their opinion of continuing their support to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, so that, in the course of a few weeks, another volume will adorn their shelf. The W.M. observed that this was only a preliminary step towards establishing a Masonic library for the use of the members of the lodge. The brethren afterwards separated, well pleased with their evening's amusement. The visitors included Bros. Spencer, P.M. 91; Houghton, P.M. 172; Deal, P.M. and P.Z. 172 and 248; Mackenzie, 299; &c.

INSTRUCTION.

EMULATION LODGE (No. 318)—ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL.

The anniversary festival of this lodge was celebrated on Friday, the 29th ult., under the presidency of Bro. Jennings, P.G.D.C. (in the absence of Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., Prov. G.M. of Kent,

who was prevented attending by the death of Lady Charlotte Chetwynd, supported by nearly 300 brethren, amongst whom we observed Bros. Hervey, Potter, Udall, Wilson, and Savage, P.G.D.'s; Pocock, Evans, and Patten, P.G.S.B.'s; Woods, G.D.C.; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Head, Crenton, Young, and Levinson, P.G.Stds.; Meymott, Prov. G.W. Surrey; Nelson, Prov. G. Sec. West Yorkshire; C. Isaacs, Prov. G. Sec., Kent; Matthews, Prov. G.D.C. Essex; Adlard, P.Prov. G.D.C. Essex, &c.

Lodge, which was summoned for the Temple for seven o'clock, was not opened until close upon eight, a delay which materially damped the proceedings at the latter period of the evening, many brethren having to hasten away in order to be in time for railway trains.

Lodge having been opened, the following sections of the second lecture were worked:—Second, by Bro. C. A. Martin, W.M., No. 7; third, Bro. F. Dollman, 188; fourth, Bro. T. Fenn, S.W., 188; fifth, Bro. H. Empson, P.M., 275. The third section of the third lecture was also worked by Bro. F. Mead, 275.

The whole of the sections were admirably worked, the questions being put by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., with his well-known tact.

Votes of thanks were given to the W.M., Bro. Wilson, and the other brethren who had assisted in working the lectures, and about thirty members of the Order joined the lodge.

Bro. S. B. WILSON proposed that a vote of thanks be seconded on the minutes, to Bro. R. Spencer for his handsome present, consisting of the nine working tools in a mahogany box, with the name of the lodge engraved thereon. This present was made in recognition of the founder of the lodge, Bro. Peter Gilkes, by Bro. S., who was one of his followers, though not one of his actual boys.

Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant supper served in the large hall, Bro. Jennings, P.G.D.C., presiding.

Upon the removal of the cloth the W.M. gave the usual preliminary toast of this lodge, "The immortal memory of Peter Gilkes," the founder of the Lodge, which was drunk in solemn silence.

The W.M. said that the first regular toast was one which was always drunk by Freemasons with peculiar interest, and though they knew that by the principles of their order they were precluded from interfering in politics, yet he was aware that at the present moment every man's mind was directed upon events which could not fail to ensure for her Majesty the utmost sympathy and devotion. (Cheers.) He gave them "The Queen and the Craft." (Applause.)

The W.M. said that having shown their loyalty towards the sovereign of the realm there was no toast more acceptable to any assembled body of Masons than the one he was about to bring under their notice. There was no sovereign stood in a prouder position than the Grand Master of the Order, and no more loyal or loving body of subjects than the Freemasons' over whom he had presided for a period of seventeen years. (Cheers.) There was no greater proof of the value of his government than the increase in their numbers and influence during the time he had been Grand Master. His lordship, during his long services to the Craft, had, by the tact and skill he had displayed, enabled the Craft to overcome all difficulties, whilst he had conciliated the respect and affection of the brethren. He proposed to them "The Health of the M.W. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland." (Cheers.)

The W.M. next gave "The Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers, past and present," who he felt satisfied had always endeavoured to do their duty to the Craft to the utmost of their ability. The Earl de Grey and Ripon was a young nobleman of great talent, who he felt sure would not only reflect honour on the Craft, but prove himself worthy of their highest respect. (Cheers.)

Bro. HERVEY, P.G.D., said that the duty had devolved upon him of acknowledging the toast just drunk. He did not think it would be necessary to say anything regarding the Deputy Grand Master, who, he was sure, was well appreciated by the brethren. As regarded the Grand Officers, he trusted they had done their duty, and he was sure they would ever continue so to support the interests of the Craft as to merit the approbation of the brethren. (Cheers.) He had now to propose a toast which he was sure would meet with their cordial reception. The W.M. of that evening had taken the chair at a very short notice, and they knew how well he presided over them. They knew how long their R.W. brother had held grand office, and how highly his services had been appreciated. He was sure they owed Bro. Jennings a deep debt of gratitude, not only for the way in which he had fulfilled his duties—but for his great kindness in presiding over them that evening—and he trusted they would join him in drinking to the health and happiness of Bro. Jennings. (Cheers.)

The W.M. thanked the brethren for the kind manner in which they had responded to the toast, though he could not but express his regret that he had been called to preside over them that even-

ing, owing to the unavoidable absence of a distinguished young nobleman, who he was sure, as deeply regretted that he was unable to have the pleasure of being present that evening, as he did, the event which deprived him of that pleasure. When he (Bro. J.) was requested under the circumstances to take the chair, he objected to do so but upon being urged upon the point, he consented, feeling that it was his bounden duty to do any little he could to promote the interests of the Craft. He had always a strong feeling of the value of this lodge of improvement, and he looked upon its annual meetings with pleasure, as a neutral spot where he could meet with a number of the brethren, and where any differences of opinion which existed in another sphere were laid aside, and they all had but the one aim of paying respect to those who endeavoured to show who could attain the highest proficiency in the ceremonies and lectures of the order. This lodge had existed for many years and had produced very many excellent workmen, but it had never attained a higher efficiency than at present, owing mainly, he believed, to the exertions of his V. W. Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, whose name he should couple with the toast. He need only refer to the proceedings of that day, to insure for the toast a hearty reception, and he would therefore give them "Success to the Emulation of Improvement and Health to Bro. Wilson." (Cheers.)

Bro. WILSON P.G.D., acknowledged the toast. He had laboured hard to promote the interests of the lodge, feeling that it was his duty to do so, and he had been fully rewarded by the success which had attended his labours. He had deeply to thank those brethren who had so ably seconded his efforts, and as regarded the working of that evening, he was bound to state that it had far exceeded his expectations. He was pleased to be enabled to make this declaration, and so long as the Great Architect of the Universe blessed him with life and health he should feel himself bound to use his utmost exertions to promote the utility and best interests of the lodge. (Cheers.)

The W.M. had now a most gratifying duty to perform. There was in the lodge an officer who had for several years undertaken duties which were most important, and at the same time most onerous, and to whom the brethren were deeply indebted. He knew of no officer in a lodge of greater importance than the Secretary, and he need not say that the brethren of this lodge had long felt that they had got the right man in the right place. (Cheers.) He believed that no secretary had ever performed his duties with greater care or attention, and in acknowledgment of his services for a period of seven years, he had now to present him on behalf of the members of the lodge, a slight testimonial of their respect. In presenting the very handsome jewel he held in his hand to Bro. Artis, he wished he might be spared many years to wear it with the proud consciousness that he had won with it the respect and esteem of the brethren. (Cheers.) The W.M. then proceeded to present to Bro. Artis a very elegant Secretaries' Locket Jewel manufactured by Bro. R. Spencer, of gold, the emblem "Cross Pens" of gold in the centre, on a blue enamelled ground, fastened with a tie, consisting of fourteen brilliants very chastely displayed, and bearing the following inscription: "Presented by the brethren of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement (No. 311), to Bro. Luis Artis, P.M., in token of their esteem, and to mark the sense they entertain of the zeal and assiduity displayed by him whilst acting as Secretary to the lodge for a period of seven years. 29th November, 1861." After a few further appropriate remarks, the W.M. concluded by proposing "The Health of Bro. Artis." (Cheers.)

Bro. ARBUS briefly thanked the brethren for the very high compliment they had been pleased to pay him in the very handsome testimonial so kindly presented him through their excellent W.M. He could not feel too grateful for their kindness in thus so handsomely acknowledging the way in which he had discharged his duties, and he trusted he might ever continue worthy of their esteem and regard.

The W.M. then gave "The Sister Lodges of Instruction," trusting that some member of the Lodge of Stability would reply.

No brother answering the challenge, the W.M. said he would give them a toast which would awaken all their sympathies—"The Charities." (Applause.)

Bro. FARNFIELD, Asst. G. Sec., and Sec. for the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows, being loudly called upon, said that it gave him great pleasure to acknowledge the toast, and in doing so he should, according to his usual custom, refer to them in their order of seniority. The Girls' School was the oldest of their charities, and had always been a favourite amongst the brethren. It had attained a high degree of prosperity, and though they had now eighty girls on the foundation, such were the claims upon it that the Committee were now considering how they could increase the accommodation. The Boys' School was of more recent establishment, and it was only lately that they had obtained a schoolhouse of their own. The Boys' School was therefore peculiarly wanting in support, and he had no doubt, from recent alterations effected in the management

by the committee, it would soon take a very high place in the estimation of the brethren. Though the institution which he represented was the youngest of the three, he looked upon it as no less important than the schools; believing that nothing could more appeal to their feelings than an institution for the relief of Aged Masons and their Widows. (Cheers.) He was happy to announce that the D. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, had consented to take the chair at the festival in January next, when he trusted the majority of the brethren present would attend to do honour to his lordship, and support so excellent a charity. (Cheers.)

Bro. PATTEN, P.G.S.B., Secretary of the Girls' School, felt, after the observations of Bro. Farnfield, that nothing remained for him to do but tender his thanks for the support which had ever been given to the Girls' School, the committee of which, as Bro. Farnfield had stated, was considering the best means of extending the accommodation so as to provide for 100 girls instead of 80 as at present. (Applause.)

Bro. BINCKES, Secretary of the Boy's School, said, as the Secretaries of the other Charities had addressed them in response to the toast just given from the chair, it would be ungracious on his part if he did not, however hastily and imperfectly at that late hour of the evening, add a few words of thanks on behalf of the Charity with which he was officially connected; that he desired to do most cordially. Amongst brethren so well informed as to the merits, claims, and particulars of their various noble Charitable Institutions, it would be useless for him to seek to occupy their time by entering into details or statistics regarding them. He hoped, however, they would bear with him a few moments whilst he attempted to place their Charities before them in a new light—one, however, as it appeared to him, peculiarly appropriate at a festival of this nature. In their lectures, and other sources of instruction, there were many beautiful illustrations which might often be made available on occasions of this kind. To-night, he would draw their attention to a very familiar one—not pausing to elaborate the idea which would occupy too much time—that viz., of the three columns of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Ornamental supports as these were to the Masonic structure, they should take care that they were preserved from decay. Let Wisdom, the generally accredited attribute of maturity, find its representative in the Institution for Aged Freemasons and their widows; let Strength, the possession of which was fitly associated with the youth of the sterner sex, be figured by the Boy's School; and surely it would be allowed that Beauty had its apt embodiment in our School for Female Children. Be it the care of the brethren, therefore, that Wisdom should not "cry aloud in the streets, and raise its voice in vain;" that Strength shall be fostered and nourished to enable it to wage successfully the "battle of life;" and that Beauty should be protected and maintained in all its freshness and attractiveness, and jealously guarded from danger; and by the continued support rendered to their noble Charitable Institutions, let the sincerity of their Masonic professions be manifested to the outer world. (Cheers.)

The W.M. then gave "The Officers of the Lodge," thanking them for their services, and the able manner in which they had worked the sections that evening.

Bro. MARTIN, W.M. No. 7, replied, and stated that the brethren felt highly gratified that their services had been acknowledged, feeling that Freemasonry never could be properly understood and appreciated without the zealous co-operation of the members of Lodges of Instruction. (Cheers.)

"The Stewards," and one or two other toasts, brought the proceedings (which were enlivened by the vocal exertions of Bros. Carter, Shoubridge, and Champion), to a close.

PROVINCIAL.

DERBYSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Tuesday the 26th ult, the most noble the Marquis of Hartington, Prov. G.M., of Derbyshire, held his Prov. Grand Lodge at the New Assembly Rooms, Derby. The attendance was more numerous than at any previous Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge was opened at two p.m., Bro. Trimmell, Prov. G. Org., playing an appropriate piece of music as the noble Marquis and his Prov. Grand Officers entered the lodge. The Prov. G.M. was supported by the following Prov. Grand Officers:—Bros. John Gadsby, As D. Prov. G.M.; Stone, Prov. S.G.W.; Collison, As. Prov. J.G.W.; Wright, Prov. G.C.; Mandale, D.Prov. G.C.; Bloor, Prov. G.R.; Coulson, Prov. G.S.; Hewitt, Prov. S.G.D.; Carson, Prov. J.G.D.;

Bayliss, Prov. G.S. of Works; German, Prov. G.D. of C.; Neale, Prov. G.S.B.; Trimmell, Prov. G.O.; Bogge, Prov. G. St. B.; Mac. Callum, Prov. G.P.

On the motion of Bro. GERMAN, the Regalia of the Order was ordered to be completed, and after Bro. Wilder had been re-appointed Prov. G. Treas., the noble Marquis proceeded to appoint the following as his Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Colville, D. Prov. G.M.; J. Gamble, Prov. S.G.W.; German, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. J. Wright, Prov. G. Chap.; Revs. B. Mandale and H. Day, D. Prov. G. Chaps.; Wilder, Treas.; Bloor, D. Prov. G. Reg.; Coulson, Prov. G. Sec.; Neale, Prov. S.G.D.; Bayliss, Prov. J.G.D.; B. Wilson, Prov. G.D. of W.; Kirkland, Prov. G.D. of C.; Walton, Assist. G.D. of C.; Holland, Prov. G.S.B.; Trimmell, Prov. G. Org.; Ison, Prov. G. Purst.; W. Drew, Prov. G.D. Prov. Grand Stewards:—Bros. T. Cox and J. Jobson (Tyrian Lodge); Bros. Drevry, jun., and Prince, jun. (Royal Sussex Lodge).

Bro. F. BINCKES, Secretary of the Boys' School London, in a powerful speech, brought the claims of that institution before the brethren present. It was not an institution, he observed, hostile to the other Masonic Charities, and they educated and maintained seventy boys at an annual cost of £2500. Bro. F. Binckes' appeal on behalf of the Charity was not made in vain, the Marquis of Hartington and others putting down their names as Stewards for the annual dinner in March next.

The following visitors were present:—Geo. States, P.M. 23; E. Haseler, 607; F. Binckes, P.M. 11; W. J. Gothard, W.M. 907; J. Whittingham, P.M. 907; Arthur Bass, 907; R. Warner, P.M. 1081; Rev. W. Hope, Middleton, Poppleton (London).

Previous to the assembling of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the Tyrian Lodge (No. 315) held their meeting, when Bro. Joseph German was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being impressively performed by Bro. Stone. Bro. German appointed the following as his officers:—Bros. T. Cox, S.W.; Crossley, J.W.; E. Gamble, Secretary; Wright, Chaplain; Bloor, Treas.; W. Cantrill, S. D.; H. Bemrose, J.D.

The Banquet took place at Bro Huggins', King's Head Hotel, at half past four the same afternoon, when eighty-five brethren sat down to one of the most *récherché* dinners that could be provided. The Marquis of Hartington, M.P., Prov. G. M., presided, and was supported by Bro. E. S. Chandos-Pole, J. Gadsby, Prov. G. Chaplain, and others. Bro. J. Gamble, P.G.S.W., occupied the Vice-chair. After dinner had been disposed of, and the dessert placed on the table, the Lodge was close tyled from the outer world, when numerous toasts were proposed and responded to.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 56).—This Lodge met at the Grey Horse, Gateshead, on Monday, the 25th ult. The W.M. being absent the lodge was opened by P.M. Bro. Anty, Chaplain, who apologised for the W.M., assisted by Bros. C. J. Banister, P.M., R. J. Banning, S.W., J. Ward, J.W., and the rest of the officers, with a fair number of visitors and Bro. Buckland, W.M., of St. Hilda Lodge (No. 292) Prov. G.S.D., Bro. H. Hotham, P.M., 24. Mr. Jared Nickson of Winlaton having been unanimously elected was initiated into the order by P.M. Bro. A. Clapham, P.Prov. G.R., and explained the working tools, Bro. C. J. Banister, acting as J.D., and delivered the lecture on the tracing board to the candidate with his usual earnestness. Bro. Banister advocated the cause of the Masonic Charities, and hoped that the brethren would support him in the office of Steward as well as they did last year. Business of the lodge over, it was closed with solemn prayer. At refreshment Bro. H. Hotham, P.Prov. G.W., for Northumberland, responded to the health of the visitors.

HAMPSHIRE

PORTSEA.—*Royal Sussex Lodge* (No. 428).—Wednesday, November 20th, was the regular monthly meeting at the Freemason's Hall, St. George's Square. After the minutes had been read, the first business of the evening was to raise Bros. Hopkinson and Hodges to the sublime degree of Master Mason, which was very effectually done by the W.M., Bro. Emery. The ceremony being over, he delivered the charge in a very careful and impressive manner, reflecting a great deal of credit on Bro. Emery, who, as a young Mason, has made for himself a proud position in the Craft. The W.M. then vacated the chair for Bro. Emanuel, P.M., to initiate Mr. Lewis into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry; and too much praise cannot be conferred on the very excellent manner in which Bro. Emanuel acquitted himself. The nomination of the W.M. for the ensuing year was next proceeded with, when Bro. Emery was again proposed for the office; and in selecting him as the ruler of the lodge for another year

he receives the unanimous and warmest fraternal wishes from every member of the Royal Sussex, as a good Mason, a zealous votary of charity, and a faithful servant of the Craft. The lodge being closed, the brethren retired from labour to refreshment, and an excellent supper was served in Bro. Wilkins' best style. Among the visitors was a goodly array of Past Masters, who honoured the evening with their presence, including Bros. Dr. Alfred Jackson, W.M. 319; E. Wells, W.M. 717; A. Grace, W.M. 387; and R. Brown, W.M. 13. After the usual loyal toasts, "The Past Masters" were proposed and responded to by Bro. H. Ford, P.M. 319, in a very eloquent manner, descending at the same time on the excellency of Freemasonry, its advantages as a bond of brotherhood, and the abuses as practised by covans of the Craft. Other toasts of a similar character were drunk with the usual enthusiasm, when the brethren departed at an early hour, with the old song "Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again."

ISLE OF WIGHT.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

(From our own Reporter.)

On Tuesday, 26th November, the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting for the Isle of Wight was held at the Town Hall, West Cowes. Present:—The R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Thomas Willis Fleming; the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Hyde Pullen, G.S.B. of the United Grand Lodge of England; George Wyatt, P.M. 176, P. Prov. S.G.W., *pro tem* Prov. S.G.W.; Joseph Poore, P.M. 176, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. R. K. Edwards, 999, Prov. G. Chap.; W. W. Way, P.M. 176, Prov. G. Treas.; Francis Newman, P.M. 204, Prov. G. Sec.; W. Vaughan, P.M. 41, Prov. G.S.D.; T. W. Faulkner, P.M. 41, Prov. G.J.D.; R. W. Way, P.M. 176, Prov. G. Reg.; George Vallance, P.M. 176, Prov. G. Sup. of Works; Thos. Osborne, P.M. 41, P. Prov. S.G.W., *pro tem* Prov. G.S.B.; Henry Dashwood, 176, Prov. G. Purs.; C. B. Deacon, W.M. 41; J. Luter, P.M. 41; G. H. Cooke, S.W. 41; W. Low, S.D. 41; E. Waters, J.D. 41; James Corke, P.M. 41; J. Redman, 41; R. Graves, 41; John Dawson, P.M. 41; C. Airs, 41; S. H. Harris, 41; W. Maxwell, 41; Capt. G. H. Sanders, W.M. 176; Capt. W. W. Manners, S.W. 176; Jas. Read, J.W. 176; D. Barnes, 176, P.M. 204; Rev. J. J. Spear, 176; Capt. W. S. Graham, 176; H. Strickland, 176; Cheselden Browne, 176; Rev. E. L. Walshe, Chap. 176, P. Prov. G. Chap. Essex; Adj. J. King, 176; C. F. Young, 176; J. H. Hearn, W.M. 204, P.D. Prov. G.M.; A. L. Oldfield, S.W. 204; R. Chriss, P.M. 204; E. Hands, J.D. 204; E. Thurlow, I.G. 204; H. Jacobs, 204; J. Wavell, 204; W. Dashwood, 204; Andrew Ellis, 204; A. B. Bancal, 204; Desmond Adair, 327; F. Moor, J.W. 809; C. F. Fisher, J.D. 809; J. F. Ollard, W.M. 999.

The summons for the Grand Lodge meeting was issued for three o'clock, p.m.; the meeting of the Provincial Permanent Relief Fund Committee to be held at two o'clock; chairman, the Prov. G.M., Bro. T. Willis Fleming. The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting held at Ryde. The Treasurer's account was also read, which proved satisfactory, for, after paying annuities and a few incidental expenses, the balance already invested and for investment amounted to upwards of a hundred and sixty-five pounds. This fund was established under the auspices of Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, in 1858, and is supported by life governorship and annual subscriptions, for the especial purpose of providing relief to indigent Masons, their widows, and children, the qualification being that of a registered Master Mason, and a member of a lodge in the province of the Isle of Wight, for a period of at least five years, the exception being that of any incapacity by the visitation of Divine Providence, when a period of two years will be substituted for five. The Committee and Stewards for the several lodges having been appointed for the year ensuing, the business was concluded, and, it being near to three o'clock, the Grand Master summoned the brethren who, during the sitting of the Committee, had arrived at the Town Hall from the adjoining room.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then opened in due form, and the business of the province transacted, after which the Prov. G.M. invested his officers for the ensuing year with their respective collars and jewels, appropriately setting forth the merits of the brethren appointed to office; Bro. Hyde Pullen having been re-invested as D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Donald McLachlan, P.M. of 999, was called to receive the honour of Prov. S. G.W.; he unavoidably being absent, Bro. George Wyatt, P.M. of 176, P. Prov. S. G.W., was invested with the collar and jewel, and having thanked the Grand Master for the honour conferred upon the brother for whom he (Bro. G. Wyatt) was substitute, resumed the Senior Warden's chair. Bro. R. Chriss, P.M. of 204, was next invested as Prov. J. G.W., and the Rev. E. L. Walshe, Chaplain 176, as Prov. G. Chap., W. W. Way, P.M. 176 being re-elected Prov. G. Treas.; Bros. Geo. Vallance, P.M. 176, Prov. G. Reg.; Broome Piniyer, 204, Prov. G. Sec.; Capt. G. H. Sanders, W.M. 176, Prov. S. G.D.; C. B. Deacon,

W.M. 41, Prov. J. G.D.; Capt. W. W. Manners, S.W. 176, Prov. G. Sapt. of Works; F. Moor, J.W. 809, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; G. H. Cooke, S.W. 41, Prov. G. S.B.; J. T. Trekel, 204, Prov. G. Org.; E. Waters, J. D. 41, Prov. G. Purs.; Bros. E. Thurlow, J.D. 204, Stafford Way, 41, F. Alabone, Sec. 176, M. Linfield, 809, and W. Dashwood, 204, Prov. G. Stewards.

Before the lodge was closed, the Prov. G.M. embraced the opportunity of thanking the brethren for their kind attendance, especially so as the weather being most unpropitious, he had not expected to see so large a muster, and he would also state that he had appointed the next Provincial meeting to be held at Ryde, and he could but hope under more favourable circumstances as regarded the weather; for during the summer months he trusted they should not only have a good gathering of the brethren at one or the other of the delightful places about Ryde, but that the brethren would also bring with them the ladies of their respective households, that they also might enjoy the open-air festivities of the season.

The lodge having been closed in due form, the brethren adjourned to the Gloucester Hotel (the old club-house of the Royal Yacht Squadron) where about fifty sat down to a most excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Jones, whose study it had evidently been how to make the brethren comfortable.

On the removal of the cloth, the Grand Chaplain having acknowledged the blessings received, the Prov. G.M. proposed the health of "Her Majesty the Queen;" "The Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;" "The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, the Earl of Zetland;" "The Deputy Grand Master, Earl de Grey and Ripon;" and "The Officers of Grand Lodge, coupled with the name of Bro. Hyde Pullen, Grand Sword Bearer of England."

Bro. PULLEN, in acknowledging the toast, remarked that the distinguished honour conferred upon him by the Grand Master of England in appointing him to office in Grand Lodge could not be from any merits of his own; he therefore looked upon the appointment as an acknowledgment to the brethren of this small island province for the deep interest they took in the cause of Freemasonry, and especially in the charities connected with the Order; he was happy to say that most of the lodges in the province, as well as several of the brethren, had constituted themselves life governors of the Masonic Schools, and some few had served the office of steward at the festivals, and he trusted it was not far distant when each lodge would be in the same relationship, and several more of the brethren qualify themselves by holding stewardships, and he felt sure that if any brother Mason now seated at the festive board, happened to be unacquainted with the institutions alluded to, or had never been present at one or other of these festivals, he had only to embrace the opportunity of being present at either of the anniversaries held at the Freemasons' Hall, London, of which due notice was given; or he might present himself at the Girls' School (which was close to the Clapham Common Station) where he would have a courteous reception, and be conducted through the establishment by the excellent matron. He would then be enabled to judge for himself whether such institutions were not a credit to the Order, and worthy of his support, and, indeed, of that of every good Freemason. In conclusion, Bro. Pullen proposed "The Health of Bro. Thomas Willis Fleming, the very much respected and estimable Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight, and might he live long to preside over this province." The toast was received with reiterated cheers.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER in returning thanks for the very kind manner in which the toast of his health had been received by his brethren, could only assure them that he should continue to pursue the line he had hitherto followed, and which the rules of Freemasonry pointed out to him as the right course for conducting the business of his province with impartiality; the matter with which all the brethren now around him were cognizant, and upon which, in their presence this day (although not in open lodge), it had been his painful duty to adjudicate was certainly one which he could have wished might have been avoided, yet he could not but infer, from the enthusiastic reception of the toast, that the decision he had come to met with the approval of every Freemason now present. The brethren would, he felt sure, excuse his entering into any explanation as to why the provincial meeting had not been held at the usual time and season, and also why he had appointed that the next meeting should take place at Ryde, Ventnor being the place to visit in rotation. They all knew that death had been busy in his family, and their kind sympathy would readily prompt them to supply a reason for deferring a visit to the latter place; before resuming his seat he could not but express his pleasure at seeing several clerical brethren present, and he would therefore propose their healths, coupling with the toast the name of the Prov. Grand Chaplain, Bro. E. L. Walshe. He (the Prov. G.M.), had not the pleasure of knowing Bro. Walshe before that day, but having heard of him from another quarter, and from the pleasurable

conversation he had had with him during the evening, he felt sure they had the right man in the right place as their Chaplain.

Bro. WALSHE thanked the brethren on behalf of his brother clergymen and himself for the kind way in which they had responded to the toast, and he also thanked the Prov. G.M., for so kindly proposing it; as their Chaplain he could but remind them of the Chronicles, wherein it would be found recorded that in every age the man of peace, and the man of war, had been enrolled and shoulder to shoulder had ranged themselves under the banner of Freemasonry; his own case might serve as an illustration if such were needed, he being the Chaplain to the forces stationed at Parkhurst, amongst whom were many Freemasons, but with regard to his connection with this province, he was at the present time Chaplain to the Albany Lodge (No. 176), the W.M. of which was their much respected Bro. Captain G. H. Sanders, a man of war, a Crimean hero; under whose banner he stood shoulder to shoulder with him every lodge meeting. He had also had the honour of being Grand Chaplain for the Province of Essex, but these honours were but fleeting; the outward show; the jewel adorning the person; and the uninitiated said the jewel and the banquet were the sum and substance of Freemasonry, but the brethren knew Freemasonry to be of a nobler stamp; the uninitiated knew not of the Masonic chord which vibrated within the heart of every true mason, responding most melodiously to the touch of a distressed brother, his widow, or his orphan children, or by the aged and infirm, but its influence did not rest there, for when he (Bro. Walshe) was at one time on board ship on a voyage, a mason told him, that from the day of his initiation he had persevered and given up his wayward frailties, and he felt truly thankful to God for his having been initiated into the order, for it had been the means of his reforming his life, and conducing to his present and, he trusted, future happiness.

Bro. HYDE PULLEN, D. Prov. G.M., having permission, proposed "The Health of the newly elected Prov. Grand Officers." He was sorry their Senior Warden, Bro. D. McLachlan, P.M. 999, was unavoidably absent; he could, however, say that a more kind hearted brother could not be found in any province; he had made himself a life governor of all the Masonic charities; and whenever he had appealed to him on behalf of the distressed he always met with a ready response from Bro. McLachlan.

Bro. GEORGE WYATT, P. Prov. S.G.W., as the representative of the Senior Warden, and in his name and that of the Provincial Officers thanked the brethren for having so kindly responded to the toast, and the D. Prov. G.M., for his kind eulogium, which he felt sure could be endorsed by all who had the honor of Bro. Senior Warden's friendship.

The Prov. G.M. proposed the health of the immediate Past Officers, and again embraced the opportunity of thanking them for the kind assistance rendered him during the period of their holding office. It was always a pleasure to him to come amongst them, and he trusted that although they were now on the retired list, yet that whenever he held a provincial lodge or they had a festive gathering he should have the pleasure of seeing them.

Bro. JOSEPH POORE, P.M. 176, P. Prov. G.J.W., in the name of the Past Officers, begged to assure the Grand Master and brethren that their kindness was duly appreciated by the Past Officers. He had now been a Freemason forty-seven years, and for the last seventeen years he had never missed attending his lodge on the nights of meeting, excepting when illness prevented. He had also made a point of attending the provincial meetings, and so long as he had health he should continue to do so, and he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing the Prov. Grand Master for many years to come.

Bro. FLEMING, Prov. G.M., then called upon the brethren to fill a bumper to "The Health of their old and much esteemed friend, Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, the Prov. G.M. of Hampshire, and the Officers of the province." It was always a pleasure to see Sir Lucius amongst them, and he hoped on a more seasonable occasion next year to have the pleasure of renewing the fraternisation of the brethren of the two provinces. The toast was followed by rounds of cheering.

The mail packet being ready to start for Southampton, the Prov. G.M. took his leave, amid the hearty cheers of the brethren.

Several excellent songs were sung during the evening, and this most comfortable and cheerful party separated about 11 o'clock, P.M.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE.—Lodge of Instruction (No. 24).—This lodge met on Thursday, the 26th ult., in Freemasons Hall, Blackett street. The lodge was opened by P.M. Bro. C. J. Banister, P. Prov. G.P., Northumberland, P. Prov. G.S.D. Durham, Prov. G.D.C. West Lancashire; assisted by the W.M. of De Loraine (No 793), Bro. Anderson, the W.M. elect of ditto; Bro. Winter, Bro. Smith, as S.W.; Youngall, as J.W.; Thompson, as J.D.; and a full attendance of brethren

and visitors, among whom was Bro. Thomas Shepherd, of the Lodge Hope (No 793), Bradford, Yorkshire. Bro. Anderson acting as lecture master, performed the ceremonies of initiation, Bro. Stoot being the candidate, and Bro. Thompson acting as Deacon. The brethren were examined in the test questions, pass words, and on the ceremony generally in this degree. The lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, but as the time had arrived to close the lodge, the ceremony was not worked. Several new members were proposed and accepted, and the remaining business of the lodge concluded it was closed. P.M. Bro. A. Gillespie, Prov. G. Reg., of Northumberland, was appointed lecture master for the next meeting. Bro. Howard, acted as Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

(From our own Reporter.)

This meeting was held at the Masonic rooms, Newhall-street, Birmingham, on the 27th ultimo, and was attended by over 180 brethren of the province and neighbouring lodges. Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master, presided supported by Bro. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M., and the other Grand Officers. Among the other brethren present were Dr. Bell Fletcher, P. D. Prov. G.M.; J. Y. Robins, Jno. Machin, F. Empson, W. H. Reece, J. C. Cohen, T. Clarke, P. Prov. G. Wardens; Rev. J. E. Codrington, P. Prov. G.W. Oxfordshire, W.M. 1096; Rev. J. Downes, Prov. G. Chap. Staffordshire; Tho. James; Edwin Yates; John Goode, P. Prov. G.W. Staffordshire; W. Bristow, Prov. G.S. Worcestershire; W. Masefield, Prov. S.G.W. Worcestershire; B. W. Goode, P. Prov. G. Reg.; F. Binckes, P.M. 11, and Secretary Boy's School; Alderman Gates, Alderman Roberts, ex-Mayor of Northampton; Rev. J. F. Green, 1096; Sir J. Ratcliff, Knt., W.M. 696; W. H. Dawes 696; Capt. Hibbert, Capt. Briggs, Capt. Cheshire, Capt. Thompson, and other members of the new Leigh Lodge of Rifle Volunteers, F. Tibbett, W.M.

After reading the report of the Audit Committee, which showed a very healthy state of the finances of the province, Bro. Elkington drew the attention of the brethren to the desirability of establishing a Provincial Benevolent Fund without further delay. He found, on examination, that a motion approving of this object had been carried two years ago, but somehow or other it had not been acted upon. He calculated that an annual contribution of one shilling from each member would provide an ample amount, and as a nucleus he would move that the surplus in the hands of the Treasurer, and the amount to be collected at Church—less £5, the usual complimentary grant placed in the hands of the Rector—be voted to the Fund. This motion accepted, he would suggest that those applications, for relief standing on the agenda paper be withdrawn, and the cases referred to the Committee for Dispensing the Fund.

The proposition was warmly supported by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, and unanimously acceded to.

The following Prov. G. Officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—

Chas. W. Elkington, P.G.S.B.....	D. Prov. G.M.
Bro. Wm. Overall }	Prov. G. Wardens.
„ E. A. Lingard }	
Rev. — Kittoe }	Prov. G. Chaplains.
„ — Faulkner }	
Bro. J. F. Roberts	Prov. G. Treasurer.
„ Lewis Cohen.....	Prov. G. Registrar.
„ J. H. Bedford	Prov. G. Secretary.
„ H. Weiss	Prov. G. Senior Deacon.
„ Geo. Hudson.....	Prov. G. Junior Deacon.
„ W. B. Briggs	Prov. G. Supt. of Works.
„ Chas. Reed	Prov. G. D. of Ceremonies.
„ John Astley	Prov. G. S. Bearer.
„ John Pursall.....	Prov. G. Organist.
„ J. J. Turner.....	Prov. G. Assist. Sec.
„ H. Milliner }	Prov. G. Standard Bearers
„ G. Wyman }	
„ W. L. Harrison }	Prov. G. Pursnivants.
„ Sir J. Ratcliff }	
„ Thos. Hewitt }	Prov. G. Tylers.
„ Jos. Collins }	

The routine business having been disposed of, the PROV. GRAND MASTER rose and said: It would doubtless be in the recollection of the brethren that at the last meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge it was resolved that some substantial mark of approbation should be conferred upon their worthy and excellent friend Bro. C. W. Elkington, who had for so many years given them the benefit of his efficient services as Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. It was known to them that Bro. Elkington had the honour of being a Past Grand Officer

of the Grand Lodge of England, and that he had at their last meeting appointed him as Deputy Grand Master of this province. For himself he was extremely desirous of bearing his testimony to the value of the services rendered to Masonry in the province of Warwickshire by his friend, Bro. Elkington. He had no hesitation in saying that but for his aid, counsel, and support, he never could have succeeded as, he had happily done, in gaining and securing their approval of his conduct as their Prov. Grand Master. He only wished that he possessed more ability, more eloquence, the better to do justice to the object of their regard. Nothing that had occurred during his tenure of his distinguished office afforded him more real gratification than the discharge of the duty now devolving upon him of presenting to Bro. Elkington this token of affection and esteem. In affixing these jewels to his breast, he desired to assure Bro. Elkington of the sincerity and cordiality with which he wished him health, happiness, and prosperity.

Bro. ELKINGTON replied in graceful and feeling terms, expressing to his lordship, the R.W. Prov. G.M., his appreciation of the unvarying kindness and consideration extended towards his efforts, and to the brethren how truly gratified he must be by their approval. In a very short time he should complete his twenty-fifth year of Masonic existence, and it would be a matter, not only of difficulty, but of impossibility, for him adequately to convey to them his sense of the obligations under which he laboured. Without wishing to be in any way egotistical, he could not refrain from calling to their recollection the progress which Masonry had made in the province during the period to which he had alluded. It has been his good fortune to inaugurate many improvements, and to take upon himself to incite their efforts from time to time in behalf either of their noble charitable institutions, or of some object worthy their assistance in their own province. With pride, he said, he had never appealed to them in vain; witness their noble efforts in the cause of the Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows, in 1859; and in the cause of the Girls' School, in 1860; at the festivals of both of which institutions their R.W. Prov. G.M. presided, and the result of which was to add upwards of £700 to the funds. He had been honoured with the confidence of the R.W. Prov. G.M., and he had always endeavoured to repay that confidence by using any influence he might have possessed for the promotion of the best interests of Masonry to the utmost extent in his power. He might not have succeeded in giving satisfaction to all, but it had been his studious endeavour to avoid giving offence to any. The jewels now presented to him, he need hardly say, he should always highly value. He might think his poor exertions undeservedly recognised; but that was a matter for their consideration, and he could only return them his warmest, most sincere, but most imperfect thanks, for this renewed mark of their approval and regard. His best services would always be at their disposal. (Cheers.)

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been closed in ample form, the brethren proceeded to St. Phillip's Church, where an admirable sermon was delivered by the Prov. G. Chap., Bro. the Rev.—Dickie, after which a collection was made, amounting to nearly £18.

The banquet was held at the assembly rooms—late Dee's Royal Hotel—the hall being most tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens, with a large number of fine paintings, all of which were specially lent for the occasion. The tables were covered with a sumptuous array of costly dishes, the dinner being followed by a magnificent dessert, the liberality and perfection of the whole arrangements reflecting the highest credit on Sir John Ratcliffe, the W.M., and the officers and members of the Faithful Lodge, under whose auspices the meeting was held. The R.W. Prov. G.M. presided, supported by the D.G.M., Bro. Elkington; Dr. Bell Fletcher, Past D.Prov. G.M.; Rev. W. R. K. Bedford, Grand Chaplain of England; Josiah Y. Robins, John Muchin, Fred. Empson, W. H. Reece, J. C. Cohen, Thos. Clarke, P. Prov. G. Wardens; Rev. — Downes, Prov. G. Chap. Stafford; John Goode, Thos. James, Edwin Yates, Prov. G. Wardens Stafford; Mascmore, Prov. G. Treas. Worcester; B. W. Goode, P. Prov. G. Reg.; Alderman Gates, Alderman Roberts, ex-Mayors of Northampton; Flewitt, W.M. 463, Northampton; Rev. John Green; Rev. Joseph, Ray; W. H. Dawes; Capt. Hebbert; Capt. Briggs; Capt. Cheshire; Capt. Thompson; Capt. Machen; Capt. Bullock; Fred. Binckes, Sec. Boys' School, London; F. Tebbett, &c., about 180 in all.

To those who have had the opportunity of witnessing the bonhomie and spirit which characterise "the work" of the R.W. Grand Master, we need hardly describe with what warmth and heartiness the various toasts were proposed, as little need be said, under such influence, of the cordiality of the reception they met with. After the health of "The Queen," and "The G.L.," his lordship gave "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the G.M. of England," coupling therewith the names of Bro. Rev. W. R. K. Bedford, Grand Chaplain, and in the course of his observations

took occasion to state that amongst their visitors was Bro. Binckes, the Secretary of the Boy's School, who had come from London to attend that meeting and had urged upon him a request that he would preside at the annual festival of that institution, in March next. They all knew him sufficiently well to be aware that he would never shrink from the discharge of any duty in which it was thought his services might be useful. In himself he was perfectly willing to comply with the request made to him, but only on the condition that the province would support him. And here he must confess he felt both delicacy and reserve. The brethren of Warwickshire had come forward so nobly on the two last occasions, on which he had presided at the festival of the Benevolent Institution, and at that of the Girl's School, that he could not ask them to do so for the third year in succession. If, however, they were disposed to support him—if they thought he ought to preside as had been requested—if the province bade him do so—he was quite prepared. He would place himself entirely in their hands, and leave to them the decision.

Bro. the REV. W. R. K. BEDFORD, Grand Chaplain, acknowledged the kindness of the R.W. Prov. G. Master in giving the toast they had just received so warmly, and on behalf of the Earl de Grey and Ripon—the other Grand Officers, and himself he thanked them most sincerely. Referring to what had fallen from the R.W. Prov. G.M. in connection with the ensuing festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, it devolved upon him to take the sense of the brethren then assembled on the question submitted to them. He would not detain them, but as a ready and decisive means of ascertaining their opinion he would call upon those who were desirous that his lordship should accede to the request submitted to him, and who were willing to support him in a manner worthy of the province, to rise, and so testify their concurrence.

Anything more enthusiastic than the response to this appeal was never witnessed. Nearly every brother present rose, and the R.W. Prov. G.M. announced his intention to preside, amidst loud and prolonged acclamations.

Bro. CHAS. W. ELKINGTON, P.G.S.B., D. Prov. G.M., then rose and proposed "The Health of Lord Leigh, the R.W. Prov. G.M." Knowing as they did so well how his lordship had endeared himself to them by the manner in which he had discharged every duty which had devolved upon him, whether in his character as a nobleman, as lord lieutenant of the county, or as Grand Master of the province, it needed no eulogy from him to recommend the toast to their notice and approval. He felt satisfied, however, that his lordship had that evening extorted increased admiration from them, if it was possible, by the kindness he had evinced in so entirely consulting their wishes in reference to the festival at which he had been asked to preside. Bearing in mind, as he had every reason gratefully to do, the liberal responses so readily made to appeals in behalf of the other charitable institutions, he felt every confidence that, in March next, it would be substantially manifested that the brethren of Warwickshire would never tire of doing good so long as they had at their head a Grand Master who, putting aside all considerations of personal convenience, was ever desirous to lend the aid of his influence in promoting the prosperity of those institutions whose claims they had from time to time had brought before them. He could not omit alluding to the many individual obligations he was under to their Prov. G.M., and he would simply call upon them to pledge the health he now gave them in bumpers, and receive the toast as it deserved. (Loud cheers.)

THE R.W. Prov. G.M. in rising to reply was greeted with repeated rounds of most hearty applause.—He said that, gratifying indeed it must be to any man, in any position, to meet with such a reception as that given him. He did not hesitate to say that he always looked forward to these occasions of meeting his brethren, with feelings of unmixed pleasure. The heartiness of the welcome invariably accorded to him was such, as any one might well be proud of, and it was the best assurance they could give him, that his efforts to merit their approval were attended with success. He felt the responsibilities of his high office, and he recognised the claims upon his services, and therefore, it was in the instance now before them, that he had not shrunk from the discharge of a duty, conditionally on receiving the support of those on whom he had so often relied. The response made to the question so admirably put by Bro. Bedford, had entirely dissipated the feeling of hesitation and reserve he had entertained, in again attempting to enlist their sympathies in the cause of charity, and all that remained for him now was to express a hope that by united exertions such a success would be achieved, as even the brethren of Warwickshire might well make their boast. Before sitting down he would propose the next toast, "The Prov. Grand Lodge of Warwick, and Bro. Elkington, Dep. Prov. Grand Master." Of Bro. Elkington, he had already had an opportunity of speaking, and therefore would not venture to say anything further in his favour, though he confessed it would take a long time to exhaust the catalogue of that worthy brother's excel-

lences; of the Prov. Grand Lodge as a body he could not speak too highly—he certainly reciprocated the kindness and confidence extended to him as Prov. G.M., and had the greatest possible pleasure in proposing this toast.

Bro. ELKINGTON, D. Prov. G.M., having already had opportunities of addressing them, would only now renew those expressions of thanks to which he had, perhaps imperfectly, given utterance, and that, on his own behalf only, as D. Prov. G.M. To one who had served them well formerly, who was known and regarded by all, one who had preceded him in the office he now held—Dr. Bell Fletcher—he would leave the honour of returning thanks for the Grand Lodge.

Bro. DR. BELL FLETCHER, P. D. Prov. G.M., could but look back with pride and pleasure to the time when he held high office amongst them. Though not now in office, he could only say he still felt the deepest interest in everything connected with Masonry, and his services would always be cheerfully rendered whenever they may be considered useful.

Other toasts having been duly proposed and honoured, Bro. the Rev. W. K. RYLAND BEDFORD, G. Chap., rose and said he had been deputed by the R.W. Prov. G.M. to propose the next toast, and in doing so he only wished he was capable of rendering it justice. However, after what they had witnessed that evening, all apprehension as to the manner in which it would be received was done away with. Heretofore the brethren of Warwickshire had shown by their acts what was their opinion of their Charitable Institutions, and the manifestation of feeling which had just taken place proved how that that opinion was still unaltered. He gave them "The Masonic Charities," and with that toast he would couple the name of Bro. Binckes, the Secretary of the Boys' School, whom they had the pleasure of seeing amongst them.

Bro. BINCKES had often risen to address his brethren under difficulties arising from various causes. He spoke under difficulties now, but they were occasioned by the positive inability he experienced adequately to acknowledge the load of obligations their generosity and goodness had heaped upon him that evening. He had come amongst them expecting to be kindly received; assuring himself of some success in the mission with which he was charged, but not for a moment calculating on anything approaching to the result which had attended his visit. He claimed no credit for himself, nor did he attribute to his presence anything of the success which was so much matter for gratulation. To Bro. Elkington, whose unvarying kindness he had often previously tested, he knew how much he was indebted—to many others, comparative strangers, he felt deeply obliged; to Lord Leigh, their R.W. Prov. Grand Master, no words could express his feelings of thankfulness. He knew himself to be an intruder, he knew he had violated all conventional codes in venturing to trespass upon his lordship's goodness, and as a consequence, upon the liberality of the province so soon after his and their glorious and recent exertions. Anxiety, however, for the success of the noble Institution with which he was now officially connected, had urged him on. Its interests with him were paramount, and the result accomplished was his pardon for the offence. In extenuation of his boldness let him offer an idea—which had just struck him, and upon which he would not enlarge, for the flight of time forbade him—derived from their Masonic ceremonies and the perfection all sought to attain. In 1859, their Prov. Grand Master presided at the festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution, and was nobly supported by the province—that was their initiation. In 1860, that presidency and support were accorded to the Girl's School—that was their second degree. Would Warwickshire brethren rest content there? No! That presidency and support was about to be further extended to the Boy's School, and then would both points of the compass be fully displayed, and the circle of their Masonic duties, as regarded the Charities, be rendered complete. Theirs would then be the proud boast of having set an example which he fervently trusted other provinces would hasten to imitate.

Other toasts followed, and the proceedings were enlivened with some excellent songs and recitations. Before the meeting separated twenty-one names were handed in to Bro. Binckes, as Stewards for the Festival of the Boy's School, in March next, to which others have since been added. From the warm interest evinced by the Prov. G.M., and the hearty support assured by the brethren, it is confidently expected that the efforts of the province on that occasion will surpass in their results the fruits of any previous exertions. The whole of the proceeding passed off with the greatest possible eclat.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

DONCASTER.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 298.)—The brethren of this lodge met on Friday evening last, when two F.C.'s (one a

member of the Society of Friends) were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremony of raising was ably performed by Bro. Rigby, P.M., who was assisted by Bro. Brooke, P.M. the Secretary, the latter delivering the charge, and explaining the working tools. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the lodge was closed in the three degrees, and nothing further offering, the brethren adjourned for refreshment, and partook of supper, the W.M., Bro. Lister, presiding. It is to be regretted, however, that after supper, the brethren here are in the habit of somewhat too suddenly separating, thus foregoing what ought to be spent in a more Masonic manner.

SCOTLAND.

AYR.

KILMARNOCK ST. ANDREW'S, (No. 126).—Uniformity in the observance of its every ceremony ought to be the distinguishing feature of a society whose principles and modes of recognition are said to be of universal application; but such is not the case, either in Lodge Labour or Refreshment. In the latter respect one great difference in the working of the Scotch and English lodges must be apparent to every one acquainted with the custom of our Southern brethren in their hours of refreshment. They have indeed a J.W.'s column, but seem to have little conception of its use; for instead of unveiling the Pillar of Beauty on the suspension of labour, our English friends eschew the introduction of refreshment into the lodge, and thereby virtually ignore those duties peculiar to the W. in the S. which are audibly defined to the brethren at every opening and closing of the lodge. It is not so with us: and never was the superiority of the Scotch over the English mode of refreshment more perceptible than in the celebration of the Festival by the Lodge St. Andrew (No. 126), on Friday the 22nd, in the hall of the George Hotel, Kilmarnock. We have visited the Lodge St. Andrew on many similar occasions, but the present is well entitled to be characterised as the best effort at external decoration that the members have ever displayed: as to harmony of feeling we have ever found this lodge the same,—it may retrogress, but further progress in this respect is out of the question. Emerging from the adjacent to within the bounds of the "tesselated border," our eye was dazzled by the brilliancy of the accessories that had been brought into requisition in the adornment of the lodge-room, and our ear charmed by the melody which flowed from the many well-tuned instruments of which the orchestra were composed. The Orient and a few lesser lights occupied the dais—an arch being raised over the principal chair, having for a canopy the bee-hive resting upon the key stone, with an illuminated all-seeing eye and compass and square over the entrance to the figurative mart of industry, the whole being surmounted by a representation of the orb of night shedding her silvery light upon the happy scene below. The pillars of S. and B. also supported an arch, in front of which were suspended transparent devices of the immovable jewels symbolical of the duties devolving upon the occupants of the respective chairs. In the S. and in rear of the guard of the M.C. was displayed a gigantic superscription in blue and gold, indicative of the name and number of the presiding lodge; while the usually vacant N. contained busts of Bros. Byron, Scott, and Burns—lights of which the Craft have just reason to be proud. In a word, the Order was in full regalia—the implements each teaching its own mystic language; F., H., and C. were there, as were also W., S., and B.; the walls were hung round with festoons of green leaves having bouquets of flowers pendant at intervals—evergreens, flags, and bannerets being judiciously arranged in other parts of the spacious hall. Indeed, the decorations were elaborated with a taste which did credit to the head which conceived and the hands which executed them. The large assembly was presided over with graceful effectiveness by the R.W. Bro. Caldwell, Master, who was well supported by his Depute, Bro. Karnahan, and Wardens, Bros. Buchanan and M'Millan. The Deacons were most courteous in their attentions to the deputations and visiting brethren, and the promptitude with which the Stewards answered the calls of the brethren seemed to be appreciated by all. We have seen a greater number present at St. Andrew's Festival, but do not recollect of so many lodges being represented as were in the George on the 22nd. There were delegates from Lodges No. 0, 22, 86, 124, 127, 149, 165, 169, 198, 202, 290; and visitors from Lodges 27 and 88. The members of St. Andrews occupied the extreme left of the chair; on the extreme right were seated the deputations from the four senior lodges present—the post of honour being accorded to the Ancient or Mother lodge, represented by the Depute Master, Bro. Conn;

Senior and Junior Wardens (Hendrie and Lyon); Asst. Chaplain (Rev. Robert Murray); Secretary and Ex-Secretary (Wylie and Henderson); and Bro. Carruthers; Kilmarnock St. John Kilwinning, headed by R.W. Bro. Brown, of Bellsbrae, Master; Navigation Troon, by R.W. Bro. Inrie, Master; and Ayr Kilwinning, by R.W. Bro. Guthrie, Master. The other lodges occupied the suite of tables in the centre of the hall and in front of the R.W.M., as follows:—Stewarton Thistle and Rose (Bro. Cunningham); Irvine St. Andrew (Bro. Dick, who apologised for the unavoidable absence of R.W. Bro. Dr. Gray); Ayr Royal Arch (Bro. Scott); Stevenston Thistle and Rose (Bro. Love); Maybole Royal Arch (Bro. Jack); Riccarton St. Clement (Bro. Black); and Blair Dalry (Bro. Brown). Bros. Wilson, of Glasgow St. Mungo, and Steele of Montrose New Monkland, Airdrie, had seats set apart for them on Master's left hand. We observed also Bro. A. Martin, and several other brethren belonging to Ayr St. Paul and Operative, who had assumed the garb of other lodges, in consequence of their own not sending deputations. Space will scarcely admit of our doing more than mention that the R.W.M. gave successively "The Visiting Lodges, prefacing with suitable remarks the introduction of each toast: all of which, it is needless to say, were most enthusiastically received. In acknowledging the toast "Mother Kilwinning," Bro. CONN was sure that had Bro. Sir James Fergusson been present at their head, he would have replied in more suitable terms than he was able to do. Mother Kilwinning! There was something in the *Mother*, dear to the heart of every well-thinking man, and one becoming a Mason became more a man. Masonry was extending; and he was gratified at noticing that General Garibaldi, the Liberator of Italy, had been elected Grand Master of that interesting but hitherto priest-trodden country.—Bro. DAVID BROWN, of Mother Kilwinning and Blair Dalry, in replying on behalf of the latter, gave a succinct but interesting sketch of the progress as to membership and otherwise which the lodge St. Andrew had made since its revivification some ten years ago. He had attended its first festival after that event, and a room 20ft. by 12ft. was found of sufficient size comfortably to contain the members and deputations from other lodges; let the 24in. gauge be now applied to the place in which they were that evening met, and some idea may be formed of the numerical strength to which No. 126 had arrived. Kilmarnock Kilwinning, too, had of late years come forth from a long slumber, and if one could judge from appearances, the strong deputation which had accompanied R.W. Bro. Brown in his visit to his next-door neighbour, spoke well for the efficiency of that old lodge. But with a population of 19,000, it would be anything but creditable to St. Marnock did it fail in supporting these two lodges; the banner of St. Clement was once more unfurled in Riccarton; and Kilmarnock could extend a helping hand to No. 202 also. "There's room enough for all."—The MASTER had craved a song from Blair Dalry; but he regretted the deputation's inability to comply. It had that evening been offered in excuse for a brother's not singing, that having been to hear Jenny Lind he could not now think of trying a stave. He (Bro. Brown) thought that if Jenny's appearance amongst them was to have such an effect upon our native warblers, the sooner the Swedish nightingale took her departure from our shores the better. He could not think that their venerable dame at Kilwinning had been at all moved by the presence of Madame Goldschmidt, and he was sure that what the daughter lacked in musical talent would be made up by the mother; he begged, therefore, that the Deputy Master of Mother Kilwinning would give Blair Dalry's song,—to which request Bro. Conn was not slow in responding, and sung in his own easy off-hand style, "Here's a health to all honest men." Apropos of singing, Irvine St. Andrew, which had the largest deputation, bore away the palm also for vocalization, by the masterly style in which their songster, Bro. William Miller, rendered the two very popular pieces with which he favoured the meeting, and which were rapturously applauded. "Wind and tide," operated in limiting the number of Bro. Inrie's followers, although along with Ayr Kilwinning, Troon Navigation had a good muster. Maybole Royal Arch very spiritedly forwarded her quota from "the capital of Carrick," being the longest distance travelled by any of the Ayrshire lodges. After the toasts by the presiding lodge had been gone through, Bro. Conn, of the Mother Lodge, in the "delicious doric of our sainted Mither," complimented the Lodge St. Andrew on the success which had attended it during the past year, and attributed much of that success to the unflinching industry of the R.W.M., to whom he called upon the brethren to dedicate a bumper. Indeed, office-bearers and members seemed to be animated by one spirit of enthusiasm in conducting the affairs of their lodge. Bro. Caldwell responded: the other officials of the lodge were similarly honoured. Mother Kilwinning was the first to retire from the festive board, followed shortly after by Lodge No. 22, and others; and ere long the Junior Warden's gravel fell, when the happy fraters separated. The arrangements of "mine host" of the George were unique;

and a meed of praise is justly due to the brethren of the orchestra who, during the intervals between the toasts, favoured the company with music that was really delightful: we regret we did not learn the name of the leader. The two oldest craftsmen present at this festival were—Bros. Black, of Riccarton, and D. Brown, of Kilmarnock—the one having trod the "chequered floor" for 54 years, the other for 52 years. Indisposition prevented the Rev. D. V. Thomson, of Mother Kilwinning, from attending.—*Ayr Advertiser*. [We cannot agree with our Northern brethren that the songs and toasts and other attendants of hilarity should take place in lodge-room with all the paraphernalia of the lodge displayed.]

IRELAND.

MASONIC HALL FOR BELFAST.

The following letter has been addressed to the editor of the *Northern Whig*:—

SIR,—It has long been a matter of surprise that so numerous, influential, and wealthy a body as the Freemasons of Belfast should not possess a hall of their own, for the purposes of their Craft. The subject has often been mooted in Masonic circles; but, for want of some energetic individual to make a move in it, nothing has been done. So general is the desire for such a building, that it requires but to be ventilated in the public press to secure a beginning, at least, being made for the accomplishment of so desirable an object. Next to Christianity, Freemasonry is the noblest system for the inculcation of correct morals, kindly feelings, and wide-spread charity that has ever been made known to the world. In some quarters it is objected to because its operations are conducted in secrecy. This, however, is its greatest merit. It pursues the even tenor of its way without noise and without ostentation; and, while the "brethren of the mystic tie" practise charity for its own sake, careless alike of the plaudits or the frowns of the world, there is no doubt that the satisfaction of seeing their names in subscription lists, and having votes of thanks passed to them for their liberality, are sometimes inducements, with the vain and worldly-minded, to loosen their purse strings, more powerful than the incentive of real and true benevolence. Freemasonry "lets not its right hand know what its left hand doeth." It is a silent, solemn, and powerful protest against the vanity and pretensions of the world. Hence its universality, its vigour, and its fitness for all stages of society and all countries. Only a little less perfect than Christianity, it is more ancient; and there is no doubt that, so long as man is imperfect, and requires aid and sympathy from his fellow-man, so long will Freemasonry flourish. Certainly, at no period of its existence, from the days of King Solomon downwards, was it more prosperous than at the present time. It has withstood the hostility of Courts; it has survived the anathemas of ecclesiastics; and it has outlived most other systems of the ancients, flourishing with perennial youth, notwithstanding the mutations of time.

In Belfast, Freemasonry has long been an important institution, including in its ranks most of all that is respectable, in the widest acceptance of the term, among our community. It softens the asperities of political and party warfare, and places all the ranks and classes of its members on a common platform of sympathy, harmony, and good-will. Much of its influence, however, is lost in consequence of its interests being scattered through a variety of channels. It wants a common centre, where Masons can more frequently meet together for the practice and cultivation of those virtues which eminently belong to it. A Masonic hall would do much to obviate this drawback, and give to it that position in public and private which, from the numbers and wealth of the members of the Craft, it is entitled to hold in our midst. As things are at present, the different lodges in town—about fifteen in number—meet in rooms hired for the purpose, which is certainly not creditable to the fraternity. Many towns of no pretensions to the importance of Belfast, either in a Masonic or other point of view—such as Derry, Dundalk, and others—have their Masonic Halls, and why not Belfast? The various local lodges pay not less than £100 a-year in rent for imperfect accommodation, so that in a business point of view the matter is worthy the consideration of Masons. What is wanted is a good substantial building, with a hall capable of accommodating about 700 or 800 persons upon any occasion of a Masonic entertainment, banquet, or ball, the rest of the building being divided into apartments for the purpose of transacting the business of the several lodges. Among the 700 or 800 Masons in the town the money could surely be easily raised. I myself know several who, if a project of the kind were commenced

on a plan similar to the Ulster Hall Company, on the limited liability principle, are willing to subscribe liberally in the way of taking shares.

Such a building might be made to be an ornament to our town, and would, unquestionably, add to the status of Freemasonry amongst us, and advance the interests of the body in no mean degree. I trust, therefore, that the subject will receive the attention of those whose position in the Masonic fraternity points them out as the parties who are most fitted to move in it, and I doubt not that sufficient support will not be wanting to a project combining so many advantages.

Hoping that you will grant space in your columns for the foregoing remarks, and thereby oblige the members of the Craft,

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

A FREEMASON.

COLONIAL.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CONSECRATION OF THE JOPPA LODGE AT CAPE TOWN.

[From our own Correspondent.]

The new Masonic lodge, the Joppa (No. 1166), the constitution of which was lately procured from the United Grand Lodge of England, was inaugurated at high noon on Tuesday, the 24th September in the Temple of the British Lodge (No. 419), Cape Town.

The W.M. of the British Lodge opened the lodge in the three degrees, and received in form the the W.M., officers, and brethren of the Southern Cross, the Hope (No. 473), the Goede Trowe, and Good Hope Lodges, and the D. Prov. G.M. of the Netherlands.

Bro. Sir Christoffel Brand, the D. Prov. G.M. of the Netherlands, having kindly acceded to a requisition previously made, was now requested to act as Master, and to proceed to consecrate and inaugurate the Joppa Lodge, and to instal its W.M.

Sir CHRISTOFFEL, on taking the chair, after expressing the pleasure it gave him to officiate on this occasion (this being the fourth lodge he had had the honour of consecrating during his Masonic career), and at all times to forward the interests of our ancient Craft, entered into a learned disquisition on the early history of Masonry, and the wonderful manner in which our society had been conserved amid the revolutions of nations and the fall of empires. He pointed to the ennobling virtues it was its aim to teach, and the pure morality the strict observance of its precepts would scatter in its wake. "Pure, however, as the fundamental principles of Masonry are," said he, "we do not require to prosecute our enquiries beyond the past age to find attempts have been made to subvert them, and to substitute a narrow sectarian spirit for the broad Catholicity on which, as on a rock, our temples are founded. And if, for the hour, such attempts may have appeared to prosper, 'twas but the evanescent morning's mist which be-dimmed a cloudless sky, leaving Masonry, like truth, brighter and fairer for the ordeals she had passed. Within the last century in many parts of the Continent of Europe, members of the Hebrew community were excluded from our Order. But we have reason for congratulation, my brethren, that those days of darkness have passed away, and the large assemblage before me met to celebrate the inauguration of a lodge which, though not exclusively Jewish, has originated with the members of the Hebrew persuasion in this place, affords abundant proof that we recognise the teaching of our noble Order to respect the opinions and give tolerance to the honest convictions of others, however widely we may differ from them, and that the persecution to which their nation has been subjected in Masonry, as in religion, has no countenance from us, and is unworthy of this or any other age."

The D. Prov. G.M. of the NETHERLANDS, at the conclusion of his oration, called upon Bros. Rowe and King, the W.M. and P.M. of the British Lodge, to act as his Wardens, and proceeded with the ceremony of consecration.

The furniture, jewels, &c., with implements of consecration, being displayed in the Temple, Bro. R. J. Joseph was presented as W.M., and having taken the usual oaths, he was put in possession of the implements of office, and the lodge having resolved into a board of P.M.'s, he was formally inducted and placed in the chair of King Solomon.

The W.M. then closed the Board of Masters, and the Master Masons being admitted, he proceeded to invest his officers—

Bro. E. H. Solomon	S.W.
„ S. Biden (in the absence of Bro. M. Lewis) ...	J.W.
„ G. A. Melle	S.D.
„ S. Lasker	J.D.
„ L. Heilbron	Treas.
„ C. Cowan	Sec.
„ D. Seligsohn	I.G.
„ — Gangel	Tyler.

The lodge was closed in the third and second degrees, and the W.M. addressed the D. Prov. G.M. of the Netherlands, and the masters, officers, and brethren, of the different lodges who had so kindly rendered their fraternal assistance on the occasion. He more particularly referred to the liberal manner in which the Hope Lodge had placed at their disposal their lodge furniture during their meetings for instruction, and the British Lodge, for the use of their Temple that day, and for the valuable assistance they had from the first so readily given to the Joppa.

The brethren then formed into procession, and marched three times round the lodge grounds. On return to the Temple the W.M. called off from labour to refreshment. The brethren were requested to remain within hail till half-past six o'clock, for at that hour they would dine at their own lodge room at the Masonic Hotel to celebrate the inauguration. There were about two hundred brethren assembled, and the proceedings throughout were characterised by that decorum for which Masonry is ever conspicuous.

Bro. Brandt, the talented organist, assisted by a good choir, contributed much to the solemnity of the proceedings by singing the following anthems:—"What solemn sounds on holy Sinai rung;" "Almighty Sire! our heavenly king;" "Hail, universal Lord;" "To heaven's high Architect all praise;" "Behold! how good a thing it is;" "Hail, Masonry divine," &c.

Meanwhile the band of the Cape Town Volunteers, under the able leadership of bandmaster Bro. Ireson, discoursed music in the gardens without to the crowd who had congregated to witness the procession and to glean as much as could be gathered by the uninitiated of the mysteries of Masonry.

The dinner at the Joppa Lodge was numerously attended. The W. Master was supported on his right by Bro. Sir C. Brand, D. Prov. G.M. of the Netherlands, and on the left by the W.M. of the British Lodge; the W. Masters and Wardens of the five sister lodges being also present by invitation.

The cloth being removed the lodge was tyled and the usual toasts given with Masonic honours:—"The Queen and the Craft," "The Earl of Zeland, Grand Master of England," "The Earl of Ripon and De Grey, D. Grand Master of England," "Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, coupled with the Duke of Athol, and all the other G.M.'s throughout the Universe," "To all poor and distressed Brethren, wishing them a happy and speedy release," "The D. Prov. G.M. of the Netherlands, Bro. Sir C. Brand," "The Lieutenant Governor General Wynard," "Our Sister Lodges," "The Army and Navy," "Prosperity to the Joppa Lodge," by Sir C. Brand, replied to by the W.M., with the health of his officers.

The volunteer band played during dinner, and appropriate airs at the end of every toast.

In the course of the evening the W. MASTER said he had deputed Bro. E. H. Solomon, S.W., to present Bro. Russell, P.M., with a Past Master's jewel, as a material acknowledgement, however small from the members of the Joppa, of the valuable aid he had from time to time given them, and he took the opportunity of thanking Bro. Russell on his own account in open lodge for the brotherly assistance he had rendered him, for had it not been for his valuable instructions he should not have felt himself competent to have undertaken the duties as Master of the Joppa. On the presentation of the jewel Bro. SOLOMON said:—"Bro. P.M. Russell, the W.M. and brethren of the Joppa Lodge have conferred upon me the pleasing task to present to you this Past Master's jewel, as a slight token of their respect for you as a Mason, and as a small acknowledgment for the services you have rendered them in the formation of their lodge. The members of the Joppa are not unmindful that when first their lodge was contemplated you placed your room at their service for lodges of instruction, free of any charge. But what was of far more consequence you gave them the benefit of your superior Masonic knowledge. Bro. Russell, P.M., in placing this jewel upon your breast I am sure you will, as all P.M.'s should, guard the ancient landmarks of our order. I hope you will not look upon this for its intrinsic value, but as a medal presented to you by your brethren, who fully appreciate your character as a gentleman and a mason. In conclusion I am sure I but express the feelings of the W.M., and members of the Joppa Lodge, when I wish you long life and happiness to wear the medal which I now present to you in the name of the members of the Joppa Lodge.

Bro. RUSSELL in reply said he was proud of the eulogium passed on him, by the Master and S.W., but he feared they had over-estimated the value of the little services he had been able to afford them. Certainly he had done nothing more than any mason "good and true" would have done under the circumstances, and it was a labour of love to give them the benefit of his experience. That he had assisted willing pupils this day's work, sufficiently testified; indeed the regularity and order in which each and all had that day done the work allotted them, would have done honour to veterans in the craft long inured to Masonic toil. After making a few well-timed remarks on the value of regular attendance at working hours, to maintain proficiency, he concluded by again thanking the brethren for the honour done him and for the testimonial with which they had presented him.

The lodge was now closed, and song, sentiment, and toast claimed an audience in rotation, until the approach of the "witching hour" of night, when the meeting broke up, with the universal feeling that they had concluded the day's work in a way creditable to Masonry, and the auspicious occasion that called them together. The manner in which the dinner was served, the sound viands and generous wines reflected the usual credit on our worthy landlord Bro. Russell, of the Masonic Hotel.

ROYAL ARCH.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Minerva Chapter* (No. 311).—This Chapter met at Freemason's Hall, Princes-street, on Thursday, Nov. 28th. The chapter was opened by M.E. Comp. S. Mosely, Z.; Comp. Sissons, H. and Comp. P.M.E. Henry, as J.; there being a full attendance of companions and several visitors. A Candidate was exalted to this sublime degree, by the M.E.Z., S. Mosely, in his usual impressive manner. Comp. A. O. Arden, acted as P. Soj., and performed his part in the ceremony to perfection. This Chapter will be held monthly instead of quarterly, excepting the summer months. A candidate was proposed and seconded, and the rest of the business over, the Chapter was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The supper was presided over by the M.E.Z. Comp. S. Mosely, and in the west by Comp. Sissons. The Queen, Grand Master, Prov. G. Superintendent, and the powers ruling, were proposed from the chair and heartily responded to by the Companions. Comp. C. J. Banister, M.E.Z. 267, and of 24 and 614, responded to the toast of the Visitors, and proposed prosperity to the Chapter and health and happiness to their M.E. 1st. principal, which was most heartily responded to with all the honours. Comp. Mosely, responded in very appropriate terms and with true masonic feeling. Several of the Companions, sang excellent and appropriate songs and the evening was spent in love and harmony.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11).—This flourishing lodge of Mark Masters met on Monday, 2nd December, at Bro. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street. In consequence of the absence of Bro. Levy, R.W.M., Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., took the chair. There being no candidate present for advancement, the business of the evening consisted of the installation of Bro. R. Slade, which ceremony Dr. Dixon performed in his usual impressive manner. The newly installed R.W.M. was then pleased to appoint the following brethren as his officers, viz., J. Thomas, S.W.; F. Walters, J.W.; Lowenstark, M.O.; J. Howes, Conductor; White, S.D.; Stahr, J.D.; Cathie, I.G. The R.W.M., in an able manner, gave the legend of the degree. The lodge was closed, and the brethren departed, having enjoyed a pleasant reunion.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE.—*Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed Lodge*.—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Newgate-street, on Wednesday, November 27th. The lodge was opened by Bros. H. Hotham, R.W.M.; H. G. Ludwig, S.W.; A. Gillespie, J.W.; C. J. Banister, Sec.; and the rest of the officers of the lodge. This being the night for installing the W.M. elect,

Bro. H. G. Ludwig was presented by P.M. Bro. Seps. Bell to the R.W.M., who performed the ceremony, after which he was duly saluted and proclaimed, and appointed Bros. A. Gillespie, S.W.; C. J. Banister, J.W.; W. Saneter, Sec.; Lambton, Treas.; Tanson, J.D.; Loades, S.D.; Reed, M.O.; Trotter, Tyler; and invested all except the Treasurer, who was unavoidably absent. Bros. Edwd. Evans, Lodge 114, and G. G. Hayward, of Lodge 389, were proposed for advancement to this degree. Business being over, the lodge was closed. The banquet was presided over by the R.W.M., Bro. Ludwig; on his right was P.M. Bro. Seps. Bell; and on the left P.M. Bro. H. Hotham; in the west, Bro. A. Gillespie presided; and in the south, Bro. C. J. Banister. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to in a truly festive spirit, and the brethren separated at an early hour. [This lodge is working well, and is regularly opened the fourth Wednesday in each month for business.]

YORKSHIRE (WEST.)

SHEFFIELD.—*Britannia Lodge* (No. 53).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Monday, 2nd inst., in the Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street. Bro. Wm. White, jun., W.M., and J.G.D., presided, and was assisted by Bros. Drury, S.W.; Mosely, J.W.; Waterhouse, S.D.; Arnison, J.D.; Garnett, I.G.; &c. Bros. Capt. Sheringham (16th Regt.), Oxley, of Rotherham, and Parker, of Worksop, were severally advanced to this degree. The brethren afterwards partook of a sumptuous banquet, and duly honoured the toasts of the "M.W.G.M., the Earl of Carnarvon," "The R.W.D.G.M., the Viscount Holmesdale," &c.

Obituary.

BRO. THOS. HARRIS CARROLL.

Bro. Thomas Harris Carroll, late Proprietor and for upwards of thirty years sole Editor of the *Carlow Sentinel*, expired at his residence, Dublin street, Carlow, on Thursday night, November 21st, 1861. Engaged during the week and up to the afternoon of that day, in the discharge of his professional business, apparently in the enjoyment of excellent health, he was, in the dispensation of an all-wise Providence, visited with a paralytic seizure, and before midnight succumbed to the fatal stroke.

Foremost amongst the members of the press in the province, his sudden and unexpected decease will cause a vacancy not easily supplied in the ranks of journalism, whilst his loss will, perhaps, be more deeply felt in the immediate sphere of his influence—the Borough and County of Carlow.

As a citizen, his name will be long remembered as one identified with every movement calculated to benefit or instruct his fellow-townsmen, without distinction of creed or party, whilst his generous and unostentatious charities will endear his memory to many of the poorer classes.

As a member of the Masonic Order, of whose mysteries he was an ardent and devoted disciple, and in whose ranks he gained the most elevated posts, he was ever regarded as a faithful and worthy Brother, and his removal will be sincerely deplored by the various members of the craft throughout the country.—*Carlow Sentinel*.

ART UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN.—Our readers will learn through our advertising columns, that Tuesday, the 17th of this month is the last day for obtaining tickets for the drawing of this Art Union, which takes place on the 28th. We understand that the sale of tickets has again exceeded any previous drawing, and although there are this year three more societies of a similar kind before the public, the Art Union of Great Britain will still maintain its position at the head of them all put together. This success is scarcely to be wondered at, when from the list of prizes now in our hand, we find that for a *shilling* a subscriber may obtain a painting, "May Day in the Sixteenth Century," value £150. Failing that, there are two prizes of £50, four of £40, twelve of £30, and upwards, twenty-eight of £20 to £30, ninety-two between £10 and £20, and a whole host of £5; altogether there will be at least 1200 prizes distributed in the ratio of 1 prize to about 68 tickets.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT—Her Majesty and family still continue at Windsor Castle.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The state of the public health in the metropolis continues to be on the whole satisfactory. The number of deaths last week was 1424, which is a near approximation to the average number of the corresponding week for the last ten years. The deaths in the City continue to be considerably below the average. The births for the week were 1791 children, which is about 100 higher than the ten years' average.—A public meeting has been held at Willis's Rooms to consider the propriety of erecting a memorial to the late Lord Herbert. The meeting was very numerous attended, and men of all ranks and parties shared in the proceedings. The chair was occupied by his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief; the first resolution was moved by the Prime Minister, and seconded by General Peel; the second by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and seconded by General Sir John Burgoyne. The other speakers were of equal influence; and the resolution to raise a subscription for the purpose of the memorial was very heartily responded to.—On Monday evening Mr. Bright addressed a very interesting meeting of the Working Men's Educational Institute at Rochdale. The hon. gentleman, who presented the prizes, delivered an interesting and familiar speech on popular education, pointing out the kind of knowledge which was likely to render the most substantial service to the youth of both sexes, and urging them also to take an interest as citizens in the public affairs of their country. He touched upon the war in America, remarking that the evil results of the stoppage of our supply of cotton afforded an example of the mischief resulting from a want of forethought and instruction.—An indication of the near approach of the time when Earl Canning will return to this country is afforded in his recent nomination to the Rangership of Greenwich Park. The office, we need hardly say, is a nominal one, for there are no duties to be discharged; and the emoluments are confined to a residence on Blackheath. The Rangership was last held by the late Earl of Aberdeen, and Lord Canning has certainly earned this mark of the Royal honour by the way in which he has discharged the unusually arduous duties of his Viceroyalty of India.—The Attorney General has declined the puisne judgeship vacant by the resignation of Mr. Justice Hill. It is understood that the offer was made to him but that he declined it. The seat on the bench has been conferred on Mr. Mellor, the Queen's Counsel, which causes a vacancy in the representation of Nottingham. Our brother the Earl of Lincoln is spoken of as a candidate. A serious attempt to defraud the Ordnance Office in Ireland was brought to trial last week in Dublin. A clerk in the office appears to have systematically increased the charges of a contractor, sometimes by altering the figures, sometimes by interpolating items in his bill of work which were not originally charged, and which in fact had not been done. The contractor always drew for the higher and fraudulent amount. They were indicted for conspiracy, of which the clerk was convicted, but the contractor was found guilty of fraud only, and, further, recommended to mercy.—We learn from Plymouth that the American ship *Lady Franklin*, 1300 tons, has caught fire in that port, and that she has had to be scuttled. Some of the crew are suspected of having set fire to it.—A sad calamity occurred near Reigate, on Saturday morning, in the burning down of a private lunatic asylum, where there were seven patients. Two of these are missing; the fate of one is too certain, as his charred remains were discovered in the ruins; it is supposed the other, in the excitement of the scene, made his escape.—Inkpen, who was lately found guilty of murdering the servant girl, at Deptford, by jumping with her into the Surrey Canal, has been respited on the capital punishment.—There is now every prospect of Troop Sergeant Major Kennedy, who was shot by a soldier for turning him out of some private theatricals, recovering from the wound. His cowardly assailant

has been again brought before the magistrates, but as his victim cannot yet be pronounced completely out of danger, and is not able to attend and give evidence, another remand took place.—Sheffield continues to distinguish itself in the unenviable character of being the very focus and centre of trades union outrages. Between Saturday night and Sunday morning a milk can, charged with gunpowder, was thrown into the cellar of a manufactory where one non-union man was employed. The explosion did much injury to the building.—Some boatmen at the mouth of the Thames were charged last week with wrecking a ship laden with tallow that had gone ashore on the Middle Swin Sand. The defence set up was that the ship was abandoned by her crew, and the cargo therefore became the prize of the first comer. The magistrates fined the prisoners £100 each man. The value of the property was about £10,000.—Another terrible calamity has occurred on an American ship at sea. The crew of a vessel have been taken into custody at Cardiff, charged with the murder of a mate and another person on board. The prisoners are now in Cardiff gaol, and are to be transferred to the American authorities.—An important motion has just been made before Vice-Chancellor Wood, having reference to the marriage of Mr. Windham, the young man against whom proceedings in lunacy are pending. The terms of the motion were, that Mrs. Windham, formerly Ann Rogers, and Mr. May, a solicitor, should be adjudged guilty of contempt of the court, for having abetted the marriage of Mr. Windham and the preparation of his marriage settlements while he was yet a minor, and without having obtained the sanction either of his guardian or the Court of Chancery. The Vice-Chancellor reviewed the facts of the case at great length, and while declining to accede to the application as it regarded Mr. May, he made some strong observations on that gentleman's conduct in the transaction, and left him to pay his own costs. We gather that after this decision the proceedings against Mr. Windham will be dropped.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The French Senate assembled on Monday, and a draught of a *senatus consultum*, modifying the constitution in the manner promised by the Emperor's letter to M. Fould, was laid upon the table by order of the government.—The whole of the Paris press view the insult offered to us as one that demands the fullest reparation on the part of the Washington Government. Hardly any other subject is discussed by the journals. The general attitude of the French press may be briefly characterised as similar to that generally taken in England.—News of war comes from Genoa,—or rather news of a preparedness for war. Garibaldi is taking a more active part in affairs, and having visited the Central Italian Committee, of which he is president, he addressed a large crowd that assembled before his house, concluding with the ominous words, "With you it must be deeds, not words. At the moment of battle I shall be with you."—A despatch from Rome makes the almost incredible assertion, that the Pope's government, not satisfied with lending the aid and countenance of its lay agents to the brigands who infest the Neapolitan provinces, has issued a circular enjoining bishops to afford the Bourbonists all the assistance in their power.—The debate in the Belgian Chamber of Deputies on the recognition of the kingdom of Italy, terminated by the adoption of an amendment to the effect that Belgium, faithful to her position as a neutral power, should abstain, as she always had done, from interfering in the affairs of other nations. The amendment was carried by 62 votes against 47.—The Porte has communicated to the Great Powers the firman which provides for the union of Moldavia and Wallachia during the life of the present Hospodar.—A fire has just raged at Antwerp which appear to have destroyed a vast amount of property. The ships in the basin luckily succeeded in getting out before the flames reached any of them. Unfortunately, however, a considerable loss of life is reported. At least seven or eight persons—some accounts say many more—have perished in striving to extinguish the conflagration.

MEXICO.—The Government, it is said, has received information of the agreement of Mexico to a convention by which our requirements are, one and all, fully conceded. Sir Charles Wyke has been able to negotiate and conclude terms by which full satisfaction is given to us. We are to have compensation for outrages, the repayment of money stolen, and the fulfilment of the engagements which the Mexican Government has, by treaty, stipulated towards the bondholders; This anticipatory step of the Mexican Government will, however, not affect the measures which the allies have taken for enforcing their respective rights; but if we can obtain what we demand without having recourse to physical force so much the better.

AMERICA.—The New York journals brought by the *Persia*, were busily occupied with the seizure of the Confederate Commissioners on board the *Trent*. They maintained that Captain Wilkes did no more than he was legally entitled to do, and that the *Trent* herself might have been lawfully made a prize for conveying "rebel dispatches." They further proposed that Captain Wilkes should be promoted, and that testimonials should be presented to him "for his spirited conduct." The *New York Herald*, however, in an article published on the 17th ult., the morrow of the day on which the news was received in New York—says, "It is evident Commodore Wilkes was not authorised to make the arrests on board of a British ship, and it is more than probable that the government will disavow the proceeding, apologise for it, promise never to do it again, and perhaps reprimand the naval officer for allowing his zeal to outstrip his discretion." Those demands are all which England, according to the writer, can fairly make; and "as for giving up Mason and Slidell, now that they are in hands of our government, that is another affair, and altogether out of the question." But on the 19th, the *New York Herald*, in its usual braggart tone, declared that the Federal government ought to prepare for war, and demand from Congress 500,000 more volunteers and money to build several hundred vessels of war. The Washington cabinet would thus be prepared for any contingency, although "there is little probability that England will care to risk hostilities with us," as "it has too little to gain and too much too much to lose by fighting with the United States." If, however, we may believe the Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*, Lord Lyons expresses a belief that Mr. Slidell and Mr. Mason, who have been sent as state prisoners to Fort Warren, will be given up to England. As to the progress of the civil war, the *Persia* bring us no intelligence of much interest, no movement having been made by either of the hostile armies on the banks of the Potomac. The Confederate General Floyd is said to have retired from the position which he held at Gauley Bridge, in Western Virginia; and the Federal General Rosencranz is to pursue him "as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made." It appears that the Federal troops do not actually occupy the town of Beaufort, although Federal men-of-war are lying off the place, which has been visited by Federal officers, and which the Confederates threaten to burn if the Northerners should disembark a force there. A fresh attack on the Northern troops quartered outside Fort Pickens, on Santa Rosa Island, has been repulsed. General Dix has landed a body of 4,000 Federal troops on the eastern shore of Virginia, and they are said to have been well received by the people of Accomac and Northampton counties. Mr. Jefferson Davis has been unanimously re-elected President of the Southern Confederacy for a term of six years.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.—The law officers of the Crown have decided that the commander of the Federal ship of war, *San Jacinto*, committed a breach of the law of nations in summarily seizing Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and their two friends, while they were under the protection of the British flag. The opinion of the jurists, to whom the case was referred by the Government, is, that the right of the Federal government, acting through its

officers, was confined to searching and visiting the *Trent*, and that if any men or things believed to be contraband of war had been found on board her, the proper course was to take the ship into port, and argue the question before a constituted tribunal. The ministers sent out instructions to Lord Lyons requiring him to demand reparation from the American Government for the outrage offered to our flag.—General Scott, who is now in Paris, has written to deny that the Washington Cabinet gave orders to seize the Confederate commissioners; he also maintains the desirability of preserving the good relations of England and America, and expresses his opinion that more serious provocation than the present is required before the two countries go to war.—A *London Gazette Extraordinary* has been published, containing a Royal Proclamation forbidding the exportation from the United Kingdom of arms, ammunition and military stores of all kinds. An order in Council prohibits the exportation of the same *materiel* of war from the Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark, and the Isle of Man, except by license of the governors of those islands.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

With the MAGAZINE, of Nov. 2, a beautiful Steel Engraving of the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.G., P.D.G.M., in full Masonic costume, was presented gratuitously to every subscriber to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

The Engraving has been executed in the highest style of art, by Posselwhite, from a photograph by Mayall.

A few copies for framing (suitable for lodge and other presents) may be had as follows;—

India Proofs, before letters (which must be ordered immediately)	7 6
India Proofs (after letters)	5 0
Large Plate Paper	3 0

A few proof impressions of the Right Hon. Earl of Zetland, G. Master, may still be had: India paper, 5s.; large plate paper, 8s.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND OTHERS.—All remittances by cheque, post, office orders, &c., are to be made payable to the Proprietor, Mr. WILLIAM SMITH, C.E., 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.

COMMUNICATIONS for the EDITOR to be addressed to H. G. WARREN Esq., 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.

ALL ORDERS or Communications with respect to the publishing department to be addressed to the Publisher, 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.

CURIOSO has discovered a mares-nest. We did not allude to the house No. 59, occupied by the furniture dealers, as having cost the Craft £2000, and £300 for repairs, to be let for £30 a year, but to No. 60, which so far as two floors are concerned, now forms part of the Tavern. Next time Curioso attends his lodge we would advise him to cross the road and look at the upper part of the said house. After which we shall be glad to hear from him again.

C.B.—We do not know whether Mr. Charles Kean is, or is not a Mason, some brother may perhaps be able authoritatively to inform you us. On the other point we will make inquiries.