

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1862.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

Coming events cast their shadows before, and we have already indications that the Grand Lodge property will give rise to some animated, and, we trust, interesting discussions in Grand Lodge.

In another column will be found a letter from Bro. Meymott, one of the members of the sub-committee of the Board of General Purposes, whose report we published last week, denying that it was unanimously agreed to, or in fact, it being anything more than the report of the chairman of the committee; and we also publish an address which is being circulated amongst the Craft, signed "An old P.M. and a member of Grand Lodge," and which, though issued anonymously, bears inward evidence of its authorship.

As a rule, we object to anonymous addresses being issued in Freemasonry, but if the author does not wish his name to appear, we do not care to lift the veil under which he thinks fit to write.

In one point we agree with the writer of the letter, as all who read the Magazine must be aware, viz.: that it would be most advantageous to the Craft for the tavern to be carried to the west of the present site, and the old property re-adapted for Masonic purposes, believing that it would be the most economical, and that tenants might readily be found to take the property to the west of the present tavern, and build a new one, without involving the Craft in any large expenditure.

On another point we disagree, both with the report of the building committee, and the "Past Master of thirty years' standing," viz.: that the Masonic coffee-room should be in the tavern, believing that we can never secure entire independence from intrusion by general customers, excepting it is on our own property, distinct from the tavern; but how far the general scheme of the sub-committee of the Board of General Purposes is practicable, we as yet give no opinion, though we feel that it will require considerable modification before it can be adopted for Grand Lodge.

On Wednesday next, we believe it will be proposed to defer the consideration of the report to a Special Grand Lodge, to be called for the purpose, on which we presume the motion of which notice has been given by Bro. Lloyd, that the question be referred to a Select Committee of seven, will be proposed as an amendment. Should that course be adopted, we warn the brethren to weigh well the consequences of carrying the amendment before the general principles of the scheme have been discussed in Grand Lodge, and their practicability or impracticability fully demonstrated. We have long since expressed our opinion that the further consideration and carrying

out of any plans for the reconstruction of our property, should be taken out of the hands of the Board of General Purposes, and intrusted to a committee appointed for the purpose—but we feel strongly that the time for the appointment of the committee, will be after, and not before, some general principles for the re-arrangement of the property have been agreed to by the Grand Lodge—and this we trust is the course which will be pursued.

At the same time the brethren must be careful if a committee be appointed to see who are placed upon it, as its should be a *sine quâ non* to exclude all architects and every person who has presented plans of their own, giving to the committee, however, full power to examine and consult all such persons, and, above all, pay them for their time and advice, Freemasons having no more right to expect to obtain professional opinions gratis than any other class of her Majesty's subjects.

Whatever is done now should be well done, in order that we may not have hereafter to complain either that the Craft have not found proper accommodation, or the Tavern is not properly arranged, alike for the interests of the lessees, the comfort of the brethren, and of the general customers. We trust, therefore, that no question of £1000 or £2000, more or less, will be allowed to interfere with our having the best plan that can be possibly obtained; and that having been duly considered, weighed, and agreed upon, it may then be deputed to a properly selected committee to carry out with the utmost vigour and decision.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LVI.

X.—VESTA AND DECEMBER.

The frequent absence and apparent neglect of the God of Love, occasioned sore and bitter vexation and heartburning to the Goddess of Beauty; she found her attractions losing their hold upon her admirers; her rule as a queen day by day diminishing her subjects exhibiting no longer a lively and enduring interest in her welfare, nor congregating with enthusiasm to greet her in private or public. Her son's taciturnity and continual absence became not only incomprehensible, but suspiciously alarming to her. She therefore, attended by the spirits of Vanity, Suspicion, and Jealousy, summoned Inquisitiveness before her, and ordered that prying spirit to keep an especial espionage upon the movements of Cupid, and make her acquainted with them. At the close of every evening the God of Love continued his invisible visits to Psyche in the palace of her happy isle, and departed with the opening of the morning. The absence of his company, and ever-varied tender and charming conversation, soon began to cause, like summer clouds on the shining sky, drooping and defecting phases on the bright enjoyment of Psyche's existence; she grew more and more in love with Cupid, and looked forward with anxious anticipation for the celestial music and the shades of night that

announced his return, and the nearer approach of their promised union.

Thus was Psyche happy; she had no desire to see her lover—but as yet only a brief period had elapsed, and Cupid had not consented to her holding any communication with her relations. On the contrary, on pain of impending ruin, he fervently warned her to receive no visitors for the present. To depart from these injunctions Psyche probably had no particular desire, but being left by herself, she could not but at times feel lonely; it was, perhaps, therefore not without some apparent pleasure Psyche one evening informed Cupid that she had encountered a stranger near her grotto, who assured her she was the Nymph of the Grove, and could tell all that was to happen, or she might wish to happen to her, she being able to predict future events. Cupid, with manifest consternation, assured Psyche he was convinced the so-called visible goddess was the presiding oracle of one of the idolatrous shrines which had just been set up by men. "Let me persuade you, my sweet Psyche," he said, "it would be the cause of much unhappiness to you should she induce you to follow her advice. For our mutual good, and as you value our unalterable love, depend upon my word of warning—you had better refuse to have any intercourse with her, or any of her likeness." Psyche promised to be upon her guard, yet she mentally concluded that there could be little or no harm in forming an acquaintance with one so youthful, condescending, and attractive in appearance as this professed fortune-telling Dryade.

On the following morning the Nymph of the Grove called at the palace, and, as might be surmised, Psyche thought she would be acting unkindly in objecting to see her. In fact, the guileless spirit was no match for the subtle goddess. Consequently, the latter soon obtained from her victim all she was desirous of knowing concerning her. This point gained, Psyche was secretly laughed at by the Goddess. Dissembling, however, she artfully observed that the inexplicable contrivance insisted on by her highly eccentric, if not sly adorer, of preventing her recognition of him was enough, she should think, to dissipate all the pleasures by which she was surrounded. "So to act," she said, "he might be the most hideous of monsters; and I cannot refrain from telling you it is rumoured he is as malignant as he is known to be capricious. I suggest that you can at least manage just to take a peep at him when he is asleep; behold, in case he should attempt to murder you, I leave with you this golden poignard." So saying, she disappeared from off the seat she had occupied, like a vision.

Spiteful curiosity, or the tempting spirit of Inquisitiveness had now entered the embodiment of the soul of Psyche, the affianced one, though not yet united to the God of Love. Contrary, therefore, to the affectionate prohibitions of Cupid, Psyche impatiently waited for the moment of stealing upon his sleep. With lamp in one hand, and the golden weapon in the other, she cautiously advanced unto the couch whereon he calmly slumbered. So great then and ecstatic became her astonishment on seeing and contemplating the heavenly fairness and serene beauty of the reposing God, that her armed hand relaxed its grasp, and the fatal poignard in its fall, wounding Love's breast, awoke him. "Ungrateful and unhappy Psyche," exclaimed Cupid, with sorrowful concern, on beholding her dis-

obedience, "the Queen Venus, my mother, envious and offended with all she has heard respecting you, commanded me to attach you to a monster for a help-mate, and I, seeing you, betrothed you to myself. How have you rewarded my unfailing tenderness? This bleeding wound in my breast may be typical of woman's affections; I go hence; great are the trials in store for you; we may never more see each other or meet again; most sad is my farewell!" Thus reproachfully condemning her conduct, he made himself invisible, and Psyche felt he had abandoned her.

Insufferable was now the dismay and anguish of the wretched mortalised Goddess, or Spirit, the Princess Psyche. Distractedly, and not knowing what she did, she rushed forth from her palace, and would have destroyed herself by a leap from a precipice, or into the sea, had not her agony of mind brought on a *coma* or fainting fit, and the restoring relief of a swoon, deep and death-like, into which she sank.

MASONIC FACTS.

(Continued from p. 405).

230. The celebrated Monastery of Batalha, Portugal, commenced about 1388.—A Portuguese historian (Joze Soares de Sylva) says that the architect was named David Hacket, who then lived in Vianna de Caminha as may be seen in one of the memoirs of Fr. Antonio de Madureira, a Dominican Friar and a celebrated genealogist. Fr. Luis de Souza, the historian of the Monastery, says that the King (Don John) invited from distant countries the most celebrated architects that could be found, and collected from all parts the most dexterous and skilful stone-cutters; to some he held out honours, to some great wages, and to some both. The King ordered an agent, with the title of Surveyor, of the Works, to reside in the vicinity, to

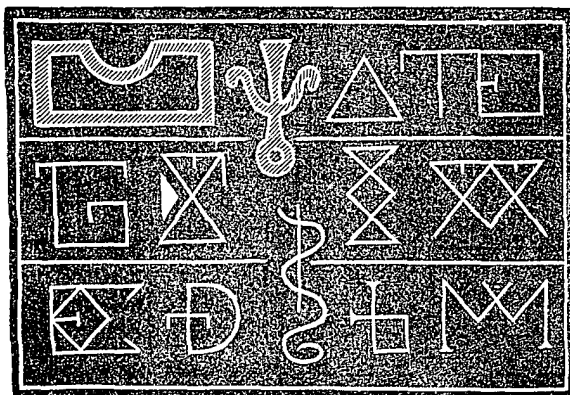


Fig. 66.—Masons' Marks from the Batalha.

whom a great number of workmen of different trades, were allowed, as often as there was necessity, to build or repair any part; these he honoured with certain exemptions and privileges. And that there might be no fault or delays in accomplishing everything that was wanting, he commanded that they should be numerous, to wit 125 stone-cutters, 56 quarrymen, 20 carters, 10 labourers, 1 smith, and only 2 carpenters, there being no timber in the structure excepting the doors.

For this class of people and their attendants, the honour of the privileges granted to them, was sufficient to make them always ready, without any other inducement, because their privileges were always highly esteemed; but when actually employed, they were paid their ordinary wages besides.

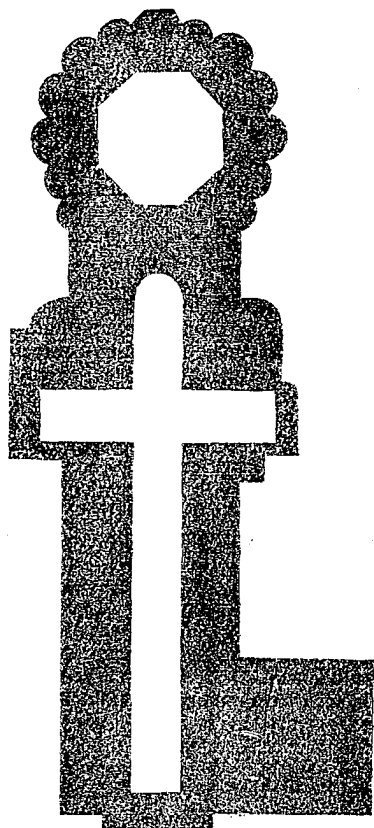


Fig. 60.—The Bathalha, Portugal.
200 feet = 1 inch.

Near the entrance of the church are the names of the following workmen who are there interred.

"First Master Workmen."

Mestre Matheos—Portuguese, 1515.

Mestre Congiate, a Stranger.

Conrado

First Master Workmen for the windows:

Mestre Ugado, a Stranger.

" Whitaker

—Murphy's "Batalha, 1795.

Fig. 65. Plan of the Church of Batalha.

Fig. 66. Masons' Marks from different parts of the church.

A NICE CLIMATE.—A correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing from Nice, May 9, says:—"Our season has been a gay one; an immense increase of visitors, and an introduction of Parisian habits and customs, which makes everything more expensive, if more luxurious, than when Nice was Italian. It is now getting very hot, but what a garden! Such gigantic roses—large as saucers. There are yells roses too. The orange flowers are being gathered; so delicious the smell is, I go every day where the market is held, and where there sacks of them at three sous the kilo. We have been eating peas, asparagus, and new potatoes for weeks past. We have now the large, fresh strawberry; cherries are coming in; also the *æfle de japon*, and the green figs. Do you know the former fruit? We have had gooseberry puddings and tarts, and almost every day I have my five sous ice. These are the cheap things of Nice.

ARCHITECTURE OF PALESTINE FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE CRUSADES.

The Sepulchral Valley of the Jews at Jerusalem.

In close proximity with the sepulchres of the Jews, on the north, lies a valley, which must be traversed to reach Neby Samuil, the ancient Ramah, the dwelling-place of the prophet Samuel. A short distance from valley, eastward, are found portions of a wall, composed of large rectangular stones, roughly put together, without cement, mortice, or iron. Among them exists a doorway, 6 feet wide and 12 feet high, the sideposts of which are each composed of a single stone, and support a monolith architrave, 3 feet high, resting upon them without cement. It bears a resemblance, on a very small scale, to the door of the Treasury of Atreus, at Mycenæ. Of such constructions no trace is found after the period of Solomon. Throughout the whole of Palestine nothing is to be seen so ancient as those I have just described, and which I believe to be anterior to Solomon.

The works transmitted to us by the patriarchs are necropolises, hewn out of the rock to serve for receptacles for the dead, as at Hebron; monuments erected over graves, like those of Rachel, at Ephratha, and Joseph, at Sichem, formed of simple stones and without inscription; mausoleums, like that of Absalom, at Jerusalem; the level surfaces used as threshing-floors, as at Ramah and Gibeah; and, finally, the vast reservoirs, as on the way to Hebron. In all these works, perseverance and strength to overcome the resistance of the stone are plainly apparent; but the taste and genius of art totally wanting.

Sepulchre of Samuel, in Ramah.

It will not be out of place here to describe the construction of the Sepulchre of Samuel, in Ramah, which I have minutely examined. In ancient Ramah, now a village called in Arabic Neby Samuil, exists a mosque, which was formerly a church, built by the Crusaders. The walls of this building are far from corresponding with the magnificence of its foundations, formed of enormous blocks of stone, which, though defaced, still show traces of careful and elaborate rustication. On the south-west side of this building stands another of the same period. This contains, or rather covers, the rock in which is the prophet's sepulchre. By a door, formed of iron grating, opened for me by the devesh in charge, I entered a chamber cut in the rock. In the centre of this chamber is an enormous sarcophagus, which I recognized at a glance as a specimen of Moslem architecture, and which is the same that is exhibited with so much pretension and mystery through a hole traversing the entire thickness of the rock, to persons not permitted to set foot upon the rock overlying the tomb of the prophet, but who are obliged to be content with remaining in the upper room, where there is another sarcophagus of wood. This sight did not, however, suffice for me. Upon examining the court, I perceived an opening 10 inches in diameter, running through the rock and communicating with a lower chamber, which was utterly dark. Besides that, I saw a passage railed off with iron bars; and inferred, from the rusty state of the gate, that the dervish himself never ventured to visit the old prophet, whom the Mussulmans declare to be still alive. All my endeavours to induce my guide to open this gate were fruitless. Though he persisted in seeking to compel me to retire, I accomplished my investigation, as well as I could, without him. By means of lighted paper thrown down the whole to which I have alluded, I discovered the existence, in the centre of the cavern, of a sarcophagus of whitish stone, of rectangular form at its base, surmounted by a triangular prism, without ornament or inscription. The walls of the sepulchral chamber were smooth, like those of the one in which I was. The smoothness retained the appear-

ance of having been produced by a machine furnished with iron points, and which acted with a rotatory motion. I made the same observation from the horizontal grating, and perceived that the steps were cut in the rock itself. It is under the sarcophagus that the tomb, cut vertically in the rock, must be sought. In my examination I was favoured by fortune, or rather by the humidity of the place itself. Had it not been for this, the lighted paper which I employed would have ignited the petition addressed to the prophet, and I should have been subjected to the wrath, not only of the custodian, but of the whole village.

From the Period of Solomon to Herod.

During the times of David and Solomon luxury increased among the Jews. The arts and industry greatly improved under the influence of Phœnician artists and craftsmen, who came to Judea in large numbers, and afforded the Hebrews the opportunity of learning their arts. Of the works accomplished by David we have no indications or trace remaining. No doubt can be entertained that he furnished the means and planned the localities, and that his ideas were carried into execution by Solomon. The latter was not occupied, like the former, in fighting against enemies and founding new institutions; and, therefore, was at liberty to devote his wisdom and energy to the augmentation of the splendour of his kingdom by the erection of stupendous buildings, by commercial enterprize, and by the encouragement of luxury little in keeping with the constitution of the country. But of all his great works, what remains have we? The scripture informs us: Nebuchadnezzar converted them into a heap of ruins by fire; employed men to raze the walls and fortifications; and carried the people into captivity. In the reign of Cyrus, fifty-two years afterwards and 536 years before Jesus Christ, the exiles returned to their native land; rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple of the Lord, which did not equal the first in splendour; in consequence of which Herod substituted for it one far grander. The whole of the long period which elapsed between Solomon and Herod is utterly unproductive of monumental remains. We have certainly not a building, perhaps not even a capital, of the time. Of the latter, however, I speak doubtfully. The capital of the monolith found under the mosque of Aksa is at present the subject of serious study and investigation, with a view to assigning it to the Solomonic or Herodian epoch. In Jerusalem and Palestine in general, we have only blocks of worked stones, walls, reservoirs, and aqueducts of the period in question to discuss; and of these I will now proceed to speak.

The existing walls of Jerusalem, especially on the east, mark the various epochs at which they were built. At their base I recognise the work of Solomon's period: higher up, some portions of the walls as rebuilt after the captivity. Other parts show the refined workmanship of the Herodian age, while Roman and Saracenic work is not rare. The character of the Solomonic walls, are alluded to by Flavius Josephus (book xv. chap. 31, 3), I recognised, on examining the stones forming the foundation of the actual walls of Jerusalem, on the east, on which side I made deep excavations, in order to satisfy myself of the fact. The large stones composing the foundations vary in length, and are squared with some degree of exactitude. They have a smooth border round the rustication, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The rustication itself projects about 3 inches. The stones are joined together by means of mortices cut in the stones, or by cubical clamps of lead and iron, but no sort of cement is apparent. Above the foundation, stones are seen in relief; hence, those portions of the wall in which the courses of vertical and horizontal stones are uniform and well joined, I call Solomonic; but where the construction is irregular, and the external surface of the stones shows the mortices for the tenons, or for the clamp, I assign them to the epoch subsequent to the

captivity. At that period the walls were rebuilt in the greatest haste to resist the attacks of an enemy who might appear at any moment, as we find from the Book of Nehemiah. Hence the inequality in their construction and the laying of the stones face downwards.

The rustication, then, I attribute to Solomon, who undoubtedly employed it in a rough state in the foundations, as is clearly apparent; and also in the building of the towers; and, more finely executed, in the construction of the rest of the wall of the enclosure. The reason why so few remains of external walls of Solomon's time are to be seen may be found in the devastations of fire, Vandalism, successive repairs, and the new conformation given to the stones during the period of Herod and Justinian. This I shall presently point out, and show that Herod himself employed rustication in some parts of his fortifications.

Speaking of the working of the stones of which the Temple was built, Josephus remarks that they were polished and joined together in such a way that it was impossible to discover the joins. Of this no vestige remains in Jerusalem. Time, fire, and man have never spared the eternal city, and we are compelled to turn elsewhere for other relics which evidence science and genius.

Solomon's Reservoirs in Etham.

To the south of Bethlehem, and at an hour's distance from it, upon the west side of the road which leads to Hebron, stands a ruined Mediæval castle. This ruin looks as if it stood sentinel over three large reservoirs, which are not only, without doubt, the grandest work existing in Palestine; but are also, indubitably, of high antiquity, and may safely be assigned to the Solomonic era, in accordance with tradition. It is remarkable that neither the Bible nor Josephus directly describes them. The latter, however, in his "Antiquities" (viii. 7, 3), mentions a city called Etham, where was erected the summer palace of Solomon, of which the rabbis give so glowing a description. It is probably this palace which is referred to in Ecclesiastes iii. 4, 5, 6. Of the magnificent grounds nothing remains but some land under excellent cultivation by Mr. Meshullam. This spot, which is situate to the east of the reservoirs, and in the northern continuation of the valley, retains the name of the enclosed garden (Can., 4, 12), in honour of Solomon. At various times, among others in May, 1861., Meshullam, in digging the ground for cultivation, has met with the remains of ancient walls, reservoirs, and aqueducts cut in the rock.

The three great basins are situate in the valley of Etham, which runs down from west to east with a very steep slope. They are fed by the rain-water that flows down from the two sides of the mountains, and from a fountain situate to the west of the castle, in a direct line to its northern side, at a distance of about 450 feet. I state this because the entrance to the fountain, which is circular in form, is hidden by stones, and difficult to find. Solomon probably alludes to this very fountain in his song (iv., 12), and it is still called the *Sealed Fountain*. All the three reservoirs are cut out of the solid rock. In some parts they still retain a cement so hard that twenty-nine centuries have been unable to exercise any destructive force upon it. It seems perfectly clear that the primary object of the construction of these reservoirs was the supply of Jerusalem with water, as Mount Moriah is at the present time supplied, in consequence of restorations directed by myself. It is a subject of great regret that the repairs which have several times been executed are never suffered to continue long undisturbed, because the shepherds, Fellahs, or peasants, and Bedouins, continually destroy portions of the conduit, in order to procure the water for their own private wants; and it is difficult in an Arab country to maintain a proper watch over a circuitous line of about 15,000 yards. However solemnly the guardians may promise to fulfil the duties which they undertake,

they are easily induced to slumber under the influence of the god baksheesh.

The first reservoir to the west is 393 feet long: its average breadth is 225 feet, and its average depth 30 feet. The second, distant about 158 feet from the first, is 432 feet long, its width 225 feet, and average depth 42 feet. At a distance from this of 186 feet is the last, 477 feet long, 213 feet in average width, and in average depth 58 feet. All three, unitedly, occupy a square superficies of 179,541 feet, and 12,089,450 cubic feet of the rock from which they are formed. What conqueror or ruler of Palestine could execute so stupendous a work? It must be allowed that the glory of having effected it is due alone to Solomon's genius. But it is not only in the construction of these water-receptacles that hydraulic knowledge and science are apparent. More especially are they displayed in the vast ramifications of the conduits which convey the water from great distances and various quarters; in the formation of various water towers; in the contrivance for filtration; in the manner with which the water is introduced without the least waste; and, finally, in the mode of its conveyance through the conduits to Jerusalem. I am sorry to be prevented by the pressure of time from entering into all these details; but I must not pass over the principal without more special mention. The others may be learned from a paper which it is my intention to print before long.

Let us return to the *Sealed Fountain*, enter it by the opening, and descend a sufficiently incommodious passage for about 14 feet. At the extremity we come to a rectangular chamber 18 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 20 feet high, whose lateral walls are formed of large Solomonic stones. At the base they are rusticated, and on the upper surface smooth. The vault is a round arch, constructed of large stones, laid in horizontal courses; nor does the key-stone show. No cement is used in the construction. In the middle of the western wall is another aperture, which leads to a small cavern where a stream issues out of the rock. At the western corners are two other openings in which springs are seen dripping from the rock. These three fountains deliver themselves into the rectangular chamber, in the middle of which is a reservoir to receive them. In this basin they are filtered previously to passing into the large conduit, which commences at the eastern wall. The conduit is cut in the rock for a great distance; but the upper part, as it approaches the old castle, is covered with large flat slabs. It is 3 feet wide and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. The waters of this conduit fall a distance of 20 feet at the north-west corner of the upper reservoir, where they are caught in a basin. From thence one part of the water is turned into the first pool, while another portion is conveyed by the aqueduct, which runs parallel with the reservoirs to the point at which the waters of the reservoirs enter the water tower, whence they proceed, by the conduit, to Jerusalem.

When the reservoirs are so full that they can receive no more water, to avoid waste the water is received in the basin near the castle, where there is a third aperture leading into a subterranean chamber. Here it unites with the other water, forms a new stream, and all flows together through a subterranean conduit dug in the rock, to supply the water-tower from whence the conduit for Jerusalem runs. From the same point proceeds another conduit, which passes southward, at a distance of 600 feet from the third reservoir. This, in case of great abundance of water, could be directed into the valley for irrigation. The whole system of aqueducts has ceased to be of use because the streams are not abundant; indeed, alone they would be quite inadequate to feed such vast receptacles. During the eight years of my stay, it was only once,—in 1860,—that I saw the three reservoirs full. At other times, it is the second only that has water, and not always that. The whole length of the conduit running to Jerusalem is covered

with large stones. In some parts, it is constructed of masonry; in others, formed in the rock; and, in a few small portions, it consists of terra-cotta tubes, of which I believe it to have been entirely formed originally. I must beg to be excused, on the ground of want of time, if I enter into no further details in connexion with this interesting topic.

Mosque of Abraham, at Hebron.

In Hebron, as every one is aware, is the Cave of Machpelah, purchased by Abraham, and appropriated by him as a sepulchre for himself and his descendants. This cave is surrounded by a wall of the highest antiquity: but the precise date of its origin has not been stated by any writer. I have no hesitation in following the Arab chronicles of the sixth and seventh centuries, as well as the traditions of the country, and declaring it to be of the Solomonic, and not of the Herodian, age. At the time of Josephus ("Wars of the Jews," book, 4, ix. 11), the monuments of the patriarchs, in beautiful marble and of elegant construction, were still seen. Now, had they been erected by Herod, the historian would not have omitted to describe them, when he speaks of other important works executed by the same sovereign, since he wrote not very long after the period, and was ever ready to magnify the monumental works of the Hebrew. We may reasonably infer that he does not describe it as Solomon's, because the fact was perfectly well known in his time; as Eusebius and Jerome, for the same reason, are silent about it when they name Abraham's sepulchre. Some have fancifully attributed it to St. Helen, but it would appear that they have overlooked the assertion of Pelgrim, of Bordeaux, who visited Hebron in 333, and describes this surrounding wall as constructed of stones of enormous size. Antoninus, the martyr, in the sixth century, makes like mention of it, but does not say that it was the work of the Byzantine empress.

The north and south sides of the wall are 198 feet long: their width, from east to west, is 48 feet. The walls are ornamented with buttresses of the uniform width of 4 feet, except at the corners, where it is double. All project 3 inches from the plain surface of the work. They are not ornamented with capitals, but support a cornice in high relief, composed of two fillets and a cyma reversa and were evidently added subsequently to the formation of the wall, for the express purpose of separating the old and the new. The latter, of Arab construction, is it easy to see was built only to conceal the inclosure from view. The whole wall is formed of regular courses of enormous stones, perfectly squared and rusticated, five lines projecting in relief, and which diminish in size in proportion to their elevation; each row receding five lines from the row immediately below. There are masses, and not a few, which measure 10 feet in length and 5 feet in height. This external form is maintained in the interior, without the buttresses. The thickness of the walls $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet at the base, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet above. As far as I had the opportunity of examining, two stones appear, in general, to form the thickness; while in some cases a single one occupies the whole thickness. No cement is used in uniting the stones. The little which is apparent on the exterior has been placed there by the Arabs, as they themselves say, to prevent the rain from penetrating to the interior. Should any one offer objections to my opinion, I shall be greatly obliged, and shall avail myself of them on my return to Hebron to renew my researches and studies.

Epoch of Herod.

Herod struggled all his life long to secure the title of the Great; yet he was nothing more than the magnificent slave of the Romans, who allowed him fetters of gold. But from the country and posterity he will deserve the epithet "great," in consideration of the sumptuous monuments erected by him. Little does it matter to us, in our examinations, that they were proofs of his servility or his ambition. Let us proceed to

examine them. Some masses of ruins, some trunk of columns, walls, solid foundations, sepulchres built or embellished, and the basements of towers, but no one entire edifice, nor any ornamented one. It is undeniable that Palestine is a sepulchre of edifices, as of individuals.

In Jerusalem we find, belonging to this glorious porch, some portions, of the wall surrounding Moriah, on the eastern and western sides; the entire plan of the construction of the Phazaelus; some few remnants of the solid masonry of the Tower of Psephinus; the remains of two others which flank the North Gate; the existing sub-basement of the Damascus Gate, which I discovered in March, 1861; finally, the embellishments added to the sepulchres of the Valley of Jehosaphat, to the north and south. Of all these mention has been made by those who have written upon Jerusalem down to the present time. Little, therefore, remains for us to say; and I will be as brief as possible. I accept the opinion of Mr. Williams that it is the Appic Tower which remains on the west of the Castle of David, and that of Phazaelus on the east. The latter preserves the architectural type of a Herodian tower, as described by Josephus (book v. 4, 2). It is based upon the rock, which rises 5 feet above the level of the ground, and is covered with masonry of large rusticated stones. Here I observe that Herod, in his fortifications, made use of the Solomonic level, as I could plainly perceive in Herodium, Cesarea, and other places. The Jewish wall rises 31 feet 6 inches above the side of the fosse. Each course of stones recedes by five lines from the base upwards. I would however, remark that in the interior it is 11 feet thick, relatively to the upper level of the east trench, which is 14 feet deep, and measures 40 cubits on each side, reckoning the cubit at about 18 inches. It is, then, the same Tower of Phazael described by the historian, who tell us that Titus ("Wars of the Jews," 7, 11) would have it preserved to show the kind of towers that fortified the city which he had taken by his armies. Some may object that Josephus mentions a cistern, and this is not to be found. But would it be possible to preserve it, in accordance with the system of fortification in use in the Middle Ages? I think not. I meet with nothing in opposition to the idea that the cistern was destroyed in order to gain a clear space of about 20 cubic feet, which would be valuable when soldiers required to be lodged there. It is unnecessary to draw attention to the other towers which flank the Damascus Gate, and which I discovered by means of excavations. With the exception that they are of smaller dimensions, they differ in no respect from those already described. I may, however, say that the gate which I discovered, and which I call the North Gate (Josephus, "Wars of the Jews," 5, 42), is 12 feet wide, and 26 feet high, with a round arch. The stones composing the jambs and the arch are of large dimensions; and this discovery is not so important in an architectural point of view as on account of the ancient city walls of Herod's time. It is one of the most interesting points in support of my opinion, that the walls on the north did not extend beyond the present walls. Not to dwell for ever upon the subject of walls, I will avoid going farther into the matter here; but I will remark that the ancient portions on the eastern side of Moriah, like those at the Jews' Waiting-place, appear to me to bear the Herodian character. I am far from adopting the opinion of M. de Sauley, member of the Institute of France, who believes them to be Solomonic. Their construction shows great perfection, on account of beauty of the materials employed, the regularity of their arrangement, and the vertical joints which rest upon the middle of the corresponding stones in the lower and upper courses; nothing of which is seen nearly so admirably executed in the walls styled Solomonic. In the latter, artistic genius just developing itself is observable: in the former, genius seems to have attained its full growth.

The Golden Gate, to the east of Moriah, is judged to be Herodian from its ornaments; but I am not of that opinion. I know that the Temple and its walls were destroyed by the Romans; and it seems to me impossible that this gate, with its ornamentation, should have escaped the devastation. Its jambs are formed of stones square and not levelled. They of themselves, therefore, furnish proof of having been mortised in the old wall. The ornamented arches are cased with Roman masonry. How then is it possible to suppose them Herodian? Those who take this view do so because the lintels and architraves of the doors are formed of enormous blocks. It is true that this material is Herodian, and this has led to the erroneous induction. I believe that these blocks are remaining portions of the ancient Eastern Gate; and that to them the more recent construction has been applied, formed upon the same plan as the ancient gate. I think so because the foundation wall have been discovered, and because it is said, in the Mishna, that the Eastern Gate was 40 cubits long and 20 wide, and these are exactly its dimensions.

We will now visit the sepulchres in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem. I unhesitatingly confess that I believe the ornamentation of all of them to be of later date than their original construction, and am of opinion that it was added during the Herodian period. I might maintain that the Sepulchres of the Kings were formed by order of that great sovereign for himself and his descendants; but what proofs have we in support of this idea? I hope M. de Sauley will not hear me, since he attributes them to the era of the kings of Judah, to which epoch it was necessary that he should trace them, when he was pleased to characterize the sarcophagus taken from them as that of David, in order that he might deposit it in triumph at the Louvre, in Paris. By parity of reasoning, I have met with the sarcophagi of Solomon and Rehoboam, one of which is, in fact, broken into fragments, while the other serves as a receptacle for water in the Hall of Justice at Jerusalem.

Let us now examine some of the sepulchres in detail. That of Absalom is a cubical monolith, measuring 21 feet on each side. Ionic columns support an entablature ornamented with Doric triglyphs and pateras. Above this frieze is an Egyptian cornice, at which point the monolith ceases. The whole of the upper is in masonry. It is composed of a square dado, surmounted by a cylinder, which is terminated by a torus, representing an enormous twisted cable: the whole is completed by a kind of pyramid, of curved conical form, finish with a bouquet of palm-leaves. The total height of the monument is 53 feet. It exhibits, therefore, a mixture of the Greek and Egyptian styles.

Herod was of Idumean origin, it will be remembered. In Idumea are some monuments which recall Absalom's to mind. At the north-west corner of the vestibule, cut in the rock which surrounds the Tomb of Absalom, is a rich pediment, ornamented with acroters and foliage. That of the Jews, to the north of Jerusalem, is of the same description.

The outer portion of the sepulchre of St. James is supported by two columns and two demipilasters of the Doric order, connected by an architrave, above which is a Doric fascia, ornamented with triglyphs, and surmounted by a cornice. In the Haceldema, to the south of the city, a facsimile of this is seen. The sepulchre of Zachariah is a monolith, each of the sides of which measures 18 feet in width. It is ornamented with two columns in the centre, and two half-columns inserted in a pilaster at the angles. Above is a simple architrave, surmounted by an Egyptian cornice, like that of the sepulchre of Absalom. The whole is surmounted by a quadrangular equilateral pyramid. The total height of the monument is 19 feet. It is to be observed that the eastern side still shows the rough-hewn work, and on the north it is not completely finished.

To visit the Sepulchres of the Kings a court must be entered by a door excavated in the rock, ornamented by a simple fillet in relief. This is underground up to the commencement of the arch. At the extremity of the court is a vestibule, formerly adorned in the interior with two columns, which have been destroyed, partly by an earthquake, partly by violence. Above the vestibule is a fascia in sculpture. The centre of the fascia is ornamented with a bunch of grapes, now sadly mutilated. On the right and left of this is a triple palm, a wreath of olive-leaves and triglyphs, and alternated with patera three times repeated. Above these is a garland of leaves and fruits, which droops at right angles from each side of the aperture of the vestibule. Above the line of the triglyphs is a cornice in a very ruined condition. Can this ornamentation have been executed at the period of the kings of Judah? I believe not; but, if I err, I am open to conviction. Would that we could find something more satisfactory in Samaria, Cesaria, Antipatris, Herodium, Pshazel, and at Castle Cypron; but, excepting some columns, a few ruinous capitals, and immense accumulations of stones, nothing can be discovered of the great Herodian constructions. I therefore turn to a more recent epoch.

(To be continued.)

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

The following circular has been addressed to the members of the Craft anonymously.

BRETHREN,—As an old Past Master of thirty years' standing, and with much Masonic and professional experience extending over that period, I venture to address you on the long-vexed question—"The Grand Lodge Property," and its future appropriation. A report purporting to come from a sub-committee of the Board of General Purposes, called "The Building Committee," has been recently issued, addressed to the Grand Lodge, professing to be unanimous, but which, I am well assured, is not so—several members of the committee having protested against it. The unanimity of the sub-committee, as inferred in the report, is therefore incorrect. Without entering into the particulars of this report as circulated, it is already matter of notoriety that many influential and experienced members of the Board object to its propositions, deny its conclusions, and are prepared to show that whilst it is, and would be enormously costly, it is altogether impracticable, opposed to the teachings of experience, and would, if carried out—from the incompatibility of its several parts—lead to disappointment and grave regret.

Fully sharing in these impressions, I venture to submit for the consideration of the brethren a few plain and practical suggestions, affording the basis of a scheme which, if adopted, would, I believe, be beneficial to the interests of the Craft generally, promote the enlargement and extension of the Charities, aid in the advancement of the daily social comforts and wants of the brethren, be altogether most effectual in its arrangement, and economical in its cost. I will first draw attention to the newly-purchased property on the west of the present large hall—the acquisition of which is due to the wisdom of our late Grand Secretary, in conjunction with other eminent and distinguished members of the Craft, foreseeing, as they did, the wants which have arisen, including the necessity of extended accommodation for the Masonic ceremonies, and a better provision for the general wants of the brethren. This site affords an excellent and sufficient space on which to erect a large and commodious dining hall for festivals and other occasions, a want now so imperatively felt that the charities are endangered by its absence. With these, it is capable also of administering to the daily comforts of the brethren by the erection of commodious coffee and reading rooms, and spacious banqueting apartments,

whilst it would relieve the present portion occupied as the tavern from all public and tavern business, leaving this part of the property for the exclusive use of the Fraternity, in which may be arranged most convenient and excellent lodge and chapter rooms, satisfying the wishes of a large number of brethren who are desirous of having a considerable portion of their property set aside and devoted exclusively to Masonic uses. This portion so appropriated, I may then advert to that most inconvenient and objectionable part of the property as at present arranged in the use of the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and the offices of the society, which I venture to suggest may be so far modified and improved as to afford enlarged apartments for the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, convenient offices in which to conduct the business of the Craft, and also to afford commodious committee rooms for the use of the several Boards, the Lodge of Benevolence, and the Committees of the three charities; thus concentrating the whole business of the Craft upon its own property, economising the time of the brethren, and altogether affording ample accommodation for the exercise of their Masonic rites, and the conduct of all the official business. I will here observe that the Board of General Purposes, emanating as it does from the annual appointment by the Grand Master, and the elected by the Grand Lodge, is a very proper and efficient body for the purpose of taking all matters connected with the customs, usages, and privileges of the Craft into consideration, and for adjudicating thereon, but inasmuch as, from the nature of its constitution, it is a constantly fluctuating body, it cannot be expected to be so well qualified for carrying out the object now under consideration, viz., the best method of appropriating the property of the Grand Lodge, as a specially appointed committee. It seems to me, therefore, that the amendment (having for its objects the appointment of such a Committee) which was proposed at the Board of Masters on Wednesday 21st instant made known through the ordinary channels of communication, and which will come on for discussion at the next Grand Lodge on the 4th of June next, is of vital importance to the interests of the Craft.

This amendment adopted we may then arrive at a satisfactory termination of our present difficulties by the submission of a report for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, which may meet with an unanimous approval. That this most desirable end shall be speedily attained is not only the wish of your correspondent, but I believe also of the whole of the members of the Craft.

Apologizing for this lengthened address,

I am, Brethren,

Yours truly and fraternally,

AN OLD P. M. AND MEMBER OF THE
GRAND LODGE.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

A TRUE HAROD.

IN THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE for May 1857 are some lines by Bro. Giles Fonda Yates on the "Masonic pledges of a true Harod." What is a true Harod and where are such to be found?—HEREDOM.

FEMALE SECRESY.

To those who are so unjust to the fair sex, as to think them incapable of keeping a secret, we offer the following anecdote from the history of Athens: "Several Athenians had formed a secret plan for delivering their country from the yoke of tyranny. A woman, of the name of Lioness, was one among the number sworn to execute the scheme. The tyrant was informed of it: he ordered her to be put to the torture, for the purpose of extorting who were her accomplices. This woman supported the most cruel torments, and, when she found her strength failing, she tore out her tongue for fear the secret might otherwise escape her. After the expulsion of the tyrant, the Athenians, full of gratitude for this

heroine, erected a statue of a lioness without a tongue, in honour of her, and at the bottom of it was written, in large characters 'Virtue triumph'd o'er the sex.'—A PAST MASTER.

SHAM LADY MASONS AND MASONIC SOCIETIES.

In the edition of Amsterdam 1745, of *L'Ordre des Francs Maçons Trahi*, there are many particulars as to sham Masonic societies that admitted ladies. One of these (p. 1) is *L'Ordre de la liberté*, admitting men and women, and of which Moses was alleged to be the founder. The members wore in their button holes a chain with a jewel representing the two tables of the law, but, instead of the ten commandments, having two wings, to signify freedom, with the motto "Virtus dirigit alas." On the other side, he says, was an M for Moses and the date 6743. The author doubts the motto, for he believes "Thou shalt not commit adultery" was omitted purposely. The order of Medusa was established at Toulon by M. de Vibray; that of La Trappe at Arles by M. de Damas de Cravaison; that of the Trancardins by M. L'Ainé, celebrated for his songs; *L'Ordre de la Boisson* in Low Lanquedoc in 1703 by M. de Posquieres, its Grand Master. None of these societies admitted women, and the latter two were toping societies, and the last to such an extent as to be called the "Strict Observance." This was partly a benevolent society, and if the date is correct, it is curious, as taken in connection with the crop of burlesque societies then prevalent in England. At p. 12 in the same book, it may be observed, are given three remarkable examples of Masonic relief, and which are worth translating. It is a curious thing likewise that the author maintains the loyalty even of the French Masons, their homage to the Creator, their respect for constituted authorities, and their avoidance of political and religious topics. It would have been well if French Masons had always adhered to these landmarks. In France in 1745 (p. 20) the lodges were designated by the names of their W.M. He affirms (p. 20), that the Wardens always presided in the absence of the W.M. At banquets (p. 23), initiates had the place of honour, but he says right and left of the W.M. The Wardens were appointed by the W.M. The collars were blue. To return to the main subject, the supplement to the work is entitled, as is well known, *Le Secret des Mopses Révélé*, and gives a whole system of adoptive Masonry. The author says this order was established by German Catholics after the excommunication of Masonry by Pope Clement XII. in 1736, as a means of evading the Bull.—HYDE CLARKE, D. PROV. G.M. TURKEY.

THE ADOPTIVE DEGREE "EASTERN STAR."

Will some one versed in Adoptive degrees kindly inform me if Masons (men) understand the signs of the adoptive degrees?—B. . . s.—[Take the following as an answer.

THE EASTERN STAR.

BY BRO. SAM. WHITING.

'Twas on a wild December night,
Loud roar'd the fierce and wintry blast,
While every star was veiled from sight,
And snow-drifts gather'd thick and fast—
Through many a drear, deserted street,
My homeward path I strove to find,
For darkness, wind, and chilling sleet,
Together, almost made me blind.

While thus I plodded on, methought
I heard a woman's sighs of grief,
And for a while, in vain, I sought,
To find who thus implored *Relief*.
A female soon before me stood,
In loose and scanty robes array'd,
Who begg'd for shelter and for food,
And "in God's name," petition made.

I took the friendless outcast in,
I fed her, clothed her, ask'd her name,
And what had been the deadly sin
Which brought upon her grief and shame.
"Oh, do not deem me Passion's slave,"
She said, "nor me from pity bar"—
Then, with a winning grace, she gave
The signet of the "EASTERN STAR."

"I see by tokens," then she cried,
"That you are of the 'mystic tie,'
Which my dear father, ere he died,
Taught me was noble, good, and high.
Hear, then, my story, sad, but brief—
In happier days I wedded one
Who left me soon to care and grief,
Young wife, young mother, and undone.

"Night after night the damning bowl
Sent him a raving madman home;
Then, *then* the iron pierced my soul,
But deeper woe was yet to come;
For soon my darling baby died—
My husband fill'd a felon's grave,
While I, adrift on life's dark tide,
Could see no beacon light to save

"This night, but for your gentle care,
I should have slept my long, last sleep;
Oh, when I think, I but despair,
Strive not to soothe—oh let me weep."

* * * * *

Rest ruddied soon the cheeks so pale—
The childless widow was restored.
While in my lodge her moving tale
Into "attentive ears" was poured.
Joy came and now a *brother's wife*—
More lov'd than ever, now, by far
The rescued one devotes her life
To praises of the "Eastern Star."]

DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY.—Continued from Page 367 (Notes and Queries.)

Name of Rite, Order, &c.	Where Practised.	Under what Authority.	General Remarks.
Trowel, Company of the,	Florence	{ Instituted about 1512, consisting of literati and nobility, <i>vide</i> Clavel.
True Masons, Order of,	France	Boileau	{ An offshoot of the Hermetic rite, <i>q. v. supra</i> , established in 1778.
Xerophagists,	Italy	{ The Roman Catholic brethren in Italy upon the issue of the bull of Pope Clement XII met under this title. They were total abstinence brethren.
York Rite,	{ Formerly in Eng- land, now in Ame- rica and elsewhere. }	{ This is the mother of all rites and English Freemasonry. It was practised in the crypt of Yorkminster so late as the end of the last century. <i>Vide</i> Higgins' <i>Anacalypsis</i> , &c.
Zinnendorf, rite of,	Avignon, in France. ...	Count Zinnendorf	{ A modification of several rites such as those of the Illuminati, Swedenborg, Scotch, German, Swedish, and Knights Templar.

The several degrees practised under each of the above-named Rites, Orders, and Authorities will be commenced in a future number, after they have been prepared in alphabetical arrangement.

Essays and Reviews keep selling in America. Three large editions have been bought up, and a fourth is now in the market.

We (*Athenæum*) are glad to hear that an effort is about to be made to procure the admission to the National Gallery of the famous "Alderney Bull, Cow and Calf," by J. Ward, now in the British Gallery at the International Exhibition. This is a work of such extraordinary merit that in any other country than ours it would have found a home in public long ago. M. Theophile Gautier, now in London, will contribute an article on the pictures in the British department of the International Exhibition to the next number of *Temple Bar*.

Who is to be the new editor of the *Cornhill Magazine*? is often asked. With Mr. Thackeray's novel and Roundabout Paper and a sketch from Doyle, much of the labour of editing is accomplished. Mr. Williams, of Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., has, we hear, taken the *Magazine* under his care. Mr. Williams, it will be remembered, was the reader of *Jane Eyre*, and the first to discern the genius of Charlotte Brontë.

M. Bodenstedt has published, under the title of *William Shakespeare's Sonnet in Deutscher Nachbildung*, a German imitation of Shakspeare's Sonnets. It is impossible that such compositions can be fairly judged by Shakspeare's own countrymen. The recollection of the originals will always obscure in their minds whatever merit the imitation may possess. It must be said, however, in justice, that the imitations in question are highly thought of by the author's own countrymen.

The anniversary dinner of the Artists' Benevolent Fund is fixed to take place at the Freemasons' Hall, on Saturday, the 31st inst., the Right Hon. Lord Ashburton, the President in the chair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES UPON THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—I read in last week's number of the Magazine the Report of the Board upon the subject of the alteration of the premises in Great Queen-street for Masonic purposes.

I did not expect to see that Report in your Magazine till after it had been laid before Grand Lodge.* I do not in the least mean to say that it ought not to be previously published; I offer no opinion on the subject, but as you have by that means made it public by itself without any comment, and as my name appears some two or three times in the document, and as I am represented as approving the Report of the Sub-Committee (of which I was one), and as I do not approve of the Report may I ask you to give equal publicity to this letter which you gave to the Report. I entirely disagree with one, the main part of the Report, though I agree with another part of it.

1st. I think we cannot build a "Hall" on the vacant space at the back of the hotel and tavern, which is the basis upon which the whole Report is made. Nor were all the title-deeds produced to this Sub-Committee, only a portion of them were shown to us, though I asked for the production of the whole of them each time we met; and, therefore, the Sub-Committee could not be said to be in a position to give any opinion worth having on the subject.

2nd. I think the scheme is too expensive, the sacrifice of rental too great, and the expectation of finding a

lessee to pay the rent and do the works required is one not likely to be realised.

3rd. I think the stated cost is not fairly put, the real net cost will be a great deal more; perhaps one-half more than the amount stated.

The only portion of the Report to which I do agree is the "requirements;" all these I think we do want. All these can be provided for in a scheme which, together with a plan and design, I laid before the Board, and which would have cost much less than half of the estimated cost of the plan as recommended in the Report, and moreover could have been done without in any way interfering with the tavern or Masonic arrangements till the entire place was finished.

Should you think I ought rather to have complained of the Report before it was printed and when it was presented to the Board than now, decline to have my portion of the praise or condemnation that the report will bring upon its authors, I say very respectfully that the Report was brought to the Board ready printed, and directly I heard it read I protested against it, as not representing my opinion, and the reply was, "Oh, well, it is printed and cannot be altered now," and as my opinion was not considered to be of any great value, and as I thought I could explain in Grand Lodge, if necessary, my non-concurrence in the Report, I quietly submitted to be misrepresented; but as you have published the Report, it is but fair that you should publish my objection to it.

I am only speaking for myself in this letter, though I know that I am not the only member of the Sub-Committee who does not agree with the Report; indeed it is not what it represents to be; it is not a true representation of the opinion of the Sub-Committee. It is a report embodying the opinion of the Chairman, prepared by him, printed under his direction, and presented to, and as I think unfairly pressed before the Board by him as the Report of the Sub-Committee; in fact the Chairman said at the time, in answer to my objection that he would state in Grand Lodge, when the Report was read, that it was not the unanimous Report of the Committee.

Yours fraternally,

WILLM. J. MEYMOTT,

May 27th, 1862.

THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION AND MRS. PIPER.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Bravo for your exertions on behalf of the friendless Mrs. Piper. Let us hope that the result will be a lesson to those wholesale dealers and changers in votes who profess to elect whom they please but who are now shown, for the first time, that their occupation totters to its base. Elections should be pure and not governed by hole-and-corner meetings; those who have votes to give ought, as a duty they owe to the Craft, to give them to the candidates whose cases are the most deserving, and not, on account of repeated begging, surrender their rights to be applied as certain officious brethren please.

You have broken up this nice rotten system, and it is now obvious that an honest independent course will meet with the support it deserves.

All honour to you for breaking in upon these charity traffickers' monopoly and may you, when next you take up a case, have such increased support as your generous exertions merit.

Henceforth, amongst those who would try to assist the unfriended, your example will be quoted, and it is to be hoped every voter will withhold all promise of votes from the clique, and forward them to you to poll for the poor and needy, and may God's blessing rest on you, and yours, for your disinterested humanity.

ONE NOT OF THE CLIQUE.

[* Immediately it was laid before the Board of Masters, and was ordered to be circulated with the Report of the Board of General Purposes, it became public property.—Ed.]

EARLY ALLUSION TO MASONRY.

Robert Fabyan, one of the English Chroniclers, was a draper, citizen, and Alderman of London in the XVth century, and was likewise one of the resident gentry of Theydon Gernon, in Essex, where he had an estate. He was born in London, but in what year is uncertain; this much, however, is known that he served the office of Sheriff in 1493, and resigned that of Alderman in 1502. Of the date of his death there appears to be no accurate information, but his will was proved July 12th, 1513, and dated July 11th, 1511. His work, from which the following extract was made, is entitled by himself, *The Concordance of Histories*, and was first printed by Pynson in 1516; it is now popularly known as *Fabyan's Chronicles*. In his *Incipit Prologus*, consisting of twenty-eight stanzas—he tells us how difficult it is to arrange his materials properly, and in the 5th and 6th stanzas thus makes an early allusion to Masonry:—

“And I lyke the Prentyse that hewyth the rowgth stone,
And bryngeth it to square, with harde strokes and many,
That the mayster after may it ouer gone,
And prynthe therein his fygyres and his story;
And so to werke it after his propornary,
That it may appere to all that shall it se,
A thyng ryght parfyte and well in eche degre.

“So haue I now sette out this rude werke,
As rough as the stone nat comen to the square,
That the lerned and the studyed clerke
May it oure polysshe and cleue do it pare;
Flowrysshe it with Eloquence, whereof it is bare,
And frame it in ordre that yet is out of ioynt,
That it with old Auctours may gree in euery poynt.”

Believing there are hosts of similar testimonies to the working of the Craft, both speculative and operative, to be found in our earlier authors, I communicate the preceding note in the hope that other brethren will follow with similar quotations, properly verified by titles and —✠ MATTHEW COOKE, 30°.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

The new poem, or rather play, *St. Clements Eve*, by Mr. Henry Taylor, the author of *Philip Van Artweldt*, will certainly add to his reputation. Here is a pretty little soliloquy put into the mouth of one of his characters:—

“Poor forsaken Flos!
Not all her brightness, sportfulness, and bloom,
Her sweetness and her wildness, and her wit,
Could save her from desertion. No, their loves
Were off the poise: Her boundless flood of love
Swept out his pretty rill. Love competent
Make better bargains than love affluent,
And his was beggarly and hers was rich.”

M. Guizot's account of his Embassy to the Court of St. James's in 1840 will be published in the course of the month. The volume will contain sketches of Lords Melbourne, Palmerston, Aberdeen, Russell, Grey, Lansdowne, Lyndhurst, Holland, Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, Macaulay, Jeffrey, Dr. Arnold, Hallam, O'Connell, Croker, Whately, Mr. and Mrs. Grote, Lady Durham, Lady Jersey, Mrs. Fry, and other celebrities of twenty years ago.

In the Exhibition of the Royal Academy, the lady artists have attained a position this year in every respect higher than has ever been awarded to them. In all gallantry we are not disposed to look for any of the great deeds in art from this source; but it must be admitted that in certain delicate perceptions of beauty of colour and expression of sentiment of the romantic order there are some pictures by women now to be seen in

London, which surpass anything by their rivals of the opposite sex.

A cartoon in colour has been completed by Mr. Hook, for one of the mosaic pictures intended to be placed in the alcove recesses in the Cromwell-road front of the Exhibition building. This is now exhibited inside the entrance to the picture galleries. The subject is “Fishing,” and it is represented by two fishermen of the sort Mr. Hook delights to paint, hauling the net in a boat tossed by the waves. It is a very clever design, and would, we imagine, suit the style of work in which it is intended to be executed.

An Association, to be called “The Inventors' Institute,” has been inaugurated, for the purpose of uniting and organizing the influence of inventors and patentees—facilitating the progress of science in connection with inventions—obtaining a simple and efficient administration of the Patent Law—and generally to protect the rights and promote the interests of inventors.

Mr. Egg, the acadamecian, has returned from Algeria in excellent health; the climate having proved the most complete restorative.

Morelli, one of the most distinguished of the modern Italian school of painters, is represented in the International Gallery by one of his best pictures—“The Iconoclasts.” We are sorry to see this fine easel picture hung about 30 feet from the ground—the subject almost unrecognisable, and all the beauty of the picture thus ignorantly lost.

A Pictorial History of the current Great Rebellion, by Mr. Benson J. Lossing, is about to be published by Mr. G. W. Childs, of Philadelphia. It will be issued in twenty monthly shilling parts, and will be crowded with steel and wood-engravings of battle-fields and distinguished soldiers.

The *American Publisher's Circular* does not feel kindly towards White and Riddle's new Latin-English Dictionary. This great work, just published by Messrs. Longmans, is founded on the Latin-German Dictionary of Dr. Freund, and Freund's work was first translated into English by Dr. Andrews, an American. That it should be reckoned possible to revise and improve what “a great American scholar like the late Dr. Andrews left finished,” is deemed “somewhat ungracious.”

Mr. Kelly, who some time ago wrote a readable book of Australia experiences, is preparing a volume on British Columbia for Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

There is a prospect of the Koh-i-noor being seen to very great advantage at the International Exhibition. An exhibitor in the class of philosophical instruments has devised mechanism which will give it a gentle rocking motion, the effect of which will be to expose the facets to the light, and thus cause them to flash with a brilliancy now unknown. Crowds of ladies flutter all the day round this and other gems.

The Rev. Joseph Wolff died a few days since at his living near Taunton, at the age of sixty-seven. His many changes of religion, his curious travels, and, to some extent, his linguistical attainments, made him, at one time, a sort of lion of the season. The fate of all lions speedily overtook Dr. Wolff, and for seventeen years past he has lived in obscurity. The “Journey to Bokhara” is a curious book, and will maintain a certain interest for readers of the episodes in our Indian story.

The number of visitors to the British Museum last year reached 641,886—a considerable increase over the previous three years. Of course, this year will bring a very different number. It was above 2,500,000 in the Exhibition years 1851. The number above mentioned does not include the visits paid last year to the reading-room for the purpose of study—130,410, a small increase over the preceding year. The reading-room was open 290 days, and the readers averaged 450 a day.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

We have the pleasure to announce that the actual sum collected at the annual festival of the Girls' School (including lists sent in after the evening on which it was held) amounted to £2630.

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the official agenda of business to be transacted in Grand Lodge on Wednesday next, 4th June.

Nomination of Four Scrutineers.

Election of Members for the Board of General Purposes.*

Election of Members for the Colonial Board.†

Election of Members for the Committee of Management of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows.

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of 5th March for confirmation.

The Minutes of the Grand Festival of the 30th April for confirmation.

To move "That the following Lodges—ordered at the Grand Lodge in September, 1861, to be summoned to show cause against their being erased, and having neglected to make any return or take any notice of such summons—be erased," viz. :—

No.

- 68 Quebec, Canada East
- 69 Mother Lodge, Basse-terre, St. Christopher's
- 94 Stewards' Lodge, Madras
- 104 St. Michael's Lodge, Barbadoes
- 242 Rising Sun Lodge, Fort Marlborough, Sumatra
- 293 Neptune Lodge, Prince of Wales' Island, East Indies
- 295 Union Lodge, Curaçoa
- 304 St. George's Lodge, H.M.'s 5th Regiment of Foot
- 325 Lodge of the Rock, Trichinopoly, Madras
- 326 Lodge of Social Friendship, Madras
- 416 Torridonian Lodge, Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast, Africa
- 445 Orthes Lodge, H.M.'s 6th Regiment of Foot
- 448 Athol Lodge, Lucea Bay, Jamaica
- 449 Seville Lodge, St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica
- B449 Concord Lodge, Spanish Town, Jamaica
- 450 Cornwall Lodge, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 468 Free Town Lodge of Good Intent, Sierra Leone
- 470 British Constitutional Lodge, Bay of Honduras
- 480 Benevolent Lodge, Bombay
- 482 Calpean Lodge, Gibraltar
- 484 Lodge Union Lanzarote, Lanzarote, Canary Isles
- 488 Dalhousie Lodge, Niagara, Canada West
- 492 Fridesburgh, Canada West
- 493 Addington Lodge, Earnest Town, Canada West
- 495 Toronto, Canada West
- 498 King Hiram's Lodge, Oxford, Canada West
- 501 St. George's Lodge, St. Katharine's, Canada West
- 503 Union Lodge, Ancaster, Canada West
- 506 Mount Moriah Lodge, Westminster, Canada West
- 510 Lodge of Chosen Friends, Rosseau, Dominica
- 512 Union Lodge, Montreal, Canada East
- 513 Provost Lodge, Freligsburgh, St. Arnaud, Canada East
- 517 Golden Rule Lodge, Stanstead, Canada East
- 518 Wellington Persevering Lodge, Montreal, Canada East
- 519 Columbia Lodge, Hull, Canada East
- 520 Odell Lodge, Odell Town, Canada East
- 524 Logia de la Concordia Venezolana, Angostura, Columbia
- 531 Sussex Lodge, Quebec, Canada East
- 532 Lodge of Hope, Ahmednager, Bombay
- 546 Perseverance Lodge, Bombay
- 549 Sussex Lodge, Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island
- 557 Union Lodge, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 559 Temple Lodge, Grigsborough, Nova Scotia
- 560 Hiram Lodge, Shelburn, Nova Scotia
- 561 St. George's Lodge, Lower Horton, Nova Scotia
- 563 Sussex Lodge, Newport, Nova Scotia

* We published the list of Candidates last week.

† This report we published in *extenso* last week.

- 566 Fort Edward Lodge, Windsor, Nova Scotia
 - 567 Moira Lodge, Rawdon, Nova Scotia
 - 568 Colchester Union Lodge, Rawdon, Nova Scotia
 - 569 Cumberland Harmony Lodge, Amherst, Nova Scotia
 - 571 Royal Albion Lodge, 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade
 - 572 St. Mary's Lodge, Digby, Nova Scotia
 - 573 Rising Sun Lodge, Londonderry, Nova Scotia
 - 583 Oxford Light Infantry Lodge, H.M.'s 52nd Regiment
 - 582 Royal Sussex Lodge, Belize, Honduras
 - 599 Gold Coast Lodge of St. John, Cape Coast, Africa
 - 616 Orphan Lodge, Rio de Janeiro
 - 619 Lodge Oriental Star, Cannanore, Malabar
 - 622 Neilgherry Lodge, Ootacamund Madras
 - 634 Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, Madras
 - 635 Lodge of Universal Charity, Madras
 - 636 Lodge of Honour and Humanity, Madras
 - 637 Lodge of Military and Social Friendship, Madras
 - 638 Taprobane Lodge, Madras
 - 639 Corinthian Lodge, Madras
 - 664 Doric Lodge, Kemptee, near Nagpore, Madras
 - 668 Lodge of St. John, Parramatta, New South Wales
 - 669 West Norfolk Lodge, H.M.'s 54th Regiment
 - 682 Lodge of Fellowship, New Amsterdam, Berbice
 - 684 Lodge of Goodwill, Bellary, Madras
 - 685 Armenia Lodge, Madras
 - 686 Trelawney Lodge, Falmouth, Jamaica
 - 703 St. John's Lodge, Rio de Janeiro
 - 705 Sussex Lodge, Dorchester, New Brunswick
 - 710 Bangalore Cantonment Lodge, Bangalore, Madras
 - 713 Lodge of Amity, Bridge Town, Barbados
 - 726 North Hants Lodge, H.M.'s 37th Regiment
 - 731 Zetland Lodge, Montreal, Canada East
 - 746 Metcalf Lodge, Savannalamer, Jamaica
 - 747 Friendship and Harmony Lodge, Lucea, Jamaica
 - 762 Albion Lodge, Castris, St. Lucia
 - 776 Prevost Lodge, Dunham, Canada East
 - 779 St. John's Lodge, York, Grand River, Canada West
 - 789 Zetland Lodge, Toronto, Canada West
 - 790 Richmond Lodge, Richmond-Hill, Canada West
 - 797 St. Francis Lodge, Smith's Falls, District of Bathurst, Canada West
 - 799 Unity Lodge, Township of Whitby, Canada West
 - 831 Pilgrims of Light Lodge, Mount-road, near Madras
 - 846 Neptune Lodge, George Town, Prince of Wales' Island
 - 897 Gambia Lodge, Bathurst, River Gambia, West Coast of Africa
 - 871 Sovereignty Lodge, Sovereignty, Cape of Good Hope
 - 932 Queen's Lodge, Queen's County, New Brunswick
 - 934 Shefford Lodge, Waterloo, County of Shefford, Canada East
 - 938 Hoyle Lodge, LaColle, County of Huntingdon, Canada East
- To elect a Trustee of the Funded Property of the Grand Lodge in the place of the late Earl of Yarborough.
- The Report of the Colonial Board of the 19th February, 1862.
- The Report of Bro. R. P. Harding, Auditor of the Grand Lodge accounts for the year 1861.
- The Report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz.,
- | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Bro J. S., of the Royal York Lodge (No. 394), Brighton | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| „ S. W., of the Lodge of Harmony (No. 509) Budleigh, Salterton | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| „ T. S., of the Wellington Lodge (No. 426), Rye | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| „ S. J. T. of the Southern Cross Lodge (No. 1095), Tarrangower, Victoria..... | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| The Widow of the late Bro. W. R., of the Royal Athelstan Lodge (No. 19), London | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| The Widow of the late Bro. T. D., of the Lodge of Felicity (No. 66), London..... | 30 | 0 | 0 |

The Report of the Board of General Purposes, to the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have heard and adjudicated upon the following complaints:—

1. By Bro. T. W. Dominy against the W. M. of the High Cross Lodge (No. 1056), Tottenham. Bro. Dominy alleged that at the regular meeting of the Lodge, held on the 28th of February, 1862, the W. M. acted illegally—

First—In refusing to receive a resolution “that the Minutes of the last meeting of the Lodge be confirmed in their entirety,” as an amendment to an amendment “that the Minutes be confirmed with the exception of that portion which relates to the election of W. M.”

Second—In disregarding the Bye-Laws of the Lodge by receiving the votes of Brethren whose subscriptions were in arrear.

Third—In making an incorrect return to Grand Lodge.

The Board having heard the statements of Bro. Dominy and his witnesses, and the answer of the W. M. and his witnesses, resolved—

That none of the complaints were proved; that the first and third complaints were frivolous, and they reprimanded Bro. Dominy for preferring such charges against the Master of his Lodge.

2. Against the St. Luke's Lodge (168), Chelsea, for not returning a Brother to Grand Lodge for the full time that he had been a subscribing member. On examining the books it was shown that the Brother's name had been omitted for 2½ years, and the Lodge was thereupon ordered to pay the arrears.

3. By the Lodge of Benevolence against the St. George's Lodge (No. 164), Greenwich, for certifying that a brother had been a subscribing member for 5½ years, Grand Lodge dues having been paid for 4 years only. Upon examining the books of the lodge it was found that the brother had been a subscribing member for 6 years. The board having heard the explanation of the W.M., ordered the lodge to pay the arrears.

4. Against the Medina Lodge (No. 41), Cowes, for having certified that a brother had been a contributing member for 42 years, Grand Lodge dues having been paid for 38 years only. The explanation offered by the lodge was deemed satisfactory, and the lodge was ordered to pay the arrears due.

5. Against the Lodge of Fortitude (No. 675), Newton Moor, for certifying that a brother had been a subscribing member for 17 years, whereas Grand Lodge dues had been paid for 9 years only. The Board having examined the books of the lodge discovered that several members had not been returned to Grand Lodge at all, and that the quarterages for the petitioner, and other brethren, had not been paid for several years. They therefore reprimanded the lodge for its irregularities, and ordered all arrears to be paid forthwith.

6. Against the Tees Lodge (No. 749), Stockton, by the widow of a deceased brother, for omitting to return her late husband as a member of the lodge for the years 1854 and 1855, by which omission her daughter was rendered ineligible for election into the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children. The Board having investigated the complaint, fined the lodge three guineas.

7. By Bro. William White against the Paumotu Lodge (No. 1025), Aldershot, for excluding him from the lodge without giving him the notice required by the *Book of Constitutions*. The board decided that the resolution of the lodge excluding Bro. White was illegal, and directed that such resolution should be expunged at the next meeting of the lodge, and the brother re-instated as a member.

In conformity with the resolution adopted at the meeting of Grand Lodge in March last, the board have given the subject of the property belonging to the Society in Great Queen-street their earnest attention. A sub-committee was appointed at the meeting of the Board in April, with directions to investigate the whole subject, and report thereon to the board at as early a date as possible. The committee, having held various meetings, agreed to a report, which was duly laid before the board.

The report of the committee having been received and adopted, the board consider that they shall best discharge their duty by appending it to this report, and earnestly recommending it to the favourable consideration of Grand Lodge.

The board have had their attention directed to the fact, that although the duties of the President of the Board of General Purposes are of a very onerous and important character, still the Presidency of the Board does not of itself confer rank in Grand Lodge; they, therefore, beg leave to recommend as a resolution for adoption by Grand Lodge, that the President of the Board of General Purposes shall, by virtue of his office, be a Grand Officer, with rank in Grand Lodge next to the Grand Registrar, and that, on his retiring from office, he shall rank as a Past Grand Officer, in the same way as the other officers of Grand Lodge.

(Signed) AENEAS J. MCINTYRE, President.

The Board beg further to report, that at the meeting held on Tuesday, the 20th inst., it was unanimously resolved,—

“That the thanks of this Board are due and hereby very cordially tendered to the V.W. Bro. Aeneas J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, the President of the Board for the past year, for his great attention and courteous bearing to all the members, and for the ability with which he has conducted the business brought before them, which has this year been unusually laborious.

(Signed)

“J. RANKIN STEBBING,
“Vice-President.”

“Freemasons' Hall, 21st May, 1862.”

To the Report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 16th inst., showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £2011 Os. 1d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash, £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £512 17s. 2d.; to the Fund of General Purposes, £1065 19s. 3d.; and there is in the unappropriated account a sum of £482 3s. 8d., a portion of which belongs to the Grand Chapter.

The Report of the Colonial Board to the United Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Colonial Board beg to report with reference to the case of the complaint of the St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 922, Montreal, against the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Canada, referred to in former reports of this Board, and whereby it was declared that such lodge was working in an irregular manner, and could not be recognised as a legally conducted Masonic lodge, and which resolution, it appears, is now rigidly enforced, and that all lodges and brethren holding under the Grand Lodge of Canada are forbidden to have Masonic communication with the St. Lawrence Lodge, the board have, since the date of their last report, received a communication from the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of England in Canada, covering a copy of a report which appears to have been made to the M.W. the Grand Master of Canada by the R.W. Bro. Bernard, a Grand Officer of that Grand Lodge. This report impugns the accuracy of the statements made by the R.W. Bro. the Prov. G.M. for Montreal and William Henry, which the board, in a former report to Grand Lodge in this matter, termed, and which further consideration of all the circumstances of the case they still consider, a very able report. The board deemed it right to communicate with the said Prov. G.M. on the subject of Bro. Bernard's paper, and have caused a copy thereof to be forwarded to him, at the same time informing him that it was not without some hesitation they adopted this course in consequence of the offensive terms contained Bro. Bernard's paper, which the said Prov. G.M. was assured by no means operated to his prejudice in the opinion of the board, as they felt assured he would be able to give a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances commented upon, and substantiate all that he had previously represented on the subject. The accuracy of certain statements of proceedings within the said St. Lawrence Lodge having been also impugned, the board have required the W.M. thereof to furnish a full copy of the minutes of proceedings of the said lodge for the years 1855 and 1856, and other particulars for the satisfaction of the board.

In the absence of stronger evidence than has been adduced on the part of the opponents of the said St. Lawrence Lodge, the board see no reason to alter their opinion already reported to Grand Lodge, under date 20th November, 1861, viz., that such lodge has not forfeited its rights to recognition by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and is entitled to all the rights and privileges reserved to lodges in Canada retaining their allegiance, and secured by the Treaty and Convention framed in 1859, when the independence of the Grand Lodge of Canada was recognised by the Grand Lodge of England.

The board have deemed it right, from circumstances which have come to their knowledge, to direct a circular to be addressed to all Provincial Grand Masters of District Grand Lodges, calling their attention to the resolution of Grand Lodge under date 4th December, 1861, and duly confirmed, having regard to the power of appointment of brethren to honorary rank, whereby it was resolved, that such appointments were solely in the hands of the M.W. the Grand Master, and that in cases of peculiar merit the proper course for Provincial Grand Masters will be to submit them for the consideration of the M.W. the Grand Master.

(Signed)

J. LLEWELLYN EVANS, President.

At the regular meeting of the Colonial Board, held on the 6th instant, it was resolved unanimously—“That the best

thanks of the Colonial Board are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to the W. Bro. J. Llewellyn Evans, for the constant and unvarying attention paid by him to his duties during his Presidency, as well as for the truly Masonic conduct exhibited by him to the members of the Board, whereby the business of the Board has been conducted in a manner most pleasing to the members.

(Signed) NICHOLAS BRADFORD,
Vice-President.

Freemasons' Hall, 21st May, 1862.

The Annual Report of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their widows will be laid before the Grand Lodge, and the following proposed alterations of the laws, which were agreed to at the Annual General Meeting of the Institution, held on Friday, the 16th instant, will be submitted for the approval of the Grand Lodge, viz. :—

1. "That Rule 12 of the Rules and Regulations be amended, by erasing the name of the Right Hon. The Earl of Yarborough in each case in which it occurs in the said rule, and substituting in each case the name of the Right Hon. The Earl de Grey and Ripon."

2. "That it shall be lawful for the Subscribers, at Special General Meetings of this Institution, to entertain Motions for the adopting of any new Regulation or Law, or the abrogation or alteration of any existing Regulation or Law; provided such Special General Meeting be convened in conformity to Rule 8."—If carried, form an addition to Rule 45.

3. "That no motion for the creation, increase, or diminution of any Salary, or for the grant of any money (unless the object be for payment of *bond fide* debts) shall be entertained, without notice thereof being given at the meeting of the Committee preceding that on which it is intended to make such motion."—And that it form part of, or immediately follow Rule IX.

Notices of Motions.

By Bro. John Udall, P.G.D.:—"That the sum of £50 be given from the Fund of General Purposes, to supply coals to the inmates of the Masonic Asylum at Croydon."

By Bro. Richard W. Motion, P.M., No. 663:—"That in consideration of the increasing number of applications for admission into the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, it is desirable that further accommodation should be provided, with as little delay as possible.—That, with a view to afford the committee the means of meeting the additional requirements, the sum of £1000 be granted from the Fund of General Purposes."

By Bro. Herbert Lloyd, P.G.D.:—"Amendment to the report of the Board of General Purposes, on the subject of the appropriation of the property, of Grand Lodge:—"That inasmuch as the Board of General Purposes is constantly changing its members, being an annually elected body, it is expedient that Grand Lodge appoint a permanent committee, of not more than seven members, to be called 'The Building Committee,' to whom the whole question of the appropriation of the Grand Lodge property be referred, with the view of providing increased accommodation for the Craft and its charities, enlarged space for the annual festivals, the comfort and convenience of the brethren, by the establishment of a coffee and reading room and such other tavern accommodation as may be deemed necessary for the Craft."

By Bro. William Wiggington, W.M., No. 1204:—"To consider the propriety of, and if approved to desire the proper authorities to re-number the lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, a large number having been erased through the secession of various Colonial lodges, and the erasure of many English lodges."

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 87).—This celebrated and flourishing lodge held its last meeting for the season at Bro. Spencer's, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on Tuesday, May 20th. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M. Bro. R. Slade, (who was out of town), Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., (assisted by the officers):—Walters, S.W.; Davis, J.W.; Harris, Sec.; Watkins, S.D.; Garth, I.G. opened the lodge in the several degrees. Bros. Steel, Elliott, and Murray, being the candidates for the third degree, were properly introduced and raised; Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., performing the ceremony in his usual impressive style, and if possible, surpassing all his previous efforts. It is very pleasing to see a P.M. so well up in the duties of the chair

as Dr. Dixon, for it frequently occurs to many P.Ms., that when once their year of office expires they begin to take less interest in the lodge, so that when an emergency comes for any of them to fill the chair once more, they are not so well able to do so as they were previously. We regret once more having to notice the absence of nearly all the officers, more especially the junior ones. We must warn them it is not the way to arrive at proficiency in their duties, for although they may every week attend their Lodges of Instruction, yet they must, and do, neglect a very essential duty when they are absent from their posts in the lodge. We hope to see better attendance for the future. The brethren regretted to learn that Bro. Hughes, P.M., was an unsuccessful candidate at the last election, for the Benevolent Institution, and a hope was expressed that next year one and all of the members of the lodge, would use their most strenuous exertions to secure his return. When the business was ended, the brethren, upwards of twenty in number, sat down to an excellent banquet, replete with all the delicacies of the season. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and enthusiastically received. The visitors' toast was responded to by Bros Hart and D. O. Dwyer. After spending a happy evening together, the brethren separated, mutually pleased at this reunion. Visitors, W. C. Penny, P.M. 72, P.M. and Sec. 93; Hart, 1067; D. O. Dwyer, 1173, &c.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 164).—There was an emergency meeting of this lodge on Wednesday, April 21st, at Bro. Moore's, Globe Tavern, Royal-hill, Greenwich. Bro. Mourylian, assisted by his officers, Scott, Smyth, Habbuck, and Badger, opened his lodge in the various degrees. Bro. J. Delany was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and Bro. M. Low was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The brethren were much pleased to see the W.M. on this occasion for the first time, go through the third degree himself, and it was satisfactory to observe how well he performed his duty. The business being ended, the lodge was closed. There were several visitors present.

PRUDENT BRETHREN LODGE (No. 169).—The last regular lodge for the season was held on Tuesday, when the lodge was duly opened by Bro. Graygoose, W.M. Mr. Raine, and Mr. Drake were duly initiated into the order. Bros. Wilcox and Sharpe passed, and Bro. Young raised, the ceremonies being admirably performed by Bro. Kirby, P.M. Three gentlemen were proposed for initiation, and the brethren separated at an early hour.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 172).—This well-known lodge held its last meeting for the season, at Bro. G. Roe's, Royal Albert Tavern, New Cross-road, Deptford, Kent, on Wednesday, May 14th. The W.M., Bro. Cavell, assisted by his officers, Green, S.W.; Hollings, J.W.; Bavin, S.D.; Lightfoot, J.D., opened his lodge. The business of the meeting was to pass Bro. Chapman to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The ceremony of passing was ably done by Bro. Hollins, the W.M. having relinquished the chair in his favour. The candidate proved his proficiency in a more able manner than we have ever before seen in this locality. A notice of motion was given to take into consideration the propriety of moving the lodge. It is not improbable (if it is moved), that it will be held more in the centre of the town. The business being ended, the lodge adjourned to refreshment. Amongst the very large number of visitors we noticed Bros. J.W. Weir, P.M. 25 I.C., S.D. 1173; Walters, S.W., 87; Collington, P.M., 164, &c.

LODGE OF TEMPERANCE (No. 198).—This celebrated old lodge met for the last time previous to the recess, at Bro. Holman's, Plough Tavern, Plough Bridge, Rotherhithe, on Thursday, May 15th. The lodge was opened in the three degrees by Bro. Moore, W.M. There being two candidates for the third degree, Bro. Hollings, P.M. took the chair, and in his usual able impressive manner, raised them to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The necessity of establishing a new chapter, to be named after the lodge, was agreed to. The meeting being finished, the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet prepared in Bro. Holman's well-known superior style. There were several visitors present.

LODGE OF SINCERITY (No. 203).—The usual monthly assemblage of the brethren of this lodge, was held on Wednesday, May the 21st. The lodge being opened in due form by Bro. Candler, W.M., the business of the evening was proceeded with. It consisted of the initiation of Mr. Blix and the passing of Bro. Jonas. Nothing more remaining to be done, the lodge was closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren withdrew to refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given and responded to, the W.M. called upon the

brethren to rise and assist him in drinking, with columns well charged, to "The Health of P.M.'s Thompson and Terry;" which toast was heartily responded to. He then thanked them in the name of the brethren of the lodge for the unwearied activity and zeal they had displayed in securing the election of Bro. Norris, a member of this lodge, and fifty years a Mason, to the annuity fund, and also for their past exertions in aiding to the utmost in their power the welfare of the Masonic charities.—Bro. Thompson rose and returned thanks on behalf of himself and Bro. Terry. He would not deny that his colleague and he had interested and exerted themselves on this particular occasion, and they would do the same for any brother, so worthy as the one whom they had been fortunate enough to elect; but they hoped it would be long ere they had to do so. He pointed out the progress that the various Masonic institutions had made, and were making; springing as they had from a small nucleus, they had gradually merged into a broad expanding and ever fructifying tree, spreading its welcome branches over the wayworn and distressed, inviting the weary and worthy Mason to rest under its generous shade. He then exhorted every brother, who could possibly afford to do so, to subscribe to one or all of those noble institutions, assuring them that there was great luxury in the thought, "I have aided in assuaging the sufferings of the poor and needy." Bro. Wright, W.M. Merchant Navy Lodge, proposed, and Bro. Oman seconded that a vote of thanks be tendered to Bro. Kindred, P.M. and P.Z. 812, for his kind and strenuous exertions on behalf of Bro. Norris. The proposition was carried unanimously. Bro. Thompson proposed and Bro. Terry seconded that the above resolution be recorded on the minutes of the lodge meeting, this also was carried. Conviviality followed these proceedings and the brethren separated at an early hour.

CRESCENT LODGE (No 1090).—This lodge held its first regular meeting for the season on Wednesday, May 21, at the Eyo Tavern, Twickenham, and notwithstanding the ungenial state of the weather for brethren from London to visit the island, a goodly muster took place both in lodge and banquet. In the lodge Mr. W. G. Ferrar and Mr. H. Tayler were admitted into the Order. Bro. Larcomb was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. C. Rowland, the present W.M., was again unanimously elected Treasurer, to whom a P.M.'s jewel was also voted unanimously. After the lodge was closed the brethren adjourned to the banquet, when the usual toasts were given and responded to: that on the part of "The Initiates," by Bros. Henry Tayler and W. G. Ferrar; of "The new Joining Members present," by Bros. Oliffe Griffiths, G. H. Oliver, and John Munro; of "The Visitors," by Bro. Dr. Hodges, P. Prov. G.D. Leicestershire. The weather not being sufficiently favourable for the outdoor amusements of the island, the evening was enlivened by the excellent singing, &c., of Bros. Tayler, Isenheel, Gurton, Platt, Lurcomb, &c., and the brethren did not separate until just in time to catch the last train for London.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (1164).—*Installation.*—On Monday, May 19th, the brethren of this new and flourishing lodge met at the Whittington Club, Strand. The lodge was opened in due form at five o'clock, by the P.M. Brett in the absence, through illness, of W.M. Thompson who proceeded to the initiation of Mr. G. A. Cooper, Mr. Godfrey, W. Turner, Mr. A. Thompson, and Mr. J. F. Day. There was a musical ceremony under the direction of Bro. G. Tedder, assisted by Bros. E. Holmes, Edney, and Borani. The music for the occasion was composed by Bro. W. H. Montgomery, and presented by him to the lodge. After the initiation of the candidates, Bro. Brett, P.M., proceeded to instal Bro. C. E. Stubbs, as W.M., which he did in a very able and imposing manner, eliciting the applause of the whole of the brethren present. During the ceremony of installation, there was a further musical performance concluding with

TO THEE, GREAT LORD.—(*Rossini.*)
To thee, Great Lord o'er all
In earth, and sea, and sky,
Thy people humbly fall;
With mournful plaint they cry—
O hear us from Thy Throne,
Descend and save Thine own.
Where Bab'lon's waters flow
In sadd'ning streams along,
They sat them down in woe,
And weeping made their song—
O'er Sion's waste we mourn,
Oh! when shall we return?

Their foes, with impious taunt,
Required a song of praise,
Whilst far from youthful haunt,
Our home, and happier days—
Ah, no! our harps are hung
On willow's bough unstrung.

To Thee, Great Lord, &c.

The installation completed, the W.M. proceeded to appoint his officers as follows:—Bros. Thos. Wavell, S.W.; Hurlstone, J.W.; Warr, S.D.; Gerald Griffin, J.D.; Quilty, I.G.; C. Collins, Sec. The W.M. next proposed that in order to testify their regard for the services rendered to the lodge by P.M. Thompson (who had just entered the room) he be qualified as a life governor of the Aged Men's Asylum out of the funds of the lodge. The motion having been duly seconded, was unanimously agreed to. Bro. Thompson, P.M., acknowledged the honour done him in suitable terms. Bro. Gerald Griffin, J.D., begged to propose that as a mark of esteem for Bro. Brett, P.M., whose services to the lodge were beyond all praise, and especially on that occasion when he went through in so able a manner the business of the evening, as to stimulate them all to further exertions in the cause of Masonry, that he be made a Life Governor of the Girls' School from the funds of the lodge. This resolution was also duly seconded and adopted. Before putting the motion to the brethren, he was happy to observe, although they had been but one year, that evening, in existence as a lodge, that they were out of debt, had paid for all their furniture, and had a good balance in hand.—Bro. Brett acknowledged the compliment paid him. The thanks of the brethren were accorded to Bro. W. H. Montgomery for his musical compositions and his services that evening. The members of the lodge present were Bros. I. G. Thompson, P.M.; Brett, P.M.; Swainston, P.M.; Thos. Wavell, S.W.; Hurlstone, J.W.; Warr, S.D.; G. Griffin, J.D.; Quilty, I.G.; Collins, Sec.; Hamilton, W. F. Smith, F. Cant, Carle, Mann, Clay, F. B. Wavell, Cleghorn, Lumley, &c. Among the visitors were Bros. Muggeridge, P.M.; Emmens, P.M. 201; Maney, P.M. 201; King, 201; Crawford, P.M. St. Michael's Lodge; T. Beard, P.M. 118; J. Mason, 118; H. L. Dixon, P.M. 201; O'Connor, M.D. 202; Brown, Chamberlain, St. Paul's Lodge, Montreal (No. 514 on the grand register of England), Mills, P.M. 201, W. H. Montgomery, 202, Holmes, 11, G. B. Borani, 32, Tedder, 11, Edney, 7. The lodge having been closed in due form, the brethren sat down, at half past eight, to a very elegant banquet. When the cloth was removed the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft." In doing so he said that as Masons were ever loyal, he was sure that they all joined in sympathy with their gracious Queen in her great bereavement, and that she had now more than at any other time a place in their hearts. The W. Master next proposed "The Health of the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland," to whom he paid a fitting tribute. He spoke of him as a good Mason and most kind hearted nobleman of whom the greatest to be said, of his popularity among Masons, was that for seventeen successive years he had been unanimously elected to the Grand Master's chair. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, after which the following song, composed expressly for the occasion by Bro. W. H. Montgomery, was sung:—

THE GLORIOUS LIGHT OF MASONRY.

I.

Again the circling march of time
Brings round the glad, the glorious day,
That gave to Masonry divine
A brighter flame and purer ray;
And tho' the many be away,
Who first the dawning light did see,
A numerous band is here to pay
High honour unto Masonry.

II.

We bow not to a lowly shrine,
We mix not in a service mean,
That sacred light that now does shine,
The peasant and the prince have seen.
And while in spring the woods are green,
And summer decks with flowers the lea,
That lambent flame shall burn, I ween,
The glorious light of Masonry.

III.

'Tis not in goblets mantling high,
Which wealth, not worth, may still command,
Nor in the giddy tide of joy,
That Masonry does take its stand—
But ours' the social gen'rous land,
The only tie whose link makes free,
Where heart to heart, and hand to hand,
Proclaim the lodge of Masonry.

IV.

To raise the weak, restrain the strong,
To chase the tear from beauty's eye,
To aid the right and check the wrong,
And bid the weary cease to sigh,
To soothe the orphan's mournful cry,
A brother help, who'er he be,
To live with all in Charity,
This is the bond of Masonry.

The W.M. next gave "The Earl de Grey and Ripon and the rest of the Grand Officers," which was sharply responded to. The W.M. proposed "The Brethren Initiates," who were admitted to the lodge that evening, and in doing so regretted the absence of their worthy chaplain, who he felt certain would do more justice to the toast than he could, as he could have addressed them in language that would impress on them more fully the nature of their obligations. He hoped that the impression made on their minds during the ceremony would be lasting. In masonry there was everything that was noble and good—it was indeed based on charity, and he hoped they would labour to develop the great truths inculcated that evening, and, guided by sound moral actions, they would strive to build up stone by stone on the corner-stone they had already laid the great principles of masonry. He assured them that the nearer they approached and observed the truths of masonry the nearer would they approach nature's God.—Bro. EMMENS, having been loudly called on, gave "The Entered Apprentices Song."—Bro. G. A. COOPER, for himself and the brethren initiates, replied in a very neat address. The W.M. proposed the toast of "The Visitors," coupling with them the name of Bro. Clarke, of the Domestic, and Bro. Chamberlain, from Canada.—Bro. CLARKE, in acknowledging the toast, said he had no doubt the W.M. was, as he observed, in some difficulties. It could not be otherwise—difficulties were the rule, and therefore the W.M. came under it. However, he had no doubt from what he saw of their W.M. in the performance of his duties that night, he would surmount them. He had not been in a lodge for four years, and although he did at one time know something of masonry, he felt, from the able manner in which all their business was done to-night, that he had something to learn. He could not say that he was "unaccustomed to public speaking," and he ought not to, for he was a very old mason, and had had some speaking to do in his time. He had obtained all the honours in white and blue, and he felt great happiness in being that night in the company of so many old friends. He was something of a physiognomist, and tried to get together all the fragments Lavater left behind him. He was a sort of sensational physiognomist, but Lavater destroyed the true principles of physiognomy by the rules he laid down, and, guided by his own views of physiognomy, he could soon discover what sort of a Master their newly-elected would make. He had judged of some before among his old friends of the Domestic. There was Bro. Brett, for instance, although he had no official business with him when he entered the Domestic, he (Bro. Clarke) prophesied he would make a good and intelligent Mason. He was taking a survey as he said before, and he felt satisfied that the lodge would prosper during the year of office of the present Master.—Bro. CHAMBERLAIN expressed great pleasure in being with them that night. Long and many years ago when at school, he well remembered poring over and studying the Life of Whittington, and to be with his brethren in England in the Whittington Club at the Whittington Lodge of Masonry was to him, indeed, a great treat. It was one which he had not calculated upon. There was one thing he felt that to Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen they, the Canadians, were not strangers. As a child he was taught to pray for the sovereign of these realms, who was also their sovereign in Canada, and heartily did he offer up his prayer for the preservation of the great Queen who now held the sceptre of Great Britain. (Hear

and cheers.) Here, in England, they might be loyal, but in Canada they were more than loyal. The name of that illustrious lady could not be heard in Canada but with the greatest exultation. The Prince of Wales had visited them in Canada, and whilst they were unbounded in their loyalty, they told him what a king might be. It was with pride he felt himself as a Mason with them, and though they had now in Canada a Grand Master of that colony, he could tell them that the lodge he had the honour to belong to, St. Paul's Lodge at Montreal (No. 514 on the Grand Register of England), was still faithful to the jurisdiction of the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, and he would also inform them that thirty of that lodge fought in the Crimea under the British flag. (Loud applause.) If at any time any of the brethren visited his native city, they would be heartily received at lodge 514. (Hear.)—Bro. THOMPSON, P.M., proposed the health of the W.M. Bro. Stubbs, and in doing so, argued from his knowledge of the duties of his office, that he would during the next year, promote the interests of the lodge.—The W.M. observed in reply, that all he could promise was, to do all he could for the prosperity of that lodge in particular, and Masonry in general, and that he would strive to do. He concluded by giving the P.M.'s, which was responded to by P.M. Brett. The other customary toasts were passed. The brethren, who had spent a most agreeable evening, separated. The music and singing during the evening was excellent, and contributed very much to the conviviality of the brethren.

PATTISON LODGE (No. 1215).—The above lodge was consecrated on the 21st inst. the ceremony being most ably performed by the R.W. Bro. Savage. After the consecration, Bro. Graydon, P.M., was duly installed, and appointed the following as his officers, viz.:—Aug. Allinson, M.D., as S.W.; J. Widjery, J.W.; J. B. Bayley, S.D. and Dir. of Cers.; Jas. Lister, J.D.; E. Deaton, Sec.; J. Norman, Treas.; W. Graus, I.G.; Allinson, Tyler, and Messrs. W. Pallein and W. Watts were ballotted for and initiated. The lodge then adjourned to Bro. Aggleton's, the Freemasons' Arms, Plumstead, to a most sumptuous banquet. The usual toasts were given and responded to. The W.M. proposed the R.W. Bro. Lord Holmesdale, Prov. G.M., which was responded to in an able speech by the R.W. Bro. Dobson, D. Prov. G.M., stating that himself and the Grand Officers present had been much pleased at their reception at Plumstead, and the manner in which the officers appointed to the new lodge performed their duties; he also made several practical suggestions relative to the prosperity, working, and management of the lodge. The health of the W. Bro. the Prov. G. Chap. was received with acclamation, and responded to in a speech which, for eloquence, depth of feeling, and true masonic character, has rarely been equalled. The health of the W. Bro. Pattison, after whom the lodge is named, was received most warmly, and responded to by him in an affecting manner. He stated that when, a few years ago, the estate was being built upon, and he was applied to for a name for the hotel in which they were then assembled, he said "call it 'The Freemasons' Arms,'" he had never anticipated that he should visit his property and find the very streets and villas named after masonic celebrities, and still less that he should ever have been honoured in having a lodge called after himself, and to find it constituted by such highly respectable gentlemen and perfect masons as those he now saw around him. He should be most happy to join the lodge as a member, and feel great interest in all its proceedings and progress. He concluded by wishing all the officers and brethren every temporal and spiritual blessing. The health of the W. Bro. Savage, Prov. G.D., and thanks for his admirable performance of the ceremony; to Bro. F. J. Smith for his kindness in conducting the musical arrangements the Officers of the Lodge; Host and Hostess; Director of Ceremonies, and other toasts were duly given and responded to. The visitors present were Bros. W. F. Dobson, J.P., D. Prov. G.M.; Fredk. Pattison, Prov. G.S.W.; Savage, Prov. G.S.D.; J. Halloner, P. Prov. D.G.M.; Rev. W. A. Hill, M.A., Prov. G. Chap.; T. S. Eastes, Prov. G.S.W.; W. Saunders, Prov. G. Treas.; C. Isacs, Prov. G. Sec.; E. Wates, Prov. G. Assist. Sec.; H. Bathurst, Prov. G. Reg. The W.M.s of lodges 13, 20, 91, 376, 709, 1002, and 1008.

INSTRUCTION.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (No. 1164).—A lodge of instruction is held, under the warrant of this excellent lodge, at the Old Kent Hotel, Brownlow-street, Holborn, and was duly opened on Thursday, the 22nd instant, there being about thirty brethren

present on the occasion. The chair was taken by Bro. L. Alexander, P.M. 223, as W.M., supported by W. H. Warr, W.M. 281, S.W.; Bro. C. Mancy, P.M. 201, J.W.; Bro. E. W. Davis, P.M. 812 S.D.; Bro. P. Carle, 1164, J.D.; Bro. L. Carle, I.G.; and Bro. C. Collins, Sec.—The W.M. having opened the lodge, the ceremony of initiation was gone through in a very able manner, after which some sections were worked and responded to by the brethren in such a way as to elicit the impression that this lodge, although in its infancy, bids fair to be a very numerous and prosperous one. The esteemed Bros. J. Brett and Terry, who are well known to most of the brethren, have promised to give this lodge of instruction their able and valuable assistance. About thirty-six brethren have already subscribed in establishing this lodge of instruction, and the brethren generally are invited to attend every Thursday evening at half-past seven o'clock.—At the close of the lodge the brethren sat down to a very excellent supper, provided by Bro. Carle, to commemorate the opening, and, after a few of the usual toasts, the brethren separated, expressing themselves highly gratified at the excellent way in which everything went off.

PROVINCIAL.

BUCKS.

AXLESBURY.—*Buckingham Lodge*, (No. 861).—This lodge met on Tuesday the 20th inst. at The White Hart. Bro. T. Horwood, W.M. supported by his officers, opened the lodge in the three degrees, and after being resumed in the second Bro. George States was requested to act as Installing Master, when Bro. Williams, S.W. was presented to him and very ably installed W.M. of the lodge for the ensuing year. He was then pleased to appoint his officers as follows.—Bro. W. Beacham, S.W.; H. A. P. Cooper, J.W.; Rev. J. B. Read, Chap.; Rev. — Farnborough, Treas. re-appointed; — Hooper, Sec., re-appointed; G. States, S.D., re-appointed; Dr. Lovel, J.D.; G. Cartwright, I.G.; and Ward, Tyler. A conversation then took place on the subject of holding the Prov. Grand Lodge, which has not met for the last eleven years, much to the annoyance of the brethren of this, the oldest lodge in the province. Bro. George States, P.M. suggested the propriety of a notice of the desire of the lodge should be forwarded to the Grand Reg. calling his attention to the anomalous position of the Prov. Grand Lodge and its officers, after which the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to banquet and spent a pleasant evening, with which all present were highly delighted.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*Lodge Charity* (No. 270).—On Tuesday, the 20th May, the above lodge held its usual monthly meeting. Business, to ballot for a joining member; the ballot being unanimous, he was declared duly elected. Some discussion ensued as to the means which should be adopted by Lodge 270 to give eclat to the proceedings at the placing of the memorial stone at the Devonport Hospital, which was referred to a lodge of emergency, to be called for that purpose.

DEVONPORT.—*Lodge Friendship* (No. 238).—A regular lodge was held on the 22nd May, inst., for the purpose of conferring the honour of initiation on one candidate, and the passing to the second degree of another, there was also one for the third, and all ceremonies ably performed. After the close of the business the brethren adjourned to the refreshment board, where the usual Masonic toasts was drunk with all the honours. The Chapel Royal, Dockyard, Devonport, has been placed at the disposal of the Craft, on Tuesday, the 17th June, on which occasion Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, M.A., G. Chap. of England, will preach a sermon for the benefit of the funds of the Devonport Hospital, the memorial stone of which will be placed, with Masonic honours, on that day. The corporation have likewise granted the use of the Guildhall for the brethren to assemble in on that occasion.

KENT.

CHATHAM.—*Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity*, (No. 20).—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the Sun Hotel on Wednesday the 21st, June, at 8 o'clock, Bro. G. A. Everist, W.M., when Mr. G. E. F. Travermer and Mr. Owen J. Carter, were ballotted for and accepted. The W.M. proceeded to initiate them into the mysteries of the Craft. He then proved

the proficiency of Bros. Smith, Hart, Howell and Ransom, and proceeded to pass them to the second degree. After Bro. Bromhead had shown his proficiency, he was raised to the third degree by Bro. Wm. Hills P.M., 91, and Prov. G. Deacon of Kent. The usual proclamation being given by the W.M., Bro. Ashley, P.M., 20 and P.D. Prov. G.M. of Kent proposed that this lodge do send to the Prov. G.M. to inform him that this lodge is anxious to entertain the Prov. Grand Lodge at the coming festival, which was seconded by the W.M., and carried unanimously, also that a committee be formed of the officers of this lodge, with power to add to their numbers for the purpose of carrying the same out in a proper manner. The brethren then proceeded to banquet. This prosperous lodge is the oldest in the province. [There was an error in our last month's report of this lodge, it should have stated that Bro. Bromhead was passed to the second degree, and Bros. Field, Warrie, and Grose, to the third, by the W.M.]

OXFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Friday, the 23rd inst., the Prov. Grand Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Oxford, when the Prov. G.M., Lieut. Colonel Bowyer, presided, and was supported by the Prov. G.M. for Worcestershire, Bro. Henry Vernon; the D. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire, Bro. Ald. Spiers P.G.S.B.; the officers of the lodge, and a large number of Past Masters and brethren from various parts of the province.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the D. Prov. G.M. read the Charity Report, which was adopted. The following sums were then voted to the respective charities:—Masonic Boys' School, five guineas; Girls' School, two guineas; Annuity Fund, three pounds; Widows' Fund, three pounds; Radcliffe Infirmary, three guineas; Medical Dispensary, two guineas; Blue Coat School, one guinea; Anti-Mendicity Society, one guinea.

The Treasurer, Bro. Ald. Randall, read his report, and then vacated his office, but was unanimously re-elected. The Prov. G.M. made his report on the lodges in the province, after which he appointed and invested his officers for the year as follows:—Prov. S.G.W., W. W. Harrison, M.A., Brasenose Coll.; Prov. J.G.W., A. G. Holmes; Prov. G. Chaps., Rev. J. S. Cattlow, M.A., St. John's Coll., and Rev. T. F. T. Ravenshaw, M.A., Oriel Coll.; Prov. G. Reg., F. A. Cave Browne Cave, Brasenose Coll.; Prov. G. Sec., Lord Newry, Christchurch; Prov. S.G. Deacon, Dr. Griffin, Banbury; Prov. J.G. Deacon, C. T. Hawkins; Prov. G. Supt. of Works, S. L. Seckham; Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., Sylvester and Pyne, Exeter Coll.; Prov. G.S.B., Emberlin; Assist. Prov. G. Sec., W. Hobbs; Prov. G. Org., H. Jones, Christchurch; Prov. G. Purst., J. Bosson; Prov. G. Stewards, Dr. Gray, Dr. Rye Gumbelton, Brasenose Coll.; R. W. Harrison, J. Briscoe, and G. Dodd, Christchurch.

On the conclusion of the business the brethren proceeded to the banquet-room, where a sumptuous entertainment, under the charge of the Churchill Lodge, awaited them, and of which between fifty and sixty partook. The banquet was distinguished alike for its excellence, and variety. The Prov. G.M., Lieut. Col. Bowyer, presided, and the guests included the Prov. G.M. of Worcestershire; the D. Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire; Lord Newry; Capt. Maxwell Harte; Rev. T. F. T. Ravenshaw; Past Masters Alderman Sadler, Hester, Thompson, Houghton, Codrington, Martin, and Harrison; W.M. A. G. Holmes, &c.

During the evening many eloquent addresses were delivered, and the proceedings throughout were of a most agreeable and social character.

OXFORD.—*Churchill Lodge* (No. 702).—The members of this lodge met at the Masonic Hall, Oxford, prior to the meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge, on the 23rd inst. When the W.M. for the past year, W. W. Harrison, M.A., of Brasenose College, vacated his office, and the W.M. elect W. Oswell Thompson, of Exeter Coll., was duly installed, after which he appointed his officers for the year as follows:—S.W., Bro. James Morrell, Heddington Hill House; J.W., Rev. C. M. Style, St. John's Coll.; Chap., Rev. R. W. Norman, Exeter Coll.; Sec., Viscount Newry, Christ Church; Treas., Ald. A. J. Spiers, D. Prov. G.M.; S.D., Arthur Coombs, Oriel Coll.; J.D., G. W. Dodd, Christ Church; Master of Ceremonies, W. C. T. Prowse, Exeter Coll.; I.G., T. J. Huddleston, Christ Church; Org., Henry Jones, Christ Church; Assist. Sec., William Burch; Steward, L. Graham Clarke, Christ Church; Tylers, William Stephens, and William Sheldon.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

A general meeting of the shareholders in the proposed Masonic Temple was held at La Pomme D'Or, St. Helier, on Monday, May 19th, when twenty three brethren were present. The chair was taken by Bro. H.L. Manuel. On the proposition of Bro. Binet, seconded by Bro. Adams, it was resolved, that a plan laid before this meeting, marked G, dated May 19th, 1862, and prepared by Bro. Thos. Gallicham, be adopted. On the proposition of Bro. Durell, seconded by Bro. J. T. Du Jardin, it was resolved, that the building committee be directed to advertise immediately for tenders for the proposed erection. That as soon as the tenders shall have been received, the Secretaries be requested to summon another meeting of the Shareholders, to consider the said tenders, to adopt rules for the company, to receive the first deposit of £1 per share, and to decide when the foundation stone of the proposed building shall be laid.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

CYRUS CHAPTER (No. 21).—The last convocation of the season was held at the London Coffee House, Ludgate, Hill on Tuesday, May 26, and was well attended. Comp. G. Lambert, M.E.Z.; Comp. Rev. S. G. Wood, H.; Comp. Spratt, J.; with other officers and Past Principals were present; also Comps. A. Bridge, M. Levinson, and How, with other visitors. Bros. Thomas Williams, of 212, and Benjamin Strachan of 229, were exalted into this supreme degree by the M.E.Z. whose impressive performance of the ceremony called forth the thanks of the Past Principals. The usual excellent banquet under the superintendence of Comp. Dr. Barringer followed the business. The summer festival was fixed for the last Tuesday in August.

HERTS.

WATFORD.—*Watford Chapter* (No. 580).—A convocation was held on Monday, May 12th, at the Freemasons' Hall, Watford. Comp. George Francis, P.E.Z. presided. Comp. William Tootel, was installed into the first chair, and Comp. C. F. Humbert, into the third chair, they not having been in attendance at the previous chapter. Comp. Horton Smith was elected a joining member. This being the convocation for the election of officers, the choice of the members was as follows:—Comps. H. C. Finch, Z.; C. F. Humbert, H.; J. Goodyear, J.; Thos. Rogers, Treas.; C. M. Layton, E.; Rev. R. Branson, N.; F. H. W. Iles, P.S.; Thomas, Janitor. Bro. George Finch, late of No. 460, was proposed for exaltation at the next convocation. The usual agreeable banquet followed, enlivened by the accustomed good humour, and true Masonic spirit that always prevails.

NORWICH.

NORWICH.—*Perseverance Chapter* (No. 258).—A convocation of this chapter took place at Freemasons' Hall, St. Stephen's, on Wednesday, 21st inst. The chapter was duly opened by the M.E.Z., Comps. E. Hyams, Z., W. R. Redgrave, H., A. J. Collens, J. The companions were then admitted, and the minutes of the last chapter read and confirmed. The ballot was next taken for the three Principals and officers for the ensuing year: W. R. Redgrave, Z., A. J. Collens, H., J. Marshall, J., F. Colsey, E., H. B. Woolsey, N., were declared duly elected. Comp. H. J. Mason, P.Z. of this chapter then installed the three principals in their respective chairs, and invested the two scribes; one brother was proposed for exaltation at the next meeting of the chapter on Friday, May 30th. The chapter was then closed by the Rev. Comp. Titlow, in solemn prayer.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

YORKSHIRE (WEST.)

SHEFFIELD.—*De Furnival Encampment*.—The regular meeting of this encampment was held in Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, on Saturday 17th inst., at half-past five o'clock, under the

command of Sir Knt. Wm. White, Jun., E.C., A.G. Dir. of Cers. of Grand Conclave, and Prov. G. Herald, West Yorkshire. Sir Knts. H. Webster, 1st Capt.; G. Stuart, 2nd Capt.; E. Drury, Reg.; H. J. Garnett, Exp. &c., were also present. Comps. W. R. Parker, of the Chap. of Paradise 162, Sheffield, and Walter. Reynolds of the Minerva Chap., 311, Hull, having been duly elected, were ably and impressively installed, the whole of the officers exhibiting an admirable knowledge of their duties. Sir Knt. Graham Stuart, 2nd Capt., was unanimously elected E.C. for the ensuing year, on the motion of Sir Knt. Drury, seconded by Sir Knt. Garnett. The installation is fixed to take place on Friday 27th June. The new by-laws were then read, discussed, passed, and ordered to be properly engrossed before being sent up for approval to the Grand Master.

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD.—*Cœur de Lion Encampment*.—The members of this encampment held, on Thursday, the 22nd inst., their annual festival at the Masonic Hall, which was attended by the Provincial Grand Commander Lieut.-Col. Atkins Bowyer (who has recently been gazetted to the Lieut.-Colonelcy of the University Rifle Volunteers, of which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is colonel); the Prov. G. Commander for Worcestershire, Sir Knt H. Vernon; Sir Knts. R. J. Spiers, P.G. Capt.; Rev. R. W. Norman, M.A. P.G. Standard Bearer; W. Oswald Thompson, Grand Provost; Griffiths, of the St. Arnaud; — Davis, of the Bladud encampment, and many other knights. In the absence of the E.C., Sir Knt. E. Rainsford, the chair was taken by Knt. Commander Spiers, who installed Companions C. Gandy, of Exeter Coll., and Oliver Lodge, of Pembroke Coll., Knts. Companions of the Order.—The E.C. elect, Sir Knt. Theodore Mansel Talbot (eldest son of C. R. M. Talbot, M.P. for Glamorganshire) was then installed in the chair, when he appointed as his officers the Hon. W. H. North, P.G. Sub-Prior, of Christ Church; and Wroxton Abbey; 1st Capt. Alderman J. C. Dudley; 2nd Capt. Rev. C. M. Style, B.D., of St. John's Coll., P.G. Expert-Prelate; A. G. Holmes, Registrar; C. T. Hawkins, Expert; W. W. Harrison, M.A. of Brasenose Coll., P.G. Organist, Director of Ceremonies; John Barber, M.A. of Worcester Coll., and W. Haigh, Standard Bearers; F. A. Bowyer, Hospitaller; Lodge, Capt. of Lines, all of whom were present, and inducted into their respective offices.—A sumptuous banquet followed, and, under the presidency of the newly-installed Commander, Sir Knt. Talbot, a most delightful evening was spent.

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Cabbell Encampment*.—The members of this encampment met on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, St. Stephen's, in the large and splendid room of that building, for the purpose of installing Comp. Harry Brown Woolsey a Sir Knight of the Order. There were present on this occasion—the Hon. Major Walpole, E.C., on the throne; Sir Knts. G. E. Simpson, Prelate; N. Micklethwait, 1st Capt.; Harry P. L'Estrange, 2nd Capt.; A. F. Morgan, Expert; D. Peurice, Standard Bearer; Joseph Marshall, Almoner; H. J. Mason, Capt. of Lines; H. Underwood, 1st Herald; G. W. Minns, 2nd Herald; J. Darken, Org.; Sir Knts. Barwell, Deacon, Day, and others; the ceremony being performed by the E. Commander in his usual clear and excellent style. The by-laws were read and confirmed. Comp. Joseph Stanley, of the Cabbell Chapter (1109), was proposed for installation at the meeting of the encampment in July next; after which the encampment was closed with solemn prayer.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

CRYSTAL PALACE—THE HANDEL FESTIVAL.

The Grand Handel Festival Orchestra, with its vast and imposing roof, is now acknowledged to be a success far beyond the most sanguine expectations.

The Sacred Harmonic Society are now exerting themselves in earnest to make the musical arrangements for the approaching festival the most complete of any on record. Upwards of 1200 engagements have been made with the provincial choirs,

and as these either have been, or will be, selected by the officers of the society, the result cannot fail to be the engagement of a class of performers far superior in musical ability to those who took part in the former festivals. It is expected by the close of this week the whole of the engagements will have been completed.

The final choral rehearsals in London are appointed for Fridays, the 6th, 13th, and 20th June, to be held in the large hall, Exeter Hall. The great full rehearsal will take place at the Crystal Palace, on Saturday, 21st June. At this, the whole of the performers, both choral and instrumental, as well as the principal singers, will be present.

The "Messiah" will be performed on the first day, and "Israel in Egypt" on the last day of the festival; the intermediate day (Wednesday), being devoted to a selection from Handel's greatest works, not included in the before named oratorios. The selection is not yet definitely arranged, but it will comprise choruses from the "Dettingen Te Deum," "Samson," "Saul," "Judas Maccabæus," "Deborah," "Solomon," including the celebrated "Passion Chorus," "Jephtha," &c. A novel feature in this day's programme will be the introduction of selections from some of Handel's best known secular works; among these will be found "Haste thee, Nymph," from "L'Allegro," "Wretched Lovers," from "Acis and Galatea," "Tyrants, now no more shall dread," from "Hercules," "As from the power of sacred lays," from "St. Cecilia's Ode," interspersed with some of his best known solos.

The entire orchestra will comprise a larger force than were ever before assembled, numbering in all nearly 4000 performers. From the increased volume of tone which must be brought out by the erection of the great roof over the orchestra, there is no doubt whatever that the effect produced will be beyond all conception, while the clearness of the fugal passages, and the increased distinctness of the soft parts, will be as effective and perceptible as in an ordinary concert room.

As the festival will be held concurrently with the great agricultural show at Battersea-park, and during the heyday of the shilling days of the Exhibition, there is no doubt the concourse of visitors at the Crystal Palace on the days of the festival will be immense.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

Mr. Pepper, the able and talented director of this popular place of entertainment, ever on the search for attraction that, with novelty, will combine useful information and amusement, has added a new feature to the general programme of the above establishment, which cannot fail to afford universal satisfaction and impart a considerable amount of pleasure. The addition is a "Panorama of Japan," or, more correctly speaking, a series of moving pictures, representing streets, palaces, tea gardens, and other public buildings in and around the capital city of the Japanese Empire, Jeddo or Yeddo. Till within the last few years the immense empire of Japan—only known to us geographically as a cluster of islands in the North Pacific—was virtually a sealed book. The gates of the Empire have been unbarred, and, instead of its being death for a stranger to enter, or a capital crime for a native to leave the kingdom, we have not only entered into commercial relations with them, but their Sovereign has despatched to our shores some of his highest officers as ambassadors to our country. The interest in all that relates to Japan at the present moment is, consequently, very great, and we know of nothing that will give more general pleasure than the exhibition of the Japanese Panorama now on view at the Polytechnic. The interest at the same time is intensified from the fact that the whole series of views, covering 9000 feet of canvass, are the production of a native Japanese artist. It appears that a Captain Wilson, connected with the British Embassy at Yeddo, found an opportunity to take a series of photographic views of the city and suburbs. From these a native artist secretly—for it was death to do it openly—painted the consecutive pictures that make up the set of the panorama. Certainly the exhibition is in every way unique, and if it were only to view the exquisite model of a Japanese Temple, lighted up for worship, or to study the artist's mannerisms, such as representing all trees of one type and character, and other—to our ideas—extraordinary perversions of taste, the entertainment must prove to the connoisseur a subject of interest and amusement.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—It is now stated that the marriage of the Princess Alice to Prince Louis of Hesse Darmstadt will take place on the 20th of next month.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords on Thursday, the 22nd, the bill for giving a copyright in works of art was read a second time after some little discussion.—On Friday, Lord Desart called attention to the prevalence of agrarian crime in Ireland, which he attributed to the denunciations of the ultramontane clergy. Lord Cork defended the priests from this charge, and submitted that these assassinations were the fruit of a misunderstanding on the part of tenants as to their interest in the land they occupied. Several bills were advanced a stage.—On Monday Lord Brougham pointed out what he conceived to be an omission in the Anglo-American treaty for the suppression of the slave trade, but Earl Russell simply contented himself with an expression of his confidence in the sincerity of the United States' government's desire to co-operate with her Majesty's Government in putting down this inhuman traffic. Lord Clancarty moved for certain papers which would, in his opinion show that the Irish system of national education was a failure. The Bishop of Killaloe said he could never approve any scheme which would render the schools denominational, and that, he believed, was the object aimed at by the noble Earl. The motion was then agreed to.—

On Tuesday, Lord Ebury moved the second reading of his bill for the abolition of the declaration required of all beneficed clergymen that they assent to everything contained in the Book of Common Prayer. The noble lord said his object was to get rid of a test which prevented large numbers of conscientious men from taking orders in the Church of England. His measure would leave ample safeguards against unsoundness of doctrine; it simply contemplated the repeal of an enactment which was directed against the Low Church or Puritan party. Lord Dungannon moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. The Bishop of London opposed the bill, on the ground that it proposed to interfere with an act which was the charter of the union between Church and State. The Bishop of St. David's also spoke against the measure, although he thought some less objectionable means might be devised for satisfying the scruples of the party represented by Lord Ebury. Lord Lyttelton and Lord Shaftesbury having expressed their dissent from the views of the author of the bill, Lord Russell said that, while the present was a period remarkable for individual inquiry and independent judgment, he could not but think that the bill went much too far, inasmuch as it proposed to abolish the only standard which now existed in the Church. After some further discussion, the bill was withdrawn.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, May 22nd, Mr. Malcolm asked a series of questions in reference to a proposal of the British Columbia Overland Transit Company to take out 500 emigrants to that colony in five weeks for £42 each person. He asked whether the Government had inquired into the matter, and whether they had considered the probability of the intending emigrants being starved between Montreal and British Columbia. Mr. C. Fortescue said the attention of the Government had been called to the proposal. The number of emigrants going out, however, was only 100, and they were strong young men. The Government therefore could not interfere. He did not anticipate that the emigrants would suffer so much as Mr. Malcolm seemed to think. The Government had nothing to do with the affair. In reply to Sir J. Pakington, Lord Palmerston said the Government did not intend to introduce any measure respecting church-rates. He appealed to the House whether

the subject was not surrounded with difficulties, and left it to be inferred that the Government, in his opinion, had no right to be troubled with any difficulties. The subject of the inundations on the east coast was brought under the notice of the House by Mr. Bentinck, who asked Mr. Fellowes what had been done. That gentleman entered into a long explanation, the effect of which was that the repairing of the works where they had been broken through by the tide had been confided to Mr. Hawkshaw to be effected without regard to expense. A long discussion took place on Education in Ireland leading to no result.—On Friday Mr. Sotheron-Estcourt stated the terms of the resolution on the church rates question which he proposes to submit to a committee of the whole House, immediately after Whitsuntide. The right hon. gentleman's resolution declares that "the laws relating to church rates may be beneficially settled on the principle that the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical and local courts for enforcing the payment of such rates should henceforth cease; that facilities should be given to the churchwardens for carrying out the necessary arrangements for protecting the fabric of the church; and that power should be given to the vestries to vote a special rate in lieu of church rates to be levied within the district attached to the church, to be recovered in the same manner as the poor and highway rates, and to be charged entirely on the owners." Mr. Horsman announced his intention of moving, as an amendment to Mr. Stanfield's motion for the reduction of the public expenditure, that with every desire for economy, the house considers that the sums voted for naval and military purposes under both the present and the late Governments, have not exceeded the limits of necessity. Sir Robert Clifton said he had the highest authority for stating that the French army and navy had been greatly reduced, and that the Emperor, anxious that the English public should have correct information on the subject, had ordered his Ministers to inform Her Majesty's Government of "the extent and character" of the Imperial armaments. The hon. Baronet, who charged the government with creating baseless panics, moved that the papers to which he had referred be laid on the table. Lord Palmerston repudiated the allegation that the Government had needlessly alarmed the public mind on this question, and promised to produce all the papers bearing upon the subject, with the exception of the confidential reports of our agents in France. Mr. Maguire described what he termed the serious and increasing distress which prevails in certain districts of Cork county, and suggested that Government assistance should be given to the Bandon and Skibbereen Railway, with the view of providing employment for the people. Sir R. Peel asserted, on the authority of a Poor-law Inspector who had been sent down to the districts referred to, that the member for Dungarvan had exaggerated the sufferings of the people, and that the distress might be fully met if the Boards of Guardians acted with promptitude and liberality.—On Monday Sir L. Palk gave notice of his intention to ask the Government whether any steps would be taken for mediation between the Northern and Southern States of America. After a long discussion, the Highways Bill passed through Committee with a few verbal amendments.—On Tuesday Sir Hugh Cairns obtained, without opposition, a Commission to inquire into the working of the patent laws. Mr. Dilwyn moved that it is desirable that the estimates for new works should be submitted for the consideration of the House in a separate form from the annual estimates; and Colonel Sykes that in any system of education by Government aid, provision should be made for teaching in industrial schools; and for supplying teachers to mechanics' institutions; but both resolutions, on being opposed by the Government, were withdrawn. A curious incident followed. Mr. Berkeley rose to make his annual ballot motion, the Conservative benches being at the time almost, if not quite, empty. The member for Bristol and his friends had, therefore, an easy task before them, and, on a division, they obtained a large majority in

favour of the motion for leave to bring in a ballot bill,—a result which was of course greeted with loud cheers from below the gangway. Mr. Augustus Smith also obtained leave to bring in a bill to allow votes at municipal elections to be taken by ballot.—On Wednesday the House was mainly occupied with the discussion of Irish bills. The Irish Fisheries Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a select committee. Two bills relating to elections in Ireland were also read a second time. Colonel White took his seat for Kidderminster.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The health of London slightly fell off in the course of last week. The deaths in all numbered 1200, of whom 176 died from consumption, and 46 from measles. The average of deaths for the last ten years was 1183. The births continue above the average; 1919 children in all were born, the average births being 1847.—The Japanese Ambassadors left London, on Monday morning for Newcastle-on-Tyne, the main object of their visit to the north being to see one or two of the coalpits in full operation. On Wednesday they will proceed to Liverpool, and thence on the following day to Birmingham, where they will make a short stay.—Another target, composed entirely of iron, and constructed on a principle which obviates the use of bolts in fastening the plates, was tried at Shoeburyness on Friday. The target, which was put together under the direction of Mr. Scott Russell, was submitted to the usual test, and the result was that, while the mode of attaching the plates seemed very effective, the resisting power of the target, considering its greater weight, was deemed inferior to that of the Warrior. It appears that the iron plate committee's report has been sent in, but that it has been deemed prudent for the present not to publish it. The Defence Commissioners' report on the Spithead forts has also been received, and it is stated that it will be found to recommend the completion of the works.—It seems that the American Government have actually made a demand upon England for the surrender of the *Emilie St. Pierre*, whose captain so gallantly rescued her from the prize crew of the frigate which had captured her, on the plea of her attempting to break the blockade. As in all such cases, the matter was referred to the law officers of the Crown, who have decided that the rescue was no breach of any municipal law which would warrant the Americans in claiming her to oblige our government to give up the vessel.—The government have determined to issue a special commission for the trial of the persons now in custody charged with the late assassinations in Ireland. Former instances of vigour in that direction have been attended with beneficial effects, and it is to be hoped that the forthcoming commission may be equally successful in striking terror into the lawless and ferocious spirits of the community.—A meeting has been held, Mr. Samuel Gurney in the chair to promote a plan for raising a memorial to the Prince Consort by the working classes, which shall consist of drinking fountains, model lodging-houses, &c., and resolutions in accordance therewith were passed.—A wretched illustration of the end of crime was brought before the Bow-street magistrate on Saturday. A man named Lemon was brought up on a charge of having murdered his wife. His own story, which appears to be truthful, while it exonerates him from the murder, is sad enough. He confessed that he was in the habit of manufacturing base coin; and, as might be supposed, he led a dissipated life. On the Thursday the woman (who had left her husband to live with him) and he had been out drinking, and on returning home quarrelled and fought. Next morning he got up, and in his absence from the room the woman seized a bottle of poisonous chemicals used in his nefarious trade, and drank off enough of its contents to cause her death in a short time afterwards. The prisoner remains in custody, and the coroner's jury have returned an open verdict.—On Thursday evening, last week, Mrs. Vyse, a milliner on Ludgate-hill, poisoned two of her children, and then cut her own throat. She had got poison in the morning from the shop of Mr. Keating, of St. Paul's-churchyard, under the pretence that she wanted to kill vermin. This she gave to the two children. In the afternoon she sent out her servant for more poison, and on the return of the girl she found her mistress in her own bedroom with her throat cut. The unfortunate woman was still alive and able to tell her sister, who had been called, that the children were dead in the next room. There they were found in bed, apparently asleep, but really dead. The unfortunate woman still survives, and hopes are beginning to be entertained now of her recovery. Of course all communication with her in her present prostrate condition is forbidden. The inquest on the children is adjourned till the

6th of June, and in the meantime a chemical analysis will be made of the contents of the stomachs.—A printer, named Ward, of Welchphol, Montgomeryshire, is charged with having cut his wife's throat and his own. The wife and her mother had been charged with felony, and committed for trial, but admitted to bail. The shock appears to have very much depressed the unfortunate man, who was highly respected in Welchphol, and while in this state of mind he committed the crime with which he is charged.—An order has been issued by the coroner for the exhumation of the body of Pierre Pelcher, a Frenchman in the employ of Sir A. Rothschild, of the refinery, Tower-hill. The deceased, it is alleged, has met his death in consequence of the administration of chloroform, and an inquest is to be held.—It will be remembered that when Taylor, after stabbing Mr. Meller at Manchester, discharged a pistol at him, the shot took effect on a man named Hooley, who was engaged at the moment in lifting Mr. Meller from the ground. Some fears were at first entertained for his life, but we learn by the latest accounts that the bullet has been extracted, and that he is now going on favourably. There is no farther news respecting Taylor or the cause of his children's death.—The coroner's jury on Mr. Fitzgerald have returned a verdict of wilful murder against Beckham, the ticket-of-leave man, who was identified by Mrs. Fitzgerald as one of the men that shot her husband. The other man is known, but has not yet been apprehended, though a reward of £50 has been offered for his arrest. Other two men have been apprehended on a charge of being concerned in the conspiracy to murder.—It may be recollected that about £4000 worth of jewellery was stolen from a watchmaker's shop in the Kingsland-road, in the month of January last. More recently a woman was brought before the magistrates, charged attempting to pass Scotch bank-notes which had been stolen from the engraver's office, and to which they added the signature used by the particular bank. A man named Benjamin Redburne, has now been examined before the magistrate at Guildhall, charged with being concerned in both these robberies, the proceeds of both have been found in his possession, or in places where he had access.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The *Moniteur* accuses Lord Palmerston of exaggerating the numbers of the French army. Instead of 116,000 men, as estimated by his lordship, the official journal says the real numbers are—active force, 130,000; reserve force, 203,000 men. The *Moniteur* also announces that the French army of occupation in Rome is to be organised anew, but no details are vouchsafed. General Goyon's successor has been appointed. The *Paire* and the *Pays* announce that the Emperor has nominated his aide-de-camp, General Count de Montebello, to the command of the corps of occupation in Rome, and that the new commander will shortly set out for his post. It is now generally believed that the Marquis de Lavalette will not return to Rome.—The extent of the conspiracy for an invasion of the Austrian territory, continues to be developed by the investigations and measures of the Italian government. The papers of the emancipation and Unitarian Societies have been seized at Genoa, and the authorities have deemed it prudent to suspend the meetings of the rifle clubs throughout Lombardy. A considerable store of arms has been discovered and seized at Florence, and some persons have likewise been arrested there.—The German diet having, on Saturday, definitively adopted the proposition for the re-establishment of the constitution of 1831 in Hesse Cassel, the representative of Hesse promised that his Government would comply with the resolution. This promise was carried out at a meeting of the Council of Ministers, at which it was resolved to re-establish the constitution and the electoral law of 1831. The dispute with the Diet being thus settled, there remains the personal dispute with Prussia to be arranged.—An important and suggestive telegram arrives from Lisbon to-day, to the effect that "the troubles at Oporto have been suppressed by force."—Spain is going in, like the rest of the world, for iron frigates. The Spanish Minister of Marine announced to the representative Chamber on Tuesday that the Government is about to have seven of those vessels constructed.—Despatches from Athens announce that the president of the Council has opened the Greek Chambers in the name of the King. He presented to the deputies a bill on the National Guard, similar to that now in force in Italy, and announced another as being in preparation relative to the election of representatives. This will be based on universal suffrage, but will give only 80 deputies instead of 146, as at present. The elections will take place by province, and no one can be named except in the division where he resides.

INDIA AND CHINA.—There is not much interest in the news from India brought by the Calcutta mail. The papers were engaged in discussing, in a favourable tone, the satisfactory budget of Mr. Laing. Admiral Hope was active in his attacks on the rebels in China, and in one of them he was slightly wounded. The imperialists had surrounded Nankin, but had gained no advantage over the rebels, who appeared prepared to make a stout defence.

AMERICA.—The news from America, which comes down to the evening of the 15th inst., is very interesting. The Confederate army had continued its retreat, which is said to be admirably conducted, their skirmishers in great force protecting their rear and stragglers from the advanced guard of General McClellan's force, a distance of three miles only intervening between the two armies. The Federals had advanced to within 23 miles of Richmond. It was thought the Confederates would make a stand at Bottom's Bridge, at the head waters of the Chickahominy, about 15 miles from Richmond. General Wool had taken possession of Norfolk without resistance, the Confederates having previously destroyed the naval yard and all the vessels. The Confederates had, moreover, blown up the terrible *Merrimac* to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy. From the Mississippi the intelligence (considering its source) may be regarded as favourable to the Confederates. General Poge reports that after a contest of five hours at a creek near Filmington, five miles from Corinth, he had been obliged to withdraw in order to avoid a general engagement. The affair seems to have been a serious one, and the Federals lost a large number of men. The Confederate gun boats appear to have had the best in an attack they made on the flotilla of Commander Foot on the Mississippi. General Beauregard was still fortifying Corinth, and each party was making vast preparations for a great battle. President Lincoln had declared the blockade of New Orleans, Beaufort, and Port Royal to be raised under certain conditions.—A proclamation of General Hunter, freeing the slaves in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina, had caused much discussion in New York, and doubts were expressed as to whether the President would endorse it.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. W.—The minutes of a regular lodge meeting cannot be confirmed at a Lodge of Emergency.

Dr. W. T. J., 18th, must excuse us if we decline publishing a letter on subjects extra Masonic, involving the character, even for prudence, of any brother. We should move that the brother be excluded the lodge, and leave him to his remedy before the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. J. E.—The minutes of private lodges are subject to confirmation at the next meeting like those of Grand Lodge. The bye-laws requiring the deposit of £1 1s. on the proposition of a member is altogether negatory, if the deposit is to be returned in the event of the person so proposed declining to join or to be initiated. The lodge had decidedly no right to override a bye-law on a vote for a non-confirmation of a portion of the minutes, and the Master who allowed it evidently does not know his duty either to the lodge or the Craft.

T. L. asks, a lodge in a province without a Prov. G.M., is seeming to wane; or, more strictly, many brethren excuse themselves from assisting it, causing serious inconvenience; on account of its not being "consecrated," the warrant dating 1859. Could not the G.M. grant powers to any Expert brother in the province, or member of Grand Lodge, to perform the ceremony of consecration, and would he not undertake the duty on his expenses being guaranteed to him by the W.M. of the lodge? [The G.M. could do so, and no doubt would, on being applied to, nominate a brother to perform the consecration, and there are many who would gladly to do so.]