

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1862.

THE EARLY GRAND IN SCOTLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

“Where do any of the Early Grand Encampments hold their meetings?” is the inquiry of “P.E.C.” Circumstances of a peculiar nature having led to our paying a visit to an Early Grand Encampment, we are enabled to give the fullest—we had almost said an official—answer to the question upon which our brother desires to be informed. We may be permitted to state that, notwithstanding the encounters we have had in the arena of controversy with the leaders of the Early Grand, our reception was one of courtesy and great brotherly feeling, and brought us much information upon matters in connection with the local history of a body of which we had before been in comparative ignorance, and documents were shown to us which go far to disprove the exaggerated statements in regard to their mode of working, and the manner in which the business of the encampment is carried on. During our conference with the Sir Knights of that encampment, the Grand Master and Grand Scribe (Bros. Robert Chambers and David Spence), assured us that the statement made by a “Grand Officer of Scotland,” as to initiation fees being pocketed by any individual member of the Order was incorrect, and that the following paragraph in a “Grand Officer’s” letter must have been penned under a misapprehension of the real facts of the case touched upon:—“The person who confers these degrees pockets all the fees in name of expenses. He has no settled place, but goes about the country wherever he can find victims: sometimes as many as a dozen or twenty are made in one night.”—(Letter in FREEMASONS’ MAGAZINE, November 23, 1861.)

Without either justifying or condemning the writer of the above, we have simply to remark that he must have been woefully misinformed as to the itinerative propensities of the person to whom he alludes, for, to our certain knowledge, he has been an industrious and respectable resident in the town of Ayr for the last nine years.

Waiving for the present all enquiry as to the origin of the Early Grand, we learn that previous to 1827 the Scottish encampments held of, and were subject to, the “Honourable the Early Grand Encampment of Dublin.” For many years these encampments were entrusted to the guardianship of “Sir Knight Robert Martin,” of Kilmarnock, upon whom was conferred the rank and title of Provincial Early Grand Master for Scotland, “authorized and empowered to receive in Scotland, and communicate to the Early Grand Encampment in Dublin, all matters relating to the Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta,” as practised under the charters granted by the said Early Grand Encampment. A consideration of the expenses incurred and inconveniences experienced in keeping up regular communication with Ireland induced the members of the Early Grand Encampment in Scotland to think of separation from the mother encampment, and, after a seven years’ agitation, this was effected in a way satisfactory to all parties interested in the settlement of the question. The Early Grand Encampment of Dublin not only relinquished

all authority over their subordinates in Scotland, but by charter constituted them into an independent body under the designation of the “Early Grand Encampment of Scotland,” and formally recognised them as such. The Early Grand Encampments existing in Scotland at the time this arrangement took effect were as follow:—Kilmarnock, Nos. 22, 33, and 40; Muirkirk, No. 28; Dalry, 62; Ayr, 32 and 39; Newmills, 60; Saltecoats, 61; Stewarton, 63.

These encampments having met, in consideration of the great services rendered by Bro. Robert Martin in obtaining for them the recognition of their independence, they appointed that brother to be Grand Master for life. In course of time many of these encampments became dormant, and in 1858 the Grand Master’s death necessitated a reorganisation of the body. In 1860 a successor to Bro. Martin was named, and strenuous efforts put forth to have the dormant chapters resuscitated. In carrying out this it was proposed to drop the numbers originally assigned to the encampments by the Dublin Encampment; but this measure not meeting with the approbation of the members the several encampments were allowed to retain their original numbers. The following are the encampments now holding of the Scotch Early Grand:—Nos. 33, meeting at Kilmarnock; 28, at Muirkirk; 39, at Ayr; 63, at Stewarton; 65, at Wishaw. These encampments are governed by a Grand Encampment, whose chief seat is at Kilmarnock. The Grand Master and other Grand Office-bearers are elected at an annual General Meeting of the Order held at Kilmarnock. The present Grand Master and Grand Scribe reside in Ayr, but all official documents are dated as from Kilmarnock. The Grand Encampment exact a recording fee of 1s. 6d. for each intransit and 3s. for diploma, with 2s. 6d. annually from each encampment. The fee for a Charter is £3.

An official of the Grand Encampment furnished us with a list of the degrees conferred under the Early Grand and the fees charged for the same. We append them:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Burial Step and Knights of the Blue..... | 5 | 0 |
| Excellent, Super-Excellent, Royal Arch, Pilgrim, and Knight Templar..... | 12 | 6 |
| Knights of the Ark | 2 | 6 |
| Mark, Link, and Chain | 2 | 6 |
| Mediterranean Pass | 2 | 0 |
| Knight of Malta | 2 | 6 |
| Suspending Cross of Babylon | 2 | 6 |
| Princely Order of Red Cross | 7 | 6 |
| Seven Steps of Priesthood | 16 | 6 |
| Jacob’s Wreath | 2 | 6 |
| White Cross | 2 | 6 |
| Black Cross | 2 | 6 |
| Royal Mariner | 2 | 6 |
| Master Architect | 2 | 6 |
| The Mother Word, or the Knights of the Holy Ghost | 3 | 0 |
| Knights of Patmos | 3 | 0 |
| Knights of Death | 2 | 6 |
| Elysian Fields | 5 | 6 |

The nine last named degrees are worked by associated bands of Early Grand Knight Templars. Seven Knights are required to form a band, and they are

known as the Priest or White Band—the rituals for which degrees were, we have been told, obtained from Belfast many years ago. Early Grand Encampments are known to have existed in Paisley and Galston, but they have for several years been lost sight of. It is said that there are about 400 Early Grand Sir Knights in the County of Ayr.

THE THREATENED SECESSION FROM THE SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.—No. VIII.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The parricidal policy of the threatened secessionists, has at length driven them to the verge of an act which if consummated, will certainly obliterate their star from the firmament of regular Royal Arch Masonry. At their meeting in St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow, on the evening of the 13th inst., the secessionists passed a number of resolutions, in which they reiterate their reasons for dissent, attempt to justify the notoriously illegal course they have adopted in their difference with Supreme Chapter, and appoint a committee of their number to "draw up a formal deed of demission from Supreme Chapter." In their 4th resolution they say:—"Whilst deeply regretting the necessity of the step, feel that in justice to themselves, for the prosperity of the Order, and in support of the true principles of Royal Arch Masonry, they are compelled to separate from, and renounce all allegiance to the present Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, protesting and asserting their right to meet in chapter, and exercise all the privileges presently held by them as Royal Arch Masons."

What a perversion of language for these men to say that it is "in support of the true principles of Royal Arch Masonry." They have broken their R.A. covenant, and assumed a power utterly subversive of the ancient landmarks, and of the constitution under which they have been admitted to participation in the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry. We shall not anticipate the promulgation of their claim of rights, further than to say that on one very important point we are agreed, namely, that their departure will indeed be "for the prosperity of the Order," whose unity they have immolated upon the altar of tyranny and self-aggrandisement, and whose laws they have trampled under foot. We hope that the Glasgow Grand may now have the honesty to shew their appreciation of the noble example set by the Early Grand, by fraternising with that consistently independent body; although we question whether the members of that encampment would so far lower themselves as to admit within their pale men, so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of persecution as the Masonic antecedents of the west country companions present such clear and convincing proof of.

"Why do you tell me of the generality of people, the very worst patterns of conduct? Why do you talk to me of custom, the teacher of all that is bad? Let us accustom ourselves to that which we know is best; so that will become usual which was unusual, and that will become agreeable which was disagreeable, and that fashionable which appeared unfashionable."

ERASMUS.

MASONIC JOTTINGS FROM ABROAD.

GRAND ORIENT OF ITALY.—Bro. Hayman, of the Supreme Grand Council of France, has been nominated and received as the representative of the Grand Orient of Italy to the Grand Orient of France.

GRAND ORIENT OF CONSTANTINE, ALGERIA.—A new lodge, which was working under dispensation, has been formally consecrated in Algeria. This lodge, named Les Hospitaliers de Constantine, is No. 163 on the roll of the Supreme Grand Council of the 33^e Ecossais of France, and bids fair to be of great service amongst the French colonists and the Arab tribes, by which they are surrounded.

BRUSSELS: LODGE UNION ET PROGRES.—This lodge having erected a new temple for Masonic purposes, inaugurated the building by a concert, the proceeds of which were devoted to the relief of the poor of Brussels. Bro. Bancel, late Professor in the University, addressed the company present on the advantages of the arts in connection with Masonry. He also pointed out the duty of charity, and how it was enjoined on the whole fraternity.

MONTE VIDEO: LOGE LES ENFANTS DU NOUVEAU MONDE.—On the decease of the celebrated writer, Bro. Ragon, becoming known in Monte Video, a sorrow lodge was held, at which a very brilliant oration was pronounced on the merits of the deceased brother by Bro. Vaillant, W.M. of the lodge, who, amongst other topics in connection with the subject, gave a short account of the acts and works of Bro. Ragon, and deplored the loss of so great and eloquent a brother.

THE MASONIC FLAG OF FRANCE.—The Supreme Council of France, some years since, originated a decree by which Masonic sailors should be more readily able to ask assistance, in time of need, from other ships, manned or commanded by brethren of the Order. This very useful suggestion consists in hoisting a flag bearing a square and circle on a blue ground. To change this sign of recognition into one of distress, the method is to reverse it similarly to the mode adopted in the French Navy with the national flag under the like circumstances. So useful has this been found that the Supreme Grand Council have communicated the sign, plan, and its objects, to all recognised grand bodies throughout the universe, and since 1842 the system has been worked with great advantage.

MASONIC FESTIVAL FOR ORPHANS.—The eleventh *fête* for the benefit of Masonic Orphans, took place at the Lac Saint-Fargeau, Paris, on the 25th ult. It comprised a concert, dinner, a second concert, ball, fireworks, waterworks, and amusements of every kind. This new institution has been very successful, and is one of the principal resources of the charity in question; so much so, that the authorities will be enabled to extend its benefits to six more children at once, with a prospect of further increasing the number.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON FREEMASONRY.—The Bishop of Mayence, M. Kettler, has published a vehement attack upon Freemasonry, which has been answered by Bro. Dr. Seydel, in terms of dignified reproof and convincing argument.

TWO OLD MASONS.—The lodge of "The Happy Ferdinand," at Magdebourg, celebrated the sixtieth

anniversary of the reception of one of its most distinguished brethren, Bro. Kapherr, the father of the lodge, an old town councillor, of eighty-nine years of age. After sixty years' membership he is still a constant attendant at his mother lodge. The Lodge Hermine, of Buckbourg, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its Master, Bro. Funk, with great rejoicing, and, after a banquet, presented their W.M. with an elegant candelabra.

DEATH OF BRO. PLAPPERT.—This young and distinguished professor, of Osterode, died at the early age of twenty-two, and was buried amidst a large concourse of spectators and many of the brethren of his lodge, as well as the Catholic and Protestant priests.

DEATH OF BRO. BIZET.—This brother, a writer on polemical subjects, was, by an error, in a process-verbal, mistaken in identity for another of the same name, and after the *coup d'etat* of December, was deported to Algeria, where he resided for several years, having regained his liberty some six months after his leaving France. He was a firm member of the Gallican Church, and refused to admit the doctrine of the ultramontane party and gave his experience in a work entitled *The Confessions of a Catholic*, which is highly prized by the more moderate sections of that creed. His mortal remains were consigned to his mother earth, amidst an immense concourse of spectators, largely increased by numbers of the Craft.

THE PYTHAGOREAN TRIANGLE.*

"The three most perfect of all geometrical diagrams are the equilateral triangle, the square, and the equal hexagon. To this we may add an observation, for which we are indebted to our Grand Master Pythagorus, that there exist no other regular equilateral forms whose multiples are competent to fill up and occupy the whole space about a given centre, which can only be effected by six equilateral triangles, four squares, and three equal hexagons."—Dr. HEMMING.

The prevailing secrets of the lodges in the earliest times consisted of the profound dogmata of geometry and arithmetic, by the use of which all the complicated designs of the expert Master Masons were wrought out and perfected. These sciences are inseparable from the system, and have been faithfully transmitted to our own times. "The secret meetings of Master Masons," says Dallaway, "within any particular district, were confined to consultations with each other, which mainly tended to the communication of science, and of improvement in their art. An evident result was seen in the general uniformity of their designs in architecture, with respect both to plan and ornament, yet not without deviations. We may conclude that the Craft, or mystery of architect and operative Masons, was involved in secrecy, by which a knowledge of their practice was carefully excluded from the acquirement of all who were not enrolled in their fraternity. Still it was absolutely necessary that when they engaged in contracts with bishops or patrons of ecclesiastical buildings, a specification should be made of the component parts, and of the terms by which either contracting party should be rendered conversant with them. A certain nomenclature was then divulged by the Master Masons for

such a purpose, and became in general acceptation in the middle ages."

The abstruse calculations which accompanied the sciences of geometry and arithmetic are no longer necessary to Freemasonry as an institution purely speculative; and they were accordingly omitted in the revised system, as it was recommended to the notice of the fraternity by the Grand Lodge at the revival in 1717, and we retain only the beautiful theory of these sciences, with their application to the practice of morality founded on the power and goodness of the G.A.O.T.U.

It would be an injustice to our brethren of the last century to believe that they did not entertain a profound veneration for the principles of the Masonic Order. But the customs and habits of the people of England living in that day differed materially from our own. They were times when conviviality and a love of social harmony prevailed over the more sedate pursuits and investigations of science, in which such an astonishing progress distinguishes the present times. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries London was an atmosphere of clubs; and a society of this kind existed in every street for the peculiar use of its inhabitants, besides those which were exclusively frequented by persons possessing similar tastes or habits of amusement. Add it will be no disparagement to Masonry, if we believe that its private lodges did not sustain a much higher rank than some of these celebrated societies; for the Kit Cat, the Beef Steak, and other clubs, were frequented by the nobility as well as the most eminent literary characters of that polished era.

It was the organisation of Freemasonry that gave it the distinctive character which elevated its pretensions above the common routine of club life; and although it is admitted that the members of the latter entertained a strong attachment to their several institutions, yet none were so enthusiastic as those who had enlisted in the cause of Masonry, as we may learn from the free testimonies that remain. A Mason of high standing, more than a century ago, thus expressed his feelings respecting the Order. "Masonry is the daughter of heaven; and happy are they who embrace her. By it, youth is passed over without agitation, the middle age without anxiety, and old age without remorse. Masonry teaches the way to content, a thing almost unknown to the greater part of mankind. In short, its ultimate result is to enjoy in security the things that are; to reject all meddlers in state affairs or religion; to embrace those of real moment and worthy tendency with fervency and zeal unfeigned, as sure of being unchangeable as ending in happiness. They are rich without wealth, intrinsically possessing all desirable good; and have the less to wish for by the enjoyment of what they have. Liberty, peace, and tranquillity are the only objects worthy of their diligence and truth."

Modern revision has, however, extended the limits of scientific investigation beyond what was intended by those brethren who decree that "the privileges of Masonry should no longer be restricted to operative Masons, but extend to men of various professions, provided they were regularly approved and initiated into the Order." And Dr. Hemming and his associates in the year 1914, thought it expedient to introduce some peculiar disquisitions from the system of

* From Dr. Oliver's new work, *The Freemasons' Treasury*.

Pythagoras on the combinations of the point, the line, the superficies, and the solid, to form rectangular, triangular, quadrilateral, multilateral figures, and the regular bodies; the latter of which, on account of their singularity, and the mysterious nature usually ascribed to them, were formerly known by the name of the five Platonic bodies; and they were so highly regarded by the ancient geometricians, that Euclid is said to have composed his celebrated work on the elements, chiefly for the purpose of displaying some of their most remarkable properties. These disquisitions usually conclude with an explanation of the forty-seventh Problem of Euclid, which is commonly called the Eureka of Pythagoras.

It appears to me that in the revision of the English ritual at the union, a great omission was perpetrated, which it would be well to supply; and in the present taste for scientific lectures and investigations, nothing would tend to elevate the character of Freemasonry more than to afford an opportunity for its indulgence by furnishing the means of carrying out its references by the introduction of a higher range of science. Freemasonry, to be completely successful, should take precedence in science as it does in morals and the exercise of charity; for there are few institutions which equal it in the walks of benevolence.

It is true the seven liberal sciences are referred to in the second degree; but with the exception of geometry, they occupy no important place in the ritual. And for this reason I suppose, that in ancient times the Order was denominated Geometry. On this science, with its application to architecture, our disquisitions are abundant and powerfully interesting; and why should not a lecture on the elementary principles of other sciences be equally gratifying to the members of a lodge? Arithmetic, or the science of number, is nearly allied to geometry; we patronise music in practice, but hear little of it in theory; and of astronomy we are merely told that it is an art which teaches us to read the wonderful works of God in those sacred pages the celestial hemisphere, where we may perceive unparalleled instances of wisdom and goodness, and through the whole of the creation trace the glorious Author by his works.

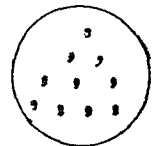
That great philosopher Pythagoras, who, by the superiority of his mind, infused a new spirit into the science and learning of Greece, where he founded the Italic sect, taught his disciples geometry, that they might be able to deduce a reason for all their thoughts and actions, and to ascertain correctly the truth or falsehood of any proposition by the unerring process of mathematical demonstration. Thus being enabled to contemplate the reality of things, and to detect imposture and deceit, they were pronounced to be in the road to perfect happiness. Such was the discipline and teaching of the Pythagorean lodges. And it is related that when Justin Martyr applied to a learned Pythagorean to be admitted as a candidate for the mysterious dogmata of his philosophy, he was asked whether, as a preliminary step, he had already studied the sciences of arithmetic, music, astronomy, and geometry, which were esteemed to be the four divisions of the mathematics; and he was told that it was impossible to understand the perfection of beatitude without them, because they alone are able to abstract the soul from sensibles, and to prepare it for intelligibles. He was further told that in the absence

of these sciences no man is able to contemplate what is honest, or to determine what is good; and because the candidate acknowledged his ignorance of them, he was refused admission into the society.

Above all other sciences or parts of the mathematics, the followers of Pythagoras esteemed the doctrine of Numbers, which they believed to have been revealed to man by the celestial deities; and they pronounced arithmetic to be the most ancient of all the sciences, because, "being naturally first generated, it takes away the rest with itself, but is not taken away with them. Thus animal is first in nature before man, and by taking away animal we take away man, but by taking man we do not take away animal." They considered number extending to the decad to be the cause of the essence of all things, and therefore esteemed the creation of the world to be nothing more than the harmonious effect of a pure arrangement of number.

Again, the monad was esteemed by Pythagoras as the father of number, and the duad as its mother; whence the universal prejudice in favour of odd numbers, the father being had in greater honour than the mother. Odd numbers being masculine were considered perfect, and applicable to the celestial gods; while even numbers, being female, were considered imperfect, and given to the terrestrial and infernal deities. Every tyro knows that odd numbers are Masonic; and if he be ignorant of the reasons why three, five, seven, and eleven have been adopted as landmarks, let him apply to the Master of his lodge for information, and he will then be satisfied of the wisdom of the appropriation, because number forms one of the pillars which contribute to the support of scientific Masonry, and constitutes an elementary principle of geometry.

Thus, in the Pythagorean triangle consisting of ten points, the upper dot or jod is monad, or unity, and represents a point, for Pythagoras considered a point to correspond with unity; a line to two, a superficies to three, a solid to four; and he defined the point as a monad having position and the beginning of all things; a line was thought to correspond with duality, because it was produced by the first motion from indivisible nature, and formed the junction of two points. A superficies was identified with the number three, because it is the first of all causes that are found in figures; for a circle, which is the principal of all round forms, comprises a triad, in centre—space—circumference. But a triangle, which is the first of all rectilinear figures, is included in a ternary, and receives its form according to that number; and was considered by the Pythagorians to be the author of all sublunary things. The four points at the base of the Pythagorean triangle represent a solid or cube, which combines the principles of length—breadth—thickness; for no solid can have less than four extreme boundary points.



Thus it appears that in applying number to physical things, the system of Pythagoras terminated in a tetrad; whilst that of Aristotle, by omitting the point, limited the doctrine of magnitude to the triad of line—surface—body. In divine things, however, the former philosopher profusely used the number three, because it represented the three principal attributes of the deity. The first of which is infinite with fecundity; the second, infinite knowledge and

wisdom; and the last, active and perceptive power. From which divine attributes the Pythagoreans and Platonists seem to have framed their trinity of archical hypostases, such as have the nature of principles in the universe; and which, though they be apprehended as several distinct substances gradually subordinate to one another, yet they many times extend to the *To Theion* so far as to comprehend them all within it.

While employed in investigating the curious and unique properties which distinguish the Pythagorean triangle, we no longer wonder that the inhabitants of the ancient world, in their ignorance of the mysterious secrets of science and the abstruse doctrine of causes and effects, should have ascribed to the immediate interposition of the deity those miraculous results which may be produced by an artful combination of particular numbers. Even philosophy was staggered; and the most refined theorists entertained singular fancies, which they were unable to solve without having recourse to supernatural agency. Hence the pseudo science of Arithmancy, or divination by numbers, became very prevalent in the ancient world; and was used by Pythagoras himself as an actual emanation of the deity. By this means he pretended to foretell future events, and reduced the doctrine to a science governed by specific rules.

ANCIENT RINGS.

In the last part of the valuable catalogue of works on loan at the South Kensington Museum, Mr. Edmund Waterton, F.S.A., gives the following introduction to the list of rings:—

This collection of rings has been formed for the purposes of illustrating the history of finger rings from the earliest date; consequently they have been arranged, as far as possible, in chronological order, and it is this peculiar feature which distinguishes the *Dactyliotheca* now exhibited from other existing ones, and constitutes its chief interest and value.

The series commences with those of Egypt. Signet rings were much worn by the ancient Egyptians. Their rings were made of gold, of silver, of iron, and of bronze, and were frequently set with revolving *scarabæi*. The lower classes wore rings of ivory and porcelain. Examples of these rings are exhibited (Nos. 3 and 7). The Greeks are supposed to have derived the use of the ring from Asia. As no mention of rings is made in Homer, Pliny concludes that in those days they were unknown. As with the Egyptians the primitive use of the ring was to serve as a signet, hence, to prevent fraud, Solon enacted a law that no seal engraver was to keep by him the impression of a ring he had cut; whilst Pythagoras, out of reverence, forbade the images of gods to be worn in rings. In the earlier ages the rings were all of metal, then stones were set in them. The art of gem-engraving became, in consequence much cultivated, and the Greek engravers arrived at a high degree of perfection in it. No gems certainly known to be of the Phidian period exist. It is believed that gems were not mounted in rings prior to the 62nd Olympiad. Alexander the Great appointed Pyrgoteles to be his "engraver in ordinary," and alone to execute his portrait in gems, just as Apelles and Lysippus in marble. Greek rings occur of gold, of silver, and of bronze; women wore them of ivory and amber. The Greeks wore their rings generally on the annular or fourth finger of the left hand. The Etruscans were marvellously cunning goldsmiths, in which art their skill has

never been surpassed. They had a peculiar method of fusing and joining metals without the use of solder, and this is the secret how to detect Etruscan jewellery in its genuine state. Gem-engraving was practised with them at a very early period; it was rude at first, but subsequently of such a nature as to rival that of Greece. The Etruscans rarely worked in cameo; this collection, however, contains an example, but in a modern setting. Rings of extraordinary beauty are found in the tombs of Etruria; in fact, they abound, yet seldom do two occur of the same design or pattern. Silver rings are rarer than those of gold; iron and bronze rings are for the most part gilt; specimens of all sorts are in the collection. The so-called Egypto-Phœnician rings come from the excavations of Sardinia.

There is no nation with whose individual and personal history the finger ring is so closely connected as the Roman. At first the Romans wore rings of iron, the gold ring being given to those senators only who were sent abroad as ambassadors; then it was adopted by the senators. Under the Republic and the Empire its use was regulated by laws. The ring of gold was the sign of equestrian rank, and the *Jus annuli aurei* became the height of a Roman's ambition. Prætors and quæstors had the right of conferring the *jus annuli*. In later times the privilege was much abused, and in consequence the distinction became depreciated in public estimation. Then the use of rings became immoderate in number and inconvenient in size. People no longer contented themselves with one ring; they sometimes wore rings on every finger, and even on every joint. One Charinus, according to Martial, wore daily a little matter of some sixty rings—that is, six to every finger; and, what is more remarkable, he loved to sleep in them. They seem to have chosen at pleasure the devices or subjects for their rings. Some wore the portraits of their ancestors, or the representation of some event connected with their personal history, or that of their family. Every man's signet was his ring—the impression of it was affixed to all official acts and deeds. Hence Cicero, writing to his brother Quintus, governor of Asia Minor, admonishes him to be careful in the use of his signet: "Sit annulus tuus non ut vas aliquod, sed tanquam tu ipse; non minister alienæ voluntatis, sed testis tuæ." The circumstance that not merely individuals, but states, had their seals, perhaps explains the great correspondence of many gems in rings with coin types. Roman rings occur of gold, of silver, of iron, of brass, of ivory, of lead, of amber, and of glass, and of one piece of stone, examples of all of which, with the exception of ivory, are represented in the *Dactyliotheca*.

The Roman rings are followed by those of the Early Christian period. Clement, of Alexandria, reproving the heathen custom of wearing lascivious subjects cut on their rings, suggests to the Christians that they should have engraved devices of symbolic meaning, having reference to their holy faith; such as a dove, which symbolizes life eternal and the Holy Spirit; a palm branch, peace; an anchor, hope; a ship in full sail, the church; a fish or *ixθvs*, and the like.

Passing over the few Gnostic rings and those of the lower empire, which need no comment, we come to the Byzantine ones. The nobles of Byzantium wore generally signet rings of metals, *i.e.*, unset with stones, having the letters of the cognomen arranged in the form of a cross; of this class of signets an example is given. There are also two other rings ornamented with niello, and a signet set with a bloodstone intaglio of St. Theodore.

The Merovingians were fond of employing precious stones for the ornamentation of their jewellery, and frequently in such a manner as to represent *cloisonné* enamel. Some examples are given, and also a remarkable specimen of filagree, or rather gold-work appliqué. The chief feature in Merovingian rings is that the bezels are for the most part circular, and project considerably.

The goldsmith's craft was much cultivated not only by the Anglo-Saxons, but by the whole of the Teutonic race

In Beowulf we read :—

“For one of wondrous gift
a goldsmith's art
is provided.
Full oft he decorates
and well adorns
a powerful king's noble,
and he to him gives
broad land in recompense.”

Owing to the ravages of the Danes, and the needy Norman adventurers under William the Conqueror, whose appreciation of the fine arts was overcome by their thirst of plunder, few examples of the skill of our Saxon forefathers in the precious metals have been spared to us. Amongst the examples of rings of this period may be enumerated the ring of Alhstan, Bishop of Sherburne, A. D. 823—867; a massive gold signet with the name ALFRET, or AVFRET; and a silver ring of North Saxon make; the bezel is ornamented with lacertine work, and which is, as far as can be ascertained, the only existing ring of the kind.

Having now arrived at the eleventh century, we must diverge for a while, and consider the rings which come next in order, viz., papal rings, and others.

The sovereign pontiff, on his promotion to the see of St. Peter, receives no ring, being already a bishop, and invested with the episcopal insignia. Neither does he receive a ring at his coronation. For some centuries the sovereign pontiffs have used a seal ring, styled the Ring of the Fisherman, so called because it represents St. Peter, the prince of the Apostles, seated in a boat, and drawing a net from the waters. It has been used for the sealing of those documents called briefs apostolic, from the fifteenth century; but prior to that time it was employed for the private letters of the popes. The earliest mention of it occurs in 1264. Writing to his nephew from Perugia, on the feast of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas, Clement IV. says :—“Non scribimus tibi, neque familiaribus nostris sub bulla, sed sub *piscatoris sigillo*, quo Romani pontifices in suis secretis utuntur.” On the death of every pope it is broken and a new one made. The Ring of the Fisherman is never worn by the pope. That used by the Sovereign Pontiff Pius IX. is of plain gold, rudely executed, and weighing one ounce and a half; it is always in the keeping of the Magister ab Admissionibus, or Lord Chamberlain; whilst a small stamping die is used in its stead by the Secretary of the Briefs. The use of the large brass rings with papal arms and emblems, of which several are in the collection, remains a mystery. The earliest one of which the writer knows, is that of Gregory XI. (1370—1378); the latest, that of Julius II. (1503—1513). Many exist with the names and arms of the same Pope; thus, I know of eight of Pius II. (Piccolomini, 1458—1464.) Various conjectures have been made as to their use, that they were given by way of credentials; that they were given by the Holy See when erecting a fief; that they were used for the statue of St. Peter, in the Basilica of St. Peter's at Rome; but in the absence of more certain data, the writer's opinion is that they were used to contain filings of the chains of St. Peter, and sent as presents by the holy father. This practice of enclosing filings of St. Peter's chains in rings was in vogue as early as the eighth century.

Cardinals on being raised to their high estate are invested with a ring in the public consistory by the sovereign pontiff. It is unknown when the ring was first given to them, but in the twelfth century it is spoken of as being then an old custom: cardinals' rings are always set with a sapphire. The ring is one of the earliest of the episcopal insignia, and its primitive form and use was a signet. Until the introduction of large official seals, the ring of the bishop was his signet; and of this we have abundant proof in charters of the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth centuries, cited by Mabillon and others. The device engraved on the rings seems to have been

selected at the pleasure of the wearer. St. Augustine had on his ring the head of a man in profile. Sometimes the ring of the bishop was called the “Annulus Ecclesiæ.” Finally, in 1194, Innocent III. ordained that the bishop's ring should be henceforth of solid and pure gold, and set with a gem, on which nothing should be engraved. If bishops were deposed their rings were taken from them. Abbots who have received from the holy see the privilege of using the episcopal insignia, wear also the ring.

Amongst the varieties of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, one very pleasing class is formed by the “Iconographic rings,” that is, of rings which have, either on the bezels or on the shoulders of our Blessed Lady and Child, or of Saints. They are nearly all of the same style of workmanship, and those of silver are always of much ruder make than those of gold. Their date may be assigned from 1390 to 1520 at the latest, and they are peculiar to England and Scotland. These are followed by devotional rings with sacred monograms, and others with inscriptions, some with the holy names, such as JESVS, MARIA; others with the names of the three kings spelt in all manner of ways; others with the title upon our Lord's cross, IRVS . NAZARENVS . REX . IYDAEORVM. Many of these were worn against the cramp. Then, again, we have charact rings of superstitious use, which were charms in the forms of inscriptions, such as ANANIZAPTA: and strange barbaric words and combinations, such as ES. XEBER X DIABAR X SABAVS. One ring in particular has a most curious legend upon the hoop: JESVS, AVTEM .

TRANSIENS . PER . MEDIV . ILLOR, which words were held to render the wearer invisible. Many other rings of this class has cabalistic names and words utterly unintelligible.

The class of signet rings contains many interesting varieties. The earliest of the mediæval ones (including in that term the period from the sixth to the sixteenth centuries) are those with *siglæ* or monograms; these were much used from the fourth to the tenth centuries. These *siglæ* very probably led, at a later period, to the adoption of certain arbitrary signs, called *merchants' marks*. Merchants and others not entitled to armorial bearings used to have engraved on their rings these devices. They were much used in England and on the continent. Piers Plowman speaks of “*merchantes merkes ymedeled in glasse*.” Another class of signets are those set with antique gems. During the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries the art of gem-engraving had nearly died out; and hence we often meet with Roman *intaglia* set in rings, and a legend engraved on the metal setting. Then, again, there are rings with punning devices called a “*rebus*.” Amongst those with heraldic emblems, and shields of armorial bearings, there are some which are set either with crystals or white sapphires, and which have the tinctures represented underneath, in enamels, thus blazoning the arms. The earliest known example of this work is the ring of Jean Sans-Peur, Duke of Burgundy, who was assassinated in 1419. Another interesting example of this class is the signet-ring of Mary, Queen of Scots, now in the British Museum.

We now come to the different varieties of wedding rings. The fyancl or wedding ring is doubtless of Roman origin, and was usually given at the betrothal as a pledge of the engagement. Its primitive form was a signet or seal ring. Amongst the wedding rings there are three Roman ones; one of gold, with the *fede*, or two hands joined, which Baronius calls the “*hieroglyphicum concordie et amoris* :” another of silver, set with an *intaglio* of the same device; and a third, all of silver, with the *fede*, and inscription NIKAS. Then there are the “*posy*” rings, with inscriptions; formerly called “*chancons*,” then “*resons*,” or “*reasons*,” and finally *posies* or *poesies* (from *poiesis*). Another variety of the wedding ring is the “*gimmel*” ring, or double ring, which opens and shuts together again; but this term is only applicable to rings which divide, and, when divided, play into each other. Many of these gimmel rings have the *fede*, and the hands

open and clasp each other. There is also another variety, which consists of rings with three hoops, opening on a pivot, and disclosing under the bands two hearts. Strange as it may seem, the Jews did not adopt the wedding ring until after they saw it in general use with other nations. Several of the Jewish wedding rings are in the collection. Some are curiously ornamented with filigree and enamel; and they all have the inscription, in Hebrew, *MAZUL TOUR*, "God be with you." These rings are made for the use of the synagogue, where they serve in the celebration of the marriage ceremony, being placed on the finger of the couple at a certain part of the rite.

During the middle ages many stones were worn in rings and highly esteemed for the talismanic and medicinal properties and virtues which they were held to possess. The ruby, the emerald, the heliotrope, and others were much esteemed. The turquoise was likewise valued, and it will be remembered that Shylock prized his "turkoyse" beyond a "wilderness of monkeys." The toadstone or crapaudine, which is in reality a fossil, but which, for many ages, was believed to be engendered in the head of a toad—and hence its name—was much worn. Rings set with crapaudines constantly occur in old inventories. A ring made of the hoof of an ass was held to be good against epilepsy.

Resuming again the chronological order of the rings from the thirteenth century, there appear some rude bronze rings set with glass, found in a stone coffin in the neighbourhood of Oxford, and some very beautiful examples of the fourteenth century. These are followed by some silver rings with nielloed portraits, which are of rare occurrence; and a series of rings of the Renaissance. It is somewhat difficult to meet with rings of this period, with the original stones in them. The settings are exceedingly elegant, and frequently display a graceful combination and adaptation of classical figures for the shoulders of the hoop. Several marvellous rings of the Renaissance, the work of Benvenuto Cellini, are, or were, at least in 1858, preserved in the *Gabinetto delle Gemme*, in the *Uffizij* at Florence.

Amongst the miscellaneous rings of this date may be enumerated a leaden ring, with the heads of the Emperor Charles V. and his empress, which is made to serve as a whistle; and also a curious copper ring, with the head of Medusa, which can be used as a squirt. Then there come some memento or mourning rings, with death's heads, such as were often bequeathed by will in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Finally, there are two shelves of miscellaneous rings, consisting of Indian, and Caffre, and others, which require no observations.

In preparing this brief sketch, the remarks have been arranged as much as possible to suit the order in which the rings are placed in the case.

Several of the rings show the early use of niello; one of Late Roman work is ornamented with it, as also two of Byzantine make. Then there is the Anglo-Saxon ring of Alhstan; and the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries present numerous other examples.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The following is from the Introductory Address delivered at the Institute of British Architects, by W. Tite, Esq., *F.R.S.*, &c., President.

Gentlemen,—In obedience to what has now become our regular custom, it is my duty as your President to address you on this our first meeting for the session of 1862-63. And I have the more pleasure in doing so, because I think the Institute has never exhibited so satisfactory an appearance, whether we regard its influence in society and in the scientific world, the increasing number of its members, or the prosperous state of our funds.

Notwithstanding, however, this satisfactory condition of our affairs, the events which I shall have to bring under your con-

sideration must be prefaced by a notice of the melancholy bereavement the nation generally, and the Institute of Architects particularly, have to deplore in the premature death of one of our distinguished patrons, in the person of the Prince Consort.

At the time that event happened, we offered to her Gracious Majesty the Queen our humble but affectionate condolence; but I must still be permitted to add a few words on this melancholy subject.

His Royal Highness the Prince Consort earned, in the course of his short but eminently useful career, the gratitude and esteem of all who are directly or indirectly connected with the development of a taste for the fine arts in our fatherland. It is not for us, feeling bitterly as we still do the loss of a kind patron, and an earnest lover of our profession, to inquire curiously into the peculiar tastes, or the æsthetical theories adopted by his late Royal Highness in matters connected with architecture; because, emphatically, these are questions beyond the reach of abstract reasoning, and because the manner of their solution depends greatly upon the early associations which modify the faculties to be brought into action in our perceptions of the good, the beautiful, and the true. We may, then, entertain individually opinions with regard to objects of art different from those which guided the late Prince in his preference for certain architectural forms; but after every allowance has been made on this score, the conviction must remain that his Royal Highness actually did more to promote the love of pure art, for art's sake, than any of his predecessors in the positions which enable men to modify the modes of thought of their contemporaries. On occasions of the public expression of regret for the loss of one so good and great, it is, perhaps, undesirable to suggest comparisons of any description, because they are apt to disturb the unanimity of feeling it is so desirable to retain; but I cannot refrain from remarking that one of the characteristics of the action of his late Royal Highness in his patronage of art always seemed to me to be especially worthy of admiration; namely, his respect for personal character and independence of judgment on the part of those whom he delighted to honour. He loved art for art's sake; not for the sake of imposing his own views and opinions on its external manifestations. His loss has been indeed a heavy blow to English art in all its branches. Our estimation of the good he has done, and the best proof of our regret for his premature removal from amongst us, would be, I humbly think, most satisfactorily shown by our endeavouring to carry forward, so far as lies in our power, the task he set to himself, namely, that of improving the tone and of diffusing the love for art. So he laboured; and so shall we most effectually retain his spirit, and advance his work!

The next important event to which I propose to call your attention is the one the departed Prince had himself zealously laboured to prepare during his lifetime, and which will always be connected with his name in the nation's recollections; I mean the Great International Exhibition. Properly understood, and properly managed, these periodical gatherings of the products of art and manufacture from all quarters of the globe must be the most efficient means of advancing the attainment of that "peace on earth and goodwill toward men," which we believe to be the end of all social organisation; and though the bright visions men began to indulge upon the occasion of the inauguration of the first great gathering of this description have been rudely shaken by the sad events now taking place in America, it is still morally certain that the more nations learn to appreciate one another's merits and powers, the less likely are misunderstandings to arise amongst them.

As to the building erected for the purposes of this Exhibition, it will be most becoming for architects to observe silence on the subject of its artistic qualities; but we certainly may record our protest against its being in any wise considered as a representative of the architectural taste of our age and times. It was unfortunate that a gentleman whose studies and pursuits had not been of a nature to develop the artistic faculties required for the successful cultivation of our profession, should have been selected to design and execute a structure necessarily intended to illustrate before the assembled nations the actual state of art amongst Englishmen. The very merits of the construction do but point the moral of this objection, because they are of a nature to indicate that its author had solely directed his attention to the scientific and technical details of the problem submitted to him, without being able to grasp its æsthetical or moral signification. We thus find that the goods are exhibited in a shed, tolerably well lighted; the pictures and sculptures are also placed in rooms where they can be seen, speaking gene-

rally, in a very advantageous manner; indeed, the picture galleries are the most successful parts of the building; and to such an extent is this the case, that even the proper arrangement of the articles exposed has suffered from their bad distribution; whilst the general elevation and the ornamental details of the exterior particularly are very objectionable. No architect could have designed a work so unsatisfactory had he but studied the rudiments of his profession, and yet British architects are unhappily represented to assembled Europe by this eminently un-architectural building! Even the Crystal Palace of 1851 could boast of merits superior to those of a desire on the part of artists, and of the public, to seek some new mode of expressing the peculiar feelings and wants of the age. Compared with the Crystal Palace, the new International Exhibition building has been a step backwards rather than a step forwards in art development; and, as such, it cannot be regarded as a fair exponent of the effects notoriously produced upon our profession by the great intellectual movements of late years.

It is a matter of extreme pain to me thus to feel obliged to criticise the labours of men who have laboured earnestly in the discharge of their duties; but, as your President, it is necessary to place on record the fact that British architects are in no wise responsible for the International Exhibition building, and that they who would seek to trace the progress of architecture in England during the period 1851 and 1862 must turn to other quarters for the elements of comparison.

In my address of last year, I pointed out what I believed to be the position of our profession in society, and I illustrated it by incidents that had occurred in the House of Commons, and opinions expressed there and received even with applause, though little complimentary to our attainments, or our scientific position. I cannot venture to think that that my humble appeal would do much towards our advancement; but at the same time one circumstance has occurred of so eminently satisfactory a character, that I am sure I shall be pardoned in this place for calling particular attention to it. You will at once perceive that I allude to the invitation made to some of us, *as architects*, to advise the very distinguished committee appointed by her Majesty on the subject of the intended memorial to the memory of the Prince Consort. This invitation also has this most flattering incident connected with it, that the suggestion came from her gracious Majesty herself. The advice we ventured to give has been, I am happy to say, approved by the distinguished men with whom we were placed in communication; it has given satisfaction in the highest quarters, and, notwithstanding some ungenerous and violently unjust individual criticism, has been well received by the public. I hope, and I believe, that our well-known and able colleagues, now anxiously engaged in the realisation of our suggestions, will achieve the success which the nation so anxiously desires.

With this gratifying fact before us, we may, I think, dismiss from our thoughts all further reference to the studied neglect of architects by the Governmental department connected with the art education of the country, and the absurd and laboured attack of one of the officers of that department, who seemed to have forgotten that such men as Inigo Jones and Wren, Chambers and Soane, or Smirke and Barry, had ever lived in England; or Michael Angelo, or Bramante, or Vignola, or Palladio, or a thousand others, had flourished in Italy; or that Perrault or Perronet, or Hittorff or Visconti had lived, or were living, in France; or that Klenze or Schinkel had ever lived or flourished in Germany; or that he must have known architects in this country to whom his countrymen were not insensible as having some claims in the scientific world.

Before I pass from this subject, however, I cannot but express my hope that the profession I am attached to, and that I have followed for more than forty years, may receive from me in a kindly spirit a few words of caution, that we ought not to forget that the great principles of art demand something more than a mere patient reproduction of forms eliminated in, and appropriate to other times, without a sufficient reference to the great power given in us by new materials, demanding different treatment, and a new exertion of the imaginative faculty. I shall have occasion to say presently a word or two on the subject of art education amongst ourselves, and what the institute desires to do to promote it, for it is a subject of great interest, because in other countries—as, for instance, in France and Belgium—the State interferes actively to provide the means of art education for the mass of the nation, under such conditions as to allow almost every one, who may desire it, to acquire sound and comprehensive opinions upon art questions; and the

gratuitous course of lectures, and the industrial and drawing schools, are so brought, as it were, to the doors of the people in general, that they have, in the two instances cited, actually brought nations of artists. There are many grave reasons for hesitation on our parts before we adopt the system of State intervention in these details of education, and also for believing that no sound vital art can be produced by such a forcing process. But, nevertheless, the importance of addressing himself to a sympathising and educated public must be to the artist so great, that we may well consider how it would be possible for us, in our private capacity, to labour to diffuse more correct principles of taste than seem unfortunately now to prevail in our country. We need not seek to impose our own views, but we may strive to teach as well as to learn; but we must always bear in mind that we shall not be able to influence public opinion unless we are really and truly of our own times, and true exponents of the spirit and feelings of our age in all that is good and pure, without servile deference to fashion, or yielding in any way the rights of our own consciences to temporary popular fancies or errors; we ought in fact, to endeavour to guide the opinions of our contemporaries in the formation of their æsthetic principles, as applied to architecture, in the direction of devotion to moral beauty and earnest truthfulness.

Much has been done of late towards the attainment of the great object referred to, by the labours of our respected friends, Messrs. Sidney Smirke and Gilbert Scott, and by the authors of the papers read at your meetings; but the audiences addressed on these occasions are limited, and the publicity given to this teaching does not reach the majority of those whom it is so desirable to enlighten. It seems to me that one of the most powerful instruments for diffusing the knowledge we are so much interested in imparting, would be by establishing courses of lectures upon subjects connected with our art, written expressly in a popular and attractive style, and open, if not gratuitously, at least at a very low rate of payment, to all persons connected directly, or indirectly, with the building trades. The object we have to aim at is, as it were, to produce an atmosphere of art feeling, and this can only be obtained by popularising art, and by raising the tastes of all around us; and moreover, we, as architects, have a direct interest in advancing the art education of the classes who really carry out our designs, in order to ensure their being executed in the spirit with which they were conceived. It is precisely in the want of artistic feeling, and of true knowledge of the ends and object of their pursuits, that our artisans are inferior to those of the Continent; and it is our duty, I hold, to strive to remove this obstacle to our art progress, at the same time that we diffuse the taste for architecture amongst the general public, by placing within the reach of those who may wish to learn, the means of forming correct opinions on the subject. Of course it is difficult to organise any such system of public education, and to give it a permanent character; and the history of the mechanics' institutions proves that good intentions are not alone sufficient for the purpose; but a firm faith in the policy of any course of proceeding almost inevitably leads to the discovery of the means for attaining it. "Where there is a will, there is a way," and surely there can be no greater difficulty in organising some form of gratuitous art education at the present day, than there was formerly in organising the grammar schools, and the municipal corporations, to which many of the functions of educational boards upon technical matters were entrusted. Our own institution might do much to popularise the knowledge of architecture; and in this very building other societies periodically meet, which might render efficient service in the cause.

The discussion of the present and of the probable future state of English architectural education, would, I fear, lead me too far, were I to pursue it to its legitimate limits, and indeed I fear it has carried me somewhat beyond the space allowable in an inaugural discourse. Its vital importance to our profession must be my excuse, and most sincerely do I hope that the ideas I have expressed may induce more able heads than mine to ponder over its difficulties. At present, however, I return to the consideration of temporary events, and resume our cursory view of their nature and tendency.

On all sides we find that the fashion for municipal alterations set by our neighbours is being followed, with more or less enthusiasm; and the various technical journals prove that such towns as Brussels, the Hague, Berlin, Vienna, &c., are undergoing a species of transformation, though on a different scale, yet analogous to the one lately carried out in Paris. In London we have

also entered upon the same course, and, under the guidance of the Metropolitan Board of Works, of the Corporation of London, and of the various railway companies, very great changes are in progress, or at least are in contemplation, under such conditions as to justify the belief that they will soon pass into the class of facts. The most important of the questions thus referred to is, unquestionably, the embankment of the north side of the Thames, and most earnestly do I hope that this work may be carried to its conclusion in such a manner as to add to the monumental character of our metropolis. Differences of opinion have occurred with respect to the manner and to the extent in which this work should be carried out; and, unfortunately, hard words have been bandied about by men who ought to have had better taste than to abuse those who happened to differ from them on matters of detail. The legislature has, however, passed a law which settles these disputes, and all parties must now labour to carry out successfully the measure so adopted; it is but a small instalment of what is required to be done to the Thames, in the interest of the navigation, quite as much as in the interest of the embellishment of the city. Unfortunately we, as a nation, priding ourselves as we do on our practical character, are indisposed to treat general subjects in a comprehensive manner; and thus it is to be feared that we shall continue to deal with the embankment of the Thames in the same piecemeal spirit which has produced the partial embankments at the Isle of Dogs, at the Houses of Parliament, and at Pimlico and Chelsea, whilst it opposes the establishment of stable conditions of the bed and of the currents of the river. It is a great thing, however, to have resolutely entered upon the embankment of the north side of the river, and to have sought there the means of partially relieving our overcrowded streets: time will compel the execution of the complete scheme.

And here it may be appropriate to notice the various new bridges erected over the river; because not only are they amongst the most striking monuments of the day, but also because they seem to me "to point out the moral" of the inconvenience before referred to as resulting from the separation of the profession of architecture and of civil engineering. I do not propose to discuss the methods of construction adopted in these bridges, though much may be said on the subject; but as an architect I cannot refrain from the expression of regret that their designers had not studied more carefully the laws of optical effect, or the logical application of architectural forms. The parallel vertical cylinders and the parallel horizontal girders of the Hungerford bridge produce a combination of lines which must be declared to be very ugly; the street girder bridges are, if possible, worse. A study of Mr. Penrose's researches upon the Parthenon would have saved the author of the Hungerford bridge from the optical mistakes, if I may use that phrase, into which he has fallen; and a careful study of the effects produced by the various forms of elliptical arches, in combination with long *quasi* horizontal lines, would have taught the able engineer of Westminster bridge, that very flat ellipses under such circumstances always appear to deflect over the crown. For my own part, I may add, that it seems difficult to carry out, with any pretension to archaeological correctness, a design for an iron bridge with flat elliptical arches in the later mediæval style, as practised in England; because the material employed is not susceptible of the deep splaying of the outline of the arches, which is the essential characteristic of all good mediæval arched work. The style adopted in the new Westminster bridge is, in fact, a mistake, into which a properly educated architect could not have fallen, and the great engineering merits of the work must render our regret for this artistic defect the more poignant; for, on the whole, this bridge is one of the noblest monuments on the Thames. The bridge leading to the Victoria Station is, as a work of art, in my opinion more consistent than the Westminster one, and it is infinitely more elegant than the Lambeth Suspension Bridge; the latter, indeed, is so irredeemably ugly, that I am almost tempted to regret that there should not be a Committee of Taste to which the designs for public works should be submitted. Before quitting this subject, I would beg to express my serious apprehensions of the present fashion for the use of wrought iron bridges connecting thoroughfares in such a town as London. Our experience in the use of that material is not sufficient to justify its introduction in such positions, however justifiable it may be in railway bridges, or of similarly speculative undertakings.*

* Blackfriars Bridge, I may also notice, will soon cease to exist. As is well known, it was the work of one of our best architects (the elder Mylne), and it was celebrated, not only in this country, but in Europe, as of surpassing

Street improvements have not kept pace in London with those in course of execution in Paris; but the changes of this description recently made here have been of themselves sufficiently remarkable, and they furnish many valuable lessons to those who know how to read the signs of the times in the various phases of architecture. When I had the honour of addressing you last year, I ventured to express my feelings of satisfaction and pride for the high character of the art displayed in the new streets of the City; and on this occasion I can but repeat my congratulations to our professional brethren who have so successfully laboured to adorn the metropolis. No doubt a severe critic might find many reasons for objecting to details of the new and gorgeous piles of warehouses and offices lately erected in the great streets of the City; but I contend that, considered comprehensively, those buildings display sound taste, keen perception of architectural beauty, fine feeling for art allied to common sense, and a sufficient amount of originality to justify us in entreating confident hopes for the future prospects of our profession, in spite even of the defects previously alluded to in our publicly recognised art teaching. Possibly the superior character of the buildings lately erected in the City may be attributable to the fact that they have escaped, to some extent, the influence of fashion and of official pedantry; at any rate, the contrast between the architecture of the new City streets and that of the buildings erected under the influence of the Science and Art Department of our Government is so marked, that the question of the necessity for the existence of the latter expensive organisation is almost forced upon our attention. Again, we learn that public opinion is a better guide, a surer fosterer of genius, than State patronage can ever be; and the street architecture of the principal English provincial towns fully confirms this opinion. I dwell a little upon this branch of the review of our recent progress, because it seems to me that we have done, and are doing, more in domestic architecture, so to speak, than in our public buildings, in which the influence of fashionable art theories have been allowed to override the individuality of the artists themselves. The influence of these external conditions on the development of architectural taste is, however, a subject so vast, that I only allude to it now in passing, but with the hope that some of my hearers may return to its consideration hereafter. In the meantime it may be remarked that, in the provinces, the last year has witnessed the commencement of some town halls and some reproductions of the mediæval ecclesiastical buildings of singular merit, and which prove that at least the labours of the departed Prince, we began by regretting, have not been fruitless amongst us. Pardon, gentlemen, this return to the sad theme of the commencement of my lecture. As we grow older, it becomes more difficult to replace those whom we have lost, and insensibly we find that the frame of mind the poet so well describes comes over us—for then

"Our hearts have one unceasing theme,
One strain that still comes o'er,
Their breathing chords as 'twere a dream
Of joy, that's felt no more!"

And thus I am brought to the record of our losses in the course of the last twelve months. We find the list of Death's doings headed by the decease of M. Jean Baptiste Biot, who passed from this life on the 27th of January last, at the advanced period of nearly 83 years. He was a sincere lover of science. His labours connected with the Egyptian chronology were nearly crowned with success, and he attained merited distinction for his identifying the dates of the Egyptian and the Hindoo astronomies of that period. All architects must be obliged for the light thus thrown upon the most abstruse branch of their studies. Matthew Cotes Wyatt passed away about the same time as the preceding, for he died on the 24th of January. Mr. Wyatt was a son of the late James Wyatt, Surveyor General, and for a short time President of the Royal Academy, in which institution the son was educated. A series of works was entrusted to his care in Windsor Palace by George the Third, but his appearance in public was a statue to Lord Nelson, at Liverpool. Since that time he executed the cenotaph of the Princess Charlotte at Windsor; the monument to the late Duchess of Rutland, at

elegance and beauty. In the competition which has raged for some months past as to the designs for its successor, I cannot say I see much to admire in the result; for, unfortunately, the very worst design of the whole has been chosen. Mr. Page's three-arched bridge was a grand idea, though defective in detail. The bridge about to be erected is in five segmental arches of iron with stone piers, and the architectural features of those piers, and other adornments, are highly objectionable.

Belvoir Castle; the equestrian statues of the Duke of York and the Marquis of Angelsea; the statue of George the Third, at Charing Cross; the great statue of the Duke of Wellington, at Hyde Park Corner; besides some smaller tombs and works of art. It will be advisable to allow these works to remain in the indifference to which they have sunk, for they are by no means characterised by the high principles of art that now ornament our sculpture; yet I would urge those who may seek to compare Wyatt with our times to weigh him with the tendencies of his age, and to compare his works with the false taste which then prevailed; if so, Wyatt will bear the comparison. The next man we have to regret is Professor Barlow, of the Academy of Woolwich, a man whom every engineer and architect must esteem. The researches of this gentleman upon the strength of timber, and the best form to be given to railway bars, are amongst the most valued productions on the subject. Indeed, all the Professor's inquiries into the qualities of iron must be considered as text-books upon the various subjects investigated. Professor Barlow passed from us on the 1st of March last, aged about 83 years.

On the 2nd of April died Mr. James Elmes, an author on architectural legislation of eminence, who was principally known by his work upon *Architectural Dilapidations*, *The Life and Times of Sir C. Wren*, a volume of *Lectures on Architecture*, and some minor publications. Mr. Elmes lived to a very great age. On the 9th of the same month, in his best days, and just as his fame was beginning to be established, John Thomas was snatched away from the future which began to spread before him, and from the brilliant prospects which seemed to crown his labours. We have few instances upon record in our profession of the fate of a man being so marked with the character of his genius as was that of Mr. Thomas, and I think that we may congratulate ourselves upon the result of his labours. He was not highly educated, he was not a genius of a description to take the world by storm; but he was purely and simply a firm believer in the importance art should bear to architecture; he was convinced that they could mutually throw light upon one another, and he laboured to make the two branches of sculpture and architecture to which he had devoted his attention combine to work out the end he had in view. His success was justified by his labours, and in Somerleyton House and in Arlesford Hall he had surpassed himself in the fancy of his design. I would urge you to think of Mr. Thomas's success. It seems to me to be fraught with lessons of deep importance to the artists of future generations, and in proportion as they work in the spirit he infused into his work, so will they merit the good opinion of their posterity.

Happily this review will show that amongst the class of actual architects our losses in this country have been few.

Amongst our neighbours in Scotland the losses have even been fewer, for I do not know that we have any other than Mr. George Henderson, of Aberdeen, to mention; he was a good mediævalist, and erected some creditable specimens of his skill in the counties on the east coast, especially at Aberdeen, Montrose, Burnt Island, and Arbroath. He was a sensible restorer, and seems to have been rather before his age in his love for the mediæval style.

In France I am called upon to notice three deaths: viz., M. Nepveu, architect of Versailles; M. Halevy, and M. Bruaet de Baines. The first gentlemen I leave in the able hands of my friend Mr. Professor Donaldson, who proposes to address to you a few words on his loss. Mr. Halevy was the secretary of the Academy des Beaux Arts, and his death his well deserving of our deep regret, as he was the exponent of the feelings of the French educated society towards our profession, and as he possessed, to a great extent, the feeling that all lovers of art are equally entitled to consideration; the other gentlemen claimed to be ranked amongst our honourary members by the great skill he had displayed in the construction of the Museum of Havre, the Caserne des Douanes, l'Entrepot des Tabacs, and finally the Hotel de Ville of that town, and in the new buildings of the Hotel des Invalides.

Though we architects have happily escaped, death has left his mark strongly amongst the engineers, who have to regret three gentlemen well known to myself, and with two of whom I have acted professionally to a considerable extent.

The first was James Walker; he had an immense practice, lived to a great age, and was certainly one of our most successful private engineers. He was one of the earliest supporters of the Institution of Civil Engineer, and I recollect well belonging to that now flourishing body with him, when, many years

ago, it met in an "upper chamber" in the Adelphi, with the humblest of all arrangements and applications; but Telford was the President, and under his great name the society soon became important; and after his death, Mr. Walker was elected to fill his place, a position he retained with success for many years. The profession of engineering owes a debt of gratitude of a singular kind to James Walker, for he succeeded in establishing the enormous scale of charges now universally adopted by engineers, which leave all the earnings of architects far behind, and are very different indeed from those recorded and quoted by Mr. Smiles in his charming *Lives of the Engineers*.

John Errington, the partner and friend of Joseph Locke, died most unexpectedly in July. He was content to live quietly under the shadow of his great associate, and though a man of ability, I am not aware of any great work which may be attributed to him.

With Mr. Locke and Mr. Errington in earlier days I had much to do on the Paris and Rouen, the Rouen and Havre, the Caledonian, Scottish Central, and other lines of railway, where I was the architect, as they were the engineers. They confined themselves strictly to their departments; Mr. Locke having at an early period laid down the rule that as regarded buildings, "an engineer's functions ceased with the platforms." One of Mr. Errington's latest works, and which I had the pleasure of co-operating with him, was the Yeovil and Exeter Railway. It was his last work, as it probably will be mine; and I may be permitted to remark, as somewhat curious, that influenced either by the "Genius loci," or by other considerations, mediæval architecture was introduced. At Carlisle and at Perth, and more recently on the Exeter line, I have done my best to mould the forms and modes of thinking of mediæval architects to the unusual requirements of railways. At Rouen, in the two stations, at Havre, and at Southampton, Gosport, Blackwall, and other places, I adhered to the more usual styles, and perhaps with better success.

The last name I mention is that of James Berkley, who fell a sacrifice to the effects of the baneful climate of India, at a comparatively early period of his life; he was a pupil of the younger Stephenson, who recommended him to this appointment; he did ample justice to the recommendation; his works in India in ascending the Ghauts are spoken of in the highest terms as monuments of engineering skill and perseverance.

REVIEWS.

MR. BEETON'S PUBLICATIONS.

We have received our usual monthly parts of publications issued by Mr. S. O. Beeton, of the Strand—that for September, by the bye, never came to hand—and can again bear testimony to the excellence of everything which issues from that gentlemen's publishing office. First, and foremost is that book of books,—the *Illuminated Family Bible*. Great care has evidently been bestowed on every portion of it, the typography, paper and illuminations are admirable, the engravings have been executed with great skill, and the notes well selected. This work now approaches completion,—when it will be a very acceptable lodge present.

The *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* contains the interesting tale of Constance Chorley, the historical female biographies (worth the whole price of the magazine), *Wayfe Summers*, and contains many other papers of interest to lady readers. The illustrations, as usual, especially of the fashions, and the needlework, being admirably executed. We perceive that a shilling edition is about to be issued (without interfering with the sixpenny edition) containing additional patterns and illustrations of fancy work.

Parts two and three of *Home Games* is a continuation of Billiards, to be completed in in No. 4. The rules laid down by Captain Crawley are clear and explicit, and will be read with interest by those who understand, as well as by those who wish to make themselves masters of the game.

Beeton's Book of Garden Management and Rural Economy, part 14, is equal to any which have preceded it,—that is praise enough.

Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information well sustains its title. As a specimen of the contents we extract the following on Egyptian Architecture.

"The architecture of Egypt is the oldest in the world, and is superior to that of any other country, Assyria alone excepted, in its colossal proportions, massive structure, general magnificence, and grandeur of conception. It has the merit of being entirely original, and possesses peculiar characteristics that distinguish it in a striking manner from that of any other country. The earliest specimens of Egyptian architecture that yet remain to us, and which will probably endure as long as the world lasts, are the pyramids, and the monumental records known as obelisks; but to ascertain the efficiency they had attained in this art, we must go to the temples of Karnac, Edfou, Denderah, and that of Abou-Sambul, hewn out of the solid rock, as well as the architectural remains that still exist at Thebes and other ancient cities of Egypt. The pyramids are buildings of great solidity, but of simple form. They are built on a square base, with four triangular sides, that meet in a common apex. They are supposed to be royal mausoleums, and were built between 1500 and 1000 B.C. The obelisks are four-sided shafts of great size, terminating in a pyramidal top. They are hewn out of a solid block of stone; they are also elaborately carved with hieroglyphics. The temples cover a great space of ground, and stand in a walled inclosure. Before the temple itself there is a large square court, surrounded on three sides by a colonnade. Access is obtained to this court through a doorway of great height, flanked on either side by quadrilateral towers, diminishing in size as they approach the top. The doorway, and side towers are adorned with colossal sculptured figures, and in some cases an avenue of figures, generally sphinxes, was made, leading directly to the doorway we have mentioned. The temple itself was generally raised, the court between it and the grand entrance being composed of a series of broad steps rising in a gradual slope. These steps led to a magnificent hall or portico, occupying nearly the entire width of the court, in which there are generally six rows of pillars which support the flat and massive roof. From the portico we enter a smaller hall, also divided into narrow spaces, by pillars that support the roof, and after crossing two or more chambers, each narrower than the one before it, we gain the innermost chamber or shrine, exactly fronting the entrance, in which the statue of the divinity was placed, to whose worship the temple was dedicated. The area occupied by the temple at Edfou is 414ft. long by 154ft. broad, the towers on either side of the doorway being 104ft. long by 47ft. broad at the base, and 84ft. in length by about 30ft. in width at the summit; but these proportions, large as they may appear, are eclipsed by those of the temple of Karnac, the great hall or portico of this magnificent building being 338ft. long by 170ft. broad, and covering an area equal to that of the entire temple of Edfou. The entire length of the temple of Karnac is about 1200ft., and the breadth about 360ft. The columns, entablatures, and mouldings, are the great distinctive features of Egyptian architecture, in addition to the marked peculiarity that their doors and windows and even the buildings themselves, present; namely, the convergence of the sides; so that the breadth at the base is greatly diminished in extent at the summit. The size of the columns is in proportion to the extent of the building in which they are placed. At Karnac they are 9 and 11ft. in diameter. First they were square in form, then polygonal, and at last circular shafts were made. All are elaborately sculptured. The shaft stands generally on a circular base, and sometimes on a base that contracts in size as it approaches the floor of the building, instead of expanding from its junction with the shaft, as is usually the case. The capitals are sometimes bell-shaped and adorned with lotus-leaves, while others are square in form, with a human face sculptured on each side. In some cases, as at Denderah, this capital is surmounted by another, also quadrilateral in shape and enriched with carving. The entablature was very massive and heavy, consisting of an architrave surmounted by a bold and deeply-moulded cornice, the upper part of which projected considerably beyond the face of the walls of the building. The roof was perfectly flat. The doorways are surrounded by a flat moulding, and surmounted by a cornice and lintel of great depth. Figures attached to the walls were generally executed in *alto-relievo*, like those that flank the doorways of the Assyrian

palaces; but the hieroglyphics and representations of historical events were carved in low relief, in a style peculiar to Egyptian sculptors known as *cavo-relievo*. The walls were adorned with paintings in red, blue, green, black, and yellow, on a whitish ground; gilding was also introduced as an embellishment, and the sculptured columns and the ceilings were also painted. The domestic dwellings of the Egyptians seem to have been built of brick, consisting of rooms ranged round a central court planted with trees, and having a fountain in the centre. They were sometimes two and three stories high. The flat lintel is common to Egyptian, Grecian, and Assyrian architecture; the method of forming arched doorways and vaulted passages was known to the Egyptians, but it was seldom resorted to by them, and then principally in the construction of tombs.

In the *Boy's own Library* the *Curiosities of Savage Life*, by the author of the *Wild Sports of the World*, has been commenced, and from what we see by Nos. 2 and 3 (No. 1 we have not received) appears likely to become even more popular than the author's previous work. There is nothing more enchanting, to juvenile readers, than descriptions of the habits and customs of those tribes of men, which, the advancing heel of civilization is rapidly trampling off the earth, and in this work they are well told and illustrated by excellent wood cuts and coloured engravings.

The *Boy's own Magazine* is a marvel of cheapness, and should be placed in the hands of every boy, the useful and the entertaining being well combined. "Manly exercises walking" well deserves perusal.

One Hundred Lectures on the Ancient and Modern Dramatic Poets. Part 12. By B. C. JONES. Simpkin, Marshall and Co.

Bro. Jones is proceeding vigorously with his self imposed task, for which he is evidently well fitted by taste, study and judgment. His style is easy, and as a specimen will speak more in praise of the work than any words of ours, we shall lay before our readers Bro. Jones description of the fall of Troy:—

"The Greeks, about 100,000 strong, having joined the expedition against Troy, were conveyed by sea to within four miles of the city, which was situate near to Mount Ida. Having landed their forces, here they encamped and sent out detachments, which by degrees subdued the surrounding districts. This state of things, according to Virgil and Homer, continued for about ten years, the Greeks all this time being kept at bay by the Trojans and their allies, amounting in all to more than twice as many as the besiegers. The Greeks tried every scheme imaginable to scale the walls of the city and undermine the fortresses, but were beaten back each succeeding attempt with greater losses, until, being tired of their comparative inactivity, they devised a scheme by building a large wooden horse contrived so as to secrete a few of their number within the interior of the figure; then, as a ruse, they broke up their encampment and retired; but previous to doing this Ulysses and Diomedes penetrated the Thracians' lines, murdered the King, Rhesus, and brought away with them his horses. Their object in undertaking this enterprise was to subvert a decree which was supposed to have been made by an oracle, that if these horses once ate grass from the Trojan plains and drank from the river Xanthus, the city should never be taken. The meaning was simply this, that if once Rhesus succeeded in gaining a passage so as to join the Trojan forces, Troy could never be taken. The Greeks, now having apparently retired from the city walls, driving back the Thracians, the Trojans came out to reconnoitre, when, seeing the colossal figure of the horse, they imagined it contained treasure, and (naturally enough) desired to possess it; but, fearing a return of the Grecians, they did not wait to inspect the contents of the figure, but moved it entire within the city walls. At night, when all were at rest, the soldiers who had been confined within the wooden figure descended, killed the sentinels, and opened the city gates to the Grecian forces, they having returned (as was previously arranged) under the shade of night, and so gained an entrance into the city. They then destroyed the greater part of the Trojan army, also the citizens, and carried the remainder prisoners away with them, after entirely demolishing the citadel

and the public buildings. After all this, when they divided the spoils of battle, the women (as was generally the case) fell to the use of the conquering army, amongst whom was the Princess Cassandra, daughter of King Priam. She was first violated by Ajax, then taken by Agamemnon, who married her and carried her away with him to Argos. It is a strange coincidence that we almost invariably read of these captives becoming more or less interesting in the sequel of the enterprise. In this instance both Cassandra and Agamemnon were assassinated by Clytemnestra. This was not supposed to have been done out of jealousy, for in fact wives in those days were not permitted to encourage such a vice. Clytemnestra resorted to her sanguinary purpose out of revenge, through being deprived of her daughter Iphigenia, or, as some suppose, to hide her own shame and infidelity which she had been practising with her husband's cousin, Egysthus. Respecting the immense fleet of vessels which conveyed the troops to the shores of Troy, we must not be led away with the idea that they were ships of war, for at this period of the world's history such a thing as a ship of war was not in existence. We are told that Agamemnon alone furnished one hundred and sixty ships out of a number exceeding twelve hundred. Of this one hundred and sixty he used one hundred himself for his own troops, and the sixty he lent to the Arcadians. The ships alluded to were little more than barges propelled by oars, affording deck accommodation merely, for they had been constructed only for the purpose of commerce, to convey merchandise. This was the only use known for ships, excepting that some light-built craft were used by pirates, who infested the islands and made it dangerous to venture upon the ocean. It was Minos, King of Crete, who first augmented ships into engines of attack, for it was he who cleared the Isles of the hordes of pirates who had established themselves here the more readily to attack the neighbouring coasts, and secure their own retreat within the narrow and intricate channels of this part of the world. It may be fairly said that the first real naval engagement that took place was between the Corinthians and Coreyreans. This latter people, let me tell you, were originally of the same race as the Corinthians, but were banished from their native country with one Chersicratis at their head, which occurred about seven hundred years before the Christian Era. They took up their abode on the island Coreyra, which is situate in the Ionian Sea, and now known as Corfu, one of our own colonies. The enmity between the Corinthians and the Coreyreans continued for two hundred years, during which period they were constantly at war with each other, their engagements principally taking place on the sea. The third great naval power that came into existence was that of Athens, which after awhile became the largest of the three; in fact, the most powerful in the world. This was cunningly devised by the Athenians in the following manner. They fomented the discord which existed between the Corinthians and the Coreyreans, and when one was disabled, they took care to step in as a mediator, and so appropriate a large share of the spoil to their own aggrandisement. This was particularly demonstrated when the Athenians were appealed to to decide between the hostile parties, who both laid claim to the town of Epidamnus; and most lawyer-like did the Athenians conclude the negotiation by giving each of the litigants a shell and keeping the oyster themselves.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

REVISION OF K. T. LAWS.

Permit me to suggest that the office of Prelate should constitute a qualification for the E.C.'s chair. As the office ought, invariably, to be held by a clergyman, it appears a pity that he should also be compelled to hold office as a Captain. As head of the Ecclesiastical Militia every Prelate ought also to be ritually inducted into office by his predecessor.—A.

REVISION OF K. T. RITUAL.

Previous to the late revision, the English system of templarism appears to have chiefly been Knight of Malta; H.R.D.M. Templar K.D.S.H.; it is now generally reversed in accordance with the Scottish system, and the H.R.D.M. qualification dropped. The latter is a matter of

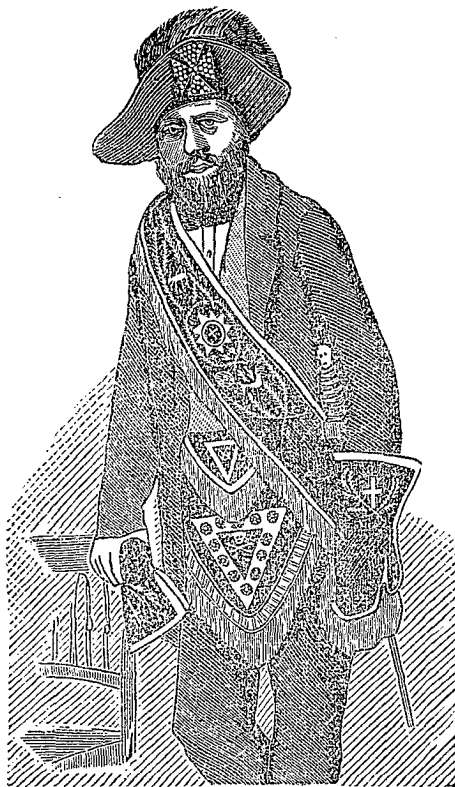
regret, and should at least be optional with every encampment. The former is a very good as tending to cement the two countries, but yet our brethren in Scotland complain, although the essentials of the ritual are precisely the same! Their rituals are, however, apparently more pure and less confused. Are there any reasons why ours should not be revised and again rendered more in accordance with our ancient rituals, and those in use in Scotland?—A.

CHAPTER GENERAL OF K. T.

A Grand Chapter is imperatively required for Great Britain and Ireland, which should alone have the power of granting warrants, but how is this to be got? In Scotland, in addition to a Grand Priory or Conclave, they have a Chapter general, but they are so unfraternal that we may despair of making any equitable arrangements with them: and to get up a rival is what we ought not to do.—A.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR COSTUME, IN AMERICA.

[So many of our correspondents desire a description of the American K.T. costume, that we cannot do better than present to their notice the following representation of it, taken from an advertising sheet, which we think to be unprecedently ugly, and not to be worthy of comparison with our own.]



THE MARK DEGREE AND OPERATIVE MASONRY.

At the present day in Scotland the operative masons have an organisation very similar to our own Free and Accepted Masonry. What is known of their system, P.W.'s &c. It is most likely from these lodges of three degrees we derive our Mark degrees, of F.O. or Mark Man and Mark Master. This is confirmed by the minutes of the old operative and non-speculative lodges, and by a poetical quotation of the 15th century, given in the MAGAZINE some weeks ago.—A.

A MARK MASON?

If a brother writes such a hand as to be scarcely intelligible, is he a proper person to be advanced as a Mark Mason?—V. L.

IRISH MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL.

When was the Irish Masonic Girl's School founded?—A. V. P. OF THE ENGLISH SCHOOL.—[In 1795. Its title is the Irish Masonic Female Orphan School. In 1851 the school was removed to a commodious house, built at Burlington-place, Upper Baggot-street, on a plot of ground leased, to the Governors, by the late Lord Herbert of Lea, at a nominal rent. It was commenced in February and opened in the first week of the following September. On the 9th of October, Her Excellency, the Countess of Eglinton, paid it a visit and expressed her high satisfaction at the beauty and cheerful appearance of the children, as well as the excellent general arrangement of the Institution. On the previous 28th of April a Grand Masonic Ball was given at the Rotunda, Dublin, which was attended by the Lord Lieutenant and the Countess of Eglinton, in state, and by all the leading nobility and gentry: the surplus proceeds arising from it were appropriated by the Grand Lodge of Ireland towards the building of the school.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have observed that several correspondents of THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE are in doubt as to the exact position which Bro. Dunckerley held as Grand Master of the Order of Knights Templar in England, and as I am in possession of many old documents connected with the warrant still in this lodge, I venture to annex a copy of an original letter from Bro. Dunckerley, in answer to a letter from the encampment (which was then held at York), desiring to be received under the Grand Conclave, which he had formed or was forming.

I am, yours fraternally,

THE SEC. OF MINERVA LODGE (No. 311).

“Hampton Court Palace, March 22, 1791.

“Most Excellent and Exalted Knights Companions of the Encampment of Redemption (being No. 5 of England), held at the Golden Lion Inn, in the City of York.

“I accept with gratitude the confidence you place in me as Grand Master, by the will of God, of the Most Noble and Exalted, Religious and Military Order of Masonic Knights Templar of St. John of Jerusalem. I must request that as soon as possible you send to me the names, ages, profession, and residence of all the knights of your encampment, as I intend to have a regular register of our Order. Being Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons at Bristol, I was requested by the Knights Templar of that city (who have had an encampment from time immemorial) to accept the office of Grand Master, which I had no sooner complied with, than petitions were sent to me for the same purpose from London, Bath, the first regiment of Dragoon Guards, Colchester, York, Dorchester, and Bideford.

“I suppose there are many more encampments in England which, with God's permission, I may have the happiness to receive and assist. It has already been attended with a blessing, for I have been but two months Grand Master, and have already eight encampments under my care. I shall form a few statutes for regulating our Order as soon as I have appointed the Grand Officers of the Grand Encampment of all England, to be held on the 24th of June, annually, at London. The following I submit to your consideration:—

“That every regular Encampment be constituted by warrant, signed by the Grand Master, and witnessed by the Grand Scribe, for which one guinea is to be paid—10s. 6d. for furnishing robes for the Grand Master, 10s. 6d. for engraving the warrant.”

“That every knight pay five shillings, for which he

will receive a certificate, signed by the second Grand Scribe, of his being registered in the Grand Chapter.’

“That no knight be installed for a less sum than one guinea for the use of *that* encampment, and five shillings for his certificate from the Grand Chapter.’

“I have given No. 5 to your encampment, though Dorchester and Bideford petitioned previous to your application; but as no dispensations or warrants are yet made out, I shew every preference in my power to the second city in the kingdom. If these regulations meet with your approbation, signify the same to me as soon as convenient, and I will send you a dispensation till the warrant is made out.—Your most affectionate Comp.,

“THOS. DUNCKERLEY.”

ROYAL ARCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAN SIR AND BROTHER,—An answer to a correspondent in your last week's MAGAZINE, recalled my attention to a subject concerning which I have for some time past intended addressing you. I refer to the reply as to the fee for taking the Royal Arch degree in Freemasonry. Previously to my initiation I purchased the *Book of Constitutions*, in the preamble of which I found it laid down that “pure ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the E.A., the F.C., and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.” Having ascertained what fee I should have to pay for initiation, I enquired how far that fee would carry me, and was told to the degree of a Master Mason. Was it unnatural to suppose that without additional expense I should be entitled to all that was included in the Master Mason's degree? I must confess that I was deeply disappointed when having taken the third degree, I ascertained, that before I could attain to that, which by the statute book of the Order I had been informed was included in it, I must not only go through a fresh ceremonial of being proposed, &c., but must actually pay an additional fee of at least three guineas, and I know very many who have experienced similar disappointment. Had I been told that I must make myself perfectly proficient in the degrees already conferred, before arriving at their consummation, I should have felt neither surprise or disappointment, after having read that promotion was to go by merit. But the finding that money was an all powerful and all needful element of success in the Masonic science, caused somewhat of a chill to my ardent aspirations. I think one of two alternatives should be adopted, either the farce of stating that the Royal Arch is included in the Master Mason's degree should be discontinued, or the statement verified in actual practice. I would make the following suggestions, not as likely to have the slightest weight coming from so insignificant a source, but as embodying my own views on the subject.

The Royal Arch should actually and practically be included in the third degree, and should be conferred on all M.M.s who have attained a certain prescribed proficiency in the former degrees, and the degree should be worked in every lodge under the English Constitution.

The Arch degree should be the passport to the chair, instead of the chair to the Arch, as in Scotland and Ireland. If this were the case, and a *bona fide* examination in proficiency had to be undergone before the Supreme degree was conferred, we should have fewer instances of W.M.'s of lodges being unable to fulfil their duties in *propria personâ*, as is now too often the case; nor does it seem unreasonable or inappropriate that he who sits in Solomon's seat, should be possessed of that knowledge which was the necessary consequence of the G.M. holding that exalted position. I do not see how a single landmark would be infringed by the adoption of the course which I have suggested, and it appears to me that much unnecessary expense and complication would be avoided.

I am, dear Sir and brother, yours fraternally,

17th November, 1862.

EXCELSIOR.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

We remind the brethren that the Second Prestonian Lecture will be delivered in the Grand Stewards' Lodge on Wednesday next, at 8 o'clock. All Fellow Crafts and Master Masons are invited to attend.

At the meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence, on Wednesday last, Bro. J. N. Tomkins, P.G.D., in the chair, twenty petitioners were relieved in sums amounting to £201, and two were recommended to Grand Lodge for grants of £30 each, making a total of £261.

GRAND LODGE.

The principal business at the coming Grand Lodge will be the appointment of the Committee of seven to consider the future arrangement of the Grand Lodge property. Several meetings and interviews between different brethren have taken place with the view of preventing anything like a competition, but we regret to say without effect. At a meeting held on Monday last, at which the Grand Registrar presided, and many brethren of different opinions attended, it was resolved, after considerable discussion, to put in nomination Bros. Havers, J.G.W.; Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Hervey, P.G.D., and Savage, P.G.D., from the dais; and Bro. Stebbing, Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes; Bro. Plucknett (of the firm of Cubitt & Co.); and Bro. Thos. Grissell, the Engineer, from the body of Grand Lodge—the great bone of contention being whether Bro. Dobie, P.G. Reg. and one of the trustees of a portion of the property should or should not be nominated, it being contended on the one hand that, from his legal and general knowledge of the affairs of the Craft, he was eminently fitted for the work, and on the other that his past labours, advanced age, and absence from an active participation in the business of Masonry for the last few years ought to release him from the duties of such a committee. Bro. Lloyd, P.G.D., who was the chief supporter of Bro. Dobie, stated that he should bow to the decision of the meeting with regret, but other brethren refused to be bound by the decision, and Bros. Dobie and Lloyd have since been put in nomination in the place of Bro. Evans and Grissell, the main object being to secure the election of Bro. Dobie.

We can only express a hope that such a Committee may be appointed as will work harmoniously, and tend to secure the best interests of the Craft.

The only other business of importance will be a proposition from the Grand Master to vote a sum of £1000 from the Fund of General Purposes on behalf of the Lancashire Relief Fund.

METROPOLITAN.

WHITTINGTON LODGE.—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday last, November 17th, at the Whittington Club, Strand, when Bro. Wavel was installed Master in succession to the late lamented W.M., Bro. Stubbs. Previous to the installation, Bro. J. H. Jennings was raised, and Bros. A. E. Rayers and J. B. Perraud passed, and Mr. Fred. Garrod initiated. These ceremonies having been gone through by P.M. Brett, in his usual efficient manner, he next proceeded to the installation of the W.M., the performance of which excited the highest applause of the brethren present. The W.M. pro-

ceeded then to the nomination of his officers as follows:—Bros. W. Hurlston, S.W. and Treas.; W. H. Warr, J.W.; G. H. Griffin, S.D.; W. Quilty, J.D.; W. Hamilton, I.G.; Collins and Carl, Stewards. After the installation, the brethren sat down to a very exquisite banquet, prepared for the occasion by Bro. Cleghorn. The W.M. was supported by P.M.'s Emmens, Brett, Mahey, 251, Swainston, 201, Davis, 812, H. Wilson, Roberts, R. Mills, 287, Bros. Allen, I.G., 257, Clark, 201, Welford, Alexander, 223, Dr. O'Connor, visitors, and a good attendance of the brethren of the Whittington Lodge. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to, and the greatest respect was observed towards the memory of the late W.M., Bro. Stubbs, whose early demise rendered it necessary to elect a W.M. out of the usual time, for which purpose it was necessary to obtain the permission of the Grand Master to alter the day of the annual meeting. The agreeableness of the evening was much promoted by the musical assistance of Bros. Jennings, Cooper, Emmens, Swainston, and Clark.

PROVINCIAL.

KENT.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge Freedom* (No. 91).—On Monday evening, the 17th inst., the lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., Bro. Frederick Nettleingham and his officers, together with a fair muster of the brethren. After the minutes were read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Mr. Edwin Baker, who on being unanimously elected, was initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the W.M. in his accustomed impressive manner. The candidates for passing and raising not being in attendance, the Sec., Bro. Robert Spencer, P.M. and Prov. J.G.W., adverting to the great distress in the cotton manufacturing districts, with a few appropriate remarks, proposed that the sum of five guineas be given from the funds of this lodge, towards the Lancashire relief fund. Bro. L. A. Hart, S.W., in seconding the motion, said that he trusted the example shown by the lodge, in subscribing to this fund, would be followed by every lodge in the country, by which means a large amount of money would be obtained. The motion being put for confirmation, it was carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed in due form with solemn prayer. The Masonic bracelet about to be presented to Lady Holmesdale, by the Freemasons of the province, was on view during the lodge. Its beauty and elegance of which the brethren were highly delighted.

Lodge of Instruction.—On Tuesday evening, November the 18th, the lodge was opened by Bro. Thomas Nettleingham, P.M., (the W.M. for the evening). After the minutes of the previous lodge were read and confirmed, the W.M. with the assistance of the brethren present, worked the first, second, and third sections of the first degree, in a manner highly satisfactory. The Secretary, Bro. L. A. Hart, then proposed that the sum of half-a-guinea be given from the funds of this lodge towards the Lancashire relief fund. Bro. William Hills, P.M. and Treasurer, said he was happy to second so charitable a proposition. On being put to the vote it was carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed in due form.

LANCASHIRE.

LIVERPOOL.—*Merchants' Lodge* (No. 294).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, on Tuesday evening, the 11th inst., Bro. McConnan, W.M. in the chair. The business of the evening having been concluded, during which three candidates were initiated, the brethren were called off to refreshment. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, the W.M. proposed the health of Bro. P.M. Younghusband, and in doing so, alluded at some length to the many great and valuable services he had conferred to this lodge, and requested him, on behalf of the lodge, to do the brethren the honour of sitting for his portrait, which had already been subscribed for, and with which it was intended to decorate the walls of the Temple. Bro. Younghusband, in responding, thanked the brethren for the very flattering compliment they proposed to pay him, and consented to the request of the W.M., which announcement was gladly received by all present. The brethren were then called from refreshment, and the lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of this Province was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Thursday, the 13th instant, and was well attended by the brethren of the province. Among those present were the following brethren:—The Right Hon. Earl Howe, *G.C.H.*, R.W. Prov. G.M.; W. Kelly, R.W.D. Prov. G.M.; R. Brewin, P. Prov. G.W., as S.G.W.; G. Bankart, Prov. J.G.W.; T. Sheppard, Prov. G. Reg.; C. Morris, Prov. G. Sec.; the Rev. John Denton, *M.A.*, Prov. G. Chap.; J. P. St. Aubyn, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; H. J. Davis, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; H. T. Bobart, *Prov. G.S.B.*; James Cooke, Prov. G. Purs.; Thomas Goadby, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; W. H. Marris, W. Johnson, and G. F. Brown, Prov. G. Stewards; and John Pratt, W. Pettifer, R. Crawford, W. Beaumont Smith, A. Cummings, P.G.W.'s; W. Millican, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; G. F. Lloyd and W. Weare, P. Prov. G. Deacons; Dr. Bolton, H. Gill, and W. S. Bithrey, P. Prov. G. Orgs.; T. Burwell, S. Selby, T. M. Lewin, H. P. Green, Manning, &c.

The minutes of the last Prov. G. Lodge having been read and confirmed, the Worshipful Masters of the four lodges in the province were called upon to present their report. It appeared that the condition of the lodges was, on the whole, satisfactory, although, with the exception of No. 766, but little progress had been made during the past year. In the Knights of Malta Lodge (No. 58), Hincley, consisting of about twenty members, there had been neither initiation nor joining. In St. John's Lodge (No. 348), Leicester, there had been one initiation and one joining. The return from the John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 766) was very satisfactory, nine initiations and four joinings having taken place, the lodge being also the most numerous in the province. In the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge (No. 1081), Ashby-de-la-Zouch, (the prospects of which for the current year, under the Mastership of the Rev. Bro. Denton, were stated to be very favourable) there had been one initiation.

The D. Prov. G.M. explained that, owing to the protracted and serious illness of the Prov. G. Treas., Bro. Underwood, it had been found impracticable to get his accounts made up and audited in time for this meeting; and on his (the D. Prov. G.M.'s) proposition, Bros. Morris, Marris, and Bankart, were nominated auditors for that purpose. The D. Prov. G.M. then moved that the best thanks of the Grand Lodge be given to Bro. Underwood for his past services as Treasurer for several years, and the regret and sympathy of the brethren for the lengthened indisposition which had deprived them of his presence and assistance. The resolution having been carried unanimously, the Prov. G. Secretary was desired to transmit a copy of it to Bro. Underwood.

Bro. H. J. DAVIS nominated Bro. R. Brewin, P. Prov. S.G.W., as Prov. G. Treasurer for the ensuing year, and a ballot having taken place, he was unanimously elected.

The D. Prov. G.M. moved, according to notice, that the by-law No. XVIII. be amended, and that the returns from the lodges in future be made up to the 24th of June, instead of the 27th of December, annually, and that the fees to the Provincial Grand Lodge become payable accordingly, which, after some discussion, was unanimously agreed to.

The following brethren (in addition to the D. Prov. G.M.) were appointed and installed by the Prov. G.M. as the officers of the Grand Lodge for the ensuing year:—

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Bro. Rev. J. Denton, <i>M.A.</i> , W.M. 1081 | Prov. S.G.W. |
| „ Thomas Goadby, W.M. 58 | „ J.G.W. |
| „ R. Brewin, P. Prov. G.W., P.M. 766 | „ G. Treas. |
| „ H. J. Davis, Solicitor, S.W. 766 | „ G. Reg. |
| „ C. Morris, Solicitor, P. Prov. G.W., P.M. 348 | „ G. Sec. |
| „ W. H. Marris, W.M. 348 | „ S.G.D. |
| „ W. Johnson, W.M. 766 | „ J.G.D. |
| „ W. Jackson, Architect, 348 | „ G. Supt. of Works. |
| „ Francis Harriss, 1081 | „ G. Dir. of Cers. |
| „ T. W. Clarke, J.W. 58 | „ Asst. Dir. of Cers. |
| „ H. E. Smith, Lieutenant Leicester- shire Volunteer Rifle Co., 1081 | „ G.S.B. |
| „ Henry Gill, P.M. 348 | „ G. Org. |
| „ G. F. Brown, S.W. 1081 | „ G. Purs. |
| Bros. H. P. Green, No. 766, S. Selby, R. W. Burnaby, 348, and S. Love, 1081 | „ G. Stewards. |
| Bro. C. Bembridge | „ G. Tyler. |

A report was read from the Masonic Hall Committee stating that it having been necessary (as resolved after the presentation of their last annual report) to increase the mortgage debt on the building to the extent of £250 beyond what had been contemplated, in consequence of the deficiency in the sum subscribed in the province for its erection, owing to many of the members of the two local lodges (and especially the wealthy county brethren), on whose aid full reliance had been placed, not having contributed. The rent, which was fixed to be paid by the lodges and Chapter, had not been found sufficient to meet the annual expenses for interest and establishment charges, and, consequently, there was not only a deficiency in the income account at the present time, which it would be necessary to provide for, but also to devise means to make the income in future years at least equal the expenditure. The committee were requested to report to the next meeting as to the measures which they would recommend to be adopted, after consulting with the Finance Committee of the two local lodges as to the future rent, &c.

Two brethren having been elected to serve on the Hall Committee, and the Prov. G. Reg. and Prov. G. Sec. for the time being having been declared by resolution ex-officio members of the committee, in addition to the Prov. G.M. and D. Prov. G.M., the Grand Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

The brethren afterwards re-assembled at the banquet, at which Earl Howe again presided, and to which he had furnished his usual bountiful supply of game, &c. The usual toasts, both loyal and Masonic, having been duly honoured—a most enthusiastic reception being given to that of Lord Howe, which was proposed by the D. Prov. G.M.—the brethren separated after some hours' pleasant social intercourse.

MIDDLESEX.

UXBRIDGE.—*Royal Union Lodge* (No. 536).—This prosperous lodge held its regular meeting on Monday last, present, Bros. Newall, P.M.; Cobham, J.W.; Coombs, S.D.; Weedon, Sec.; Steward, Young, Spiers, Gaball, Crawley, Severin, McLaren, Elliot, Comport, Lines, Gawthorp, Chegwiddden, Cocks, and Hicks. Visitors, Bro. Tuck (25), Runtings, (P.M., 1051). Bros. Severin, Crawley, and Cocks were passed, and Bro. Elliott was raised. One guinea was voted for the relief of a distressed brother, to which a private collection amongst the brethren was afterwards added. P.M. Bro. Newall, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., presided in his usual excellent style; Bro. Cobham acted as S.W., and visiting Bro. Runtings as J.W., and Bro. Tuck as S.D. Business over, the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the brethren separated.

WARWICKSHIRE.

PRESENTATION TO LADY LEIGH.

[As owing to a transportation of a few lines in the making up of last week, the following was rendered unintelligible, we repeat it.]

The Freemasons of Warwickshire, on Wednesday, Nov. 5th, consummated a graceful expression of their appreciation of the manner in which Lord Leigh has for ten years past fulfilled the duties of G.M. for the province of Warwickshire, by presenting to Lady Leigh a portrait of her noble husband, and an address expressive of their sentiments. Of the portrait, painted by Sir Watson Gordon, we have previously spoken. The address, given in its proper place below, was engrossed in a vellum folio volume, handsome bound in purple roan, edged with gold, and bearing on the front cover an escutcheon, emblazoned with the arms of the house of Leigh. It is signed by the brethren of the eighteen Warwickshire lodges, and the title of each lodge, occupying a separate page, is beautifully illuminated in the mediæval style, each illumination being characterised by an interweaving of Warwickshire flowers and plants. The members of the lodges of the province signed in the following order:—Bros. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M. (Chairman of the presentation committee); E. A. Lingard, P.D.J.G.W., (Treas.); Dr. Bell Fletcher, P.D. Prov. G.M.; W. Briggs, P.G.J.W., and C. Ratcliff, (Secs.); and the officers and members, being subscribers of the following lodges:—St. Paul's, Birmingham, 51; The Athol, 88; The Trinity, Coventry, 316; The Shakspeare, Warwick

356; The Apollo Lodge, Alcester, 378; The Guy's Lodge, Leamington, 556; The Abbey Lodge, Nuneaton, 625; Lodge of Light, Birmingham, 689; Faithful, Birmingham, 696; Lodge of Rectitude, Rugby, 739; The Unity Lodge, Warwick, 828; The Howe Lodge, Birmingham, 857; The Stoneleigh Lodge, Kenilworth, 1027; The Temperance Lodge, Birmingham, 1041; Bard of Avon Lodge, Stratford, 1080; The Warden Lodge, Sutton Colefield, 1096; The Leigh Lodge of Rifle Volunteers Birmingham, 1189; The Bedford Lodge, Birmingham, 1227; St. Paul's Chapter, Birmingham, 51; the Howe R.A. Chapter, Birmingham, 857. The total number of signatures was between four and five hundred. We may state that the book was got up by Bro. B. Hall, Bro. A. W. Woods (*Lancaster Herald*), G.D.C., kindly supplying the arms, &c.

Wednesday being fixed by Lord Leigh for the presentation, a deputation consisting of representatives of each of the lodges preceded to Stoneleigh to make it. The brethren connected with the Birmingham lodges left the New-street station by the 12.15 p.m. train, and were joined at Coventry by the brethren at that city, and at Stoneleigh they were met by brethren from Warwick, Leamington, and other surrounding towns. Altogether between eighty and a hundred of the Masonic fraternity were introduced to Lord Leigh, in the large hall at Stoneleigh. Amongst those present were Bros. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M. Dr. Bell Fletcher, P.D. Prov. G.M.; E. Eingar, Prov. J.G.W., W. B. Briggs, Prov. J.G.W.; C. Ratcliff, Rev. W. K. R. Bedford Grand Chaplain of England; J. Collins, Dawes, Sir J. Ratcliff Turner, Hutton, B. W. Goode, J. Goode, Greenway, Weiss, J. C. Cohen, J. B. Hebbert, Rev. Kittoe, Mole, Beaumont, P. Dee, G. Jones, Thompson, Chandler, Beresford, Best, Mnggeridge Randall, Roberts, Rev. J. Ray, Foster, L. Cohen, Johnson, Pursall, Vaughan, Dr. Warden, Machin, Rev. Dickens, Rev. Kittoe Rev. Widdrington, Isaacs, Bliss, Overell, Read, T. Clark, Overbury, Wymer, Captain Meacham, Flynn, Dr. Payrer, Redfern Tyler, Jason, Hobbs, Durchninson, &c. After being introduced to his lordship the company were conducted through the Stoneleigh Library and Museum, and then entertained at a cold collation, provided in one of the corridors. At three o'clock they were conducted to the Grand reception room, where they were received by Lady Leigh, who was accompanied by the Hon. Miss Leigh. The presentation was then made.

Bro. CHARLES W. ELKINGTON said: Lady Leigh, I have the pleasure to introduce to you a deputation from the Freemasons of Warwickshire, consisting of the present and past officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the masters and other brethren from the various lodges. By your permission, we are here to-day to perform a most agreeable and pleasant duty: to show our esteem and affection to your noble husband. It is ten years since that estimable nobleman and Mason, Lord Howe, retired from the office of Provincial Grand Master, and on that occasion he wrote a letter, an extract of which I shall venture to read. In giving up the office he said:—"The regret I feel in taking this step is greatly reduced from the circumstance of having provided a successor in the person of Lord Leigh, who has accepted the appointment, and who will, I have no doubt, fulfil the various duties of the office with dignity and honour to the Craft." We little thought at that time that he would prove so true prophet, but I need scarcely say that Lord Leigh has carried out that prophecy to the fullest extent, and has ruled over us "with dignity and honour to the Craft." (Hear.) He has carried out in his every day life the three great principles of our Order—brotherly love, relief and truth. We have had many and frequent opportunities of meeting Lord Leigh, in lodge and out of lodge; we have always seen the same urbanity of manners, the same kindness of heart, the same nobleness of disposition, the same courtesy to every Mason. He has, in fact, ruled over us with a brother's love. (Hear, hear.) With respect to belief, I need only mention among many, two circumstances, one connected and the other unconnected with Freemasonry. The great and highly successful effort made by Lord Leigh, assisted by ladies and gentlemen of this county, and by your ladyship in particular, to raise a fund for the relief of the distressed weavers of Coventry and its neighbourhood will soon be a living testimonial of what Lord Leigh, as Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, did for his country. (Applause.) With respect to Freemasonry, I have only to mention that for three consecutive years Lord Leigh consented to preside at the festivals for our Masonic charities. The brethren, led on by their Prov. G.M., were glad to avail themselves of the privilege to subscribe to these noble institutions. Nearly £1500 was raised in aid of the aged Masons, the widows, the children,

and orphans of our brother Masons. (Applause.) But, Lady Leigh, the brethren were not content with showing their attachment and appreciation of these charities, but they also wished to testify their attachment to their Prov. G.M., and during the three years 150 of the brethren travelled to London to support Lord Leigh in the chair. (Hear, hear.) They fully appreciated the high position in which Lord Leigh had placed them in the history of Freemasonry. (Applause.) It was in connection with this last, and, to us, most gratifying, circumstance, we wished to have a memento of our success in aiding our Masonic charities, and to testify our esteem to our Prov. G.M. Bro. Edward Lingard suggested that we should ask Lord Leigh to permit us to have his portrait painted, and that portrait presented to Lady Leigh. We felt that no place was so fitting for such a record to be placed in as within the walls of this beautiful abbey. (Applause.) We felt that Lord Leigh would more appreciate any testimonial, and attach a higher value to it, if your ladyship were closely associated with it. We also felt that you would value such a testimonial more than any other object—in fact, that you would value, next to the original itself, a life-like portrait of your noble husband. (Applause.) With that portrait we have to present an address, which, with your ladyship's permission, I will now read:—

"To the Right Hon. Lady Leigh.

"Madam,—The Freemasons of Warwickshire, with the strongest feelings of gratification derived from the interest which your ladyship has been pleased to show in the progress of Masonry in the Province, an interest not evidenced by words alone, but by many and various substantial acts of kindness and encouragement to the Craft, request your ladyship's acceptance of a portrait of Lord Leigh, from the pencil of Sir John Watson Gordon, and beg that you will regard it as a testimony of the high esteem in which they hold your noble husband, their Prov. G.M. During the exemplary rule of the present illustrious head of the Craft in this province, the advance of the principles of the Order has been signalised, not merely by the formation or consecration of six new lodges, and the great increase of candidates of high social position and moral worth, but chiefly by the unparalleled contributions of nearly £1500, raised in Warwickshire in three consecutive years for the three great Masonic charities, each year under the presidency of Lord Leigh. By such kind and zealous course of action our Prov. G.M. gives the best evidence of his devotion to those high principles on which Freemasonry is founded, and warrants us in the request that our record of esteem for our leader in the path of brotherly love, relief, and truth, should be crowned by the favour of your Ladyship's acceptance. That the God of Mercy and Truth may ever bless you and yours, that the prayers of the widow and the orphan may be heard on your behalf, and that the portrait now presented may descend to a long line of posterity, heirs to those virtues which so eminently distinguish the present owner of the illustrious name of Leigh, is the fervent and sincere prayer of the Freemasons of Warwickshire. (Applause.) I have now the pleasure, in the name of the Freemasons of Warwickshire, to ask your Ladyship's acceptance of that portrait. I know I need not assure you that the task which now devolves upon me as D. Prov. G.M. is one I highly honour, it is the most gratifying task in my long career of Freemasonry, that in the name of such a body of Masons I have to ask your Ladyship's acceptance of this portrait. Each word in that address is fully appreciated by every brother who is here to-day, and not only so, but by every brother in the province of Warwickshire. Our prayer is that you may long live to possess the original of the portrait, and may have the opportunity of comparing the portrait with the original, and the original with the portrait, for many many years to come." (Applause.)

Bro. ELKINGTON then formally made the presentation.

Lord LEIGH said, in reply: Deputy Provincial Grand Master and brethren, I am desired by Lady Leigh to read you the following observations which she wishes to make, and having done so, I desire to say one word my own self. His Lordship then read the following reply:—

"Gentlemen,—It is impossible for me to express to you as fully as I could wish, my sense of the kindness which has prompted you to offer me a valuable present, or for the kindly appreciation of my feelings which suggested to you that a portrait of Lord Leigh would be the most acceptable form in which such a gift could be presented. You are pleased to refer in terms of personal congratulation to the collections made among your body under Lord Leigh's presidency for the various

excellent Masonic Charities in the country, but I cannot allow your observations to pass without telling you how fully I am aware that it is to the liberality of yourselves, and to the generous cordiality with which you seconded the wishes of your Grand Master, that I shall have the gratification of connecting this portrait with a circumstance so honourable to your province. Gentlemen, I accept this beautiful portrait from you with cordial thanks, and you may believe me when I say that it will have a triple value in my eyes, not only as an excellent work of art, and as an admirable likeness of my husband, but as a memorial of the esteem in which you hold Lord Leigh, and of your generous feelings toward myself; and I am sure that it will be scarcely less valued by my children, and by their children after them, not only on the former ground, but as a proof of the kindly feeling subsisting between the Freemasons of Warwickshire and the former head of their house."

Having read her ladyship's reply, Lord Leigh continued:—And now, brethren, allow me on my own behalf to express the overwhelming gratitude I feel, not only for your kindness to myself, but for your kindness to one who is dearer to me than anything in this world. (Hear, hear.) I appreciate your kindness more than I can say, and the delicate manner in which you have expressed it, by making your presentation to one so dear to myself, adds one more to the many acts of kindness that I have received at your hands. Brother Elkington, you have alluded to the support I have given to the Masonic charities, and I can only say that if it had not been for the noble support of yourself and the brethren of the province, the large contributions of which you have spoken would never have been realised. It is to you, brethren, that I owe a deep debt of gratitude for the noble aid you have given me. Ever since I have been connected with you—which is during the last ten years of my life—my connection with you has been a source of great gratification to myself, and I can only hope that that connection which has so long subsisted between us may continue to subsist for many years to come. (Applause.) I am not, brethren, able to express half that I wish to express, but I am sure you know me well enough to know that I do feel most deeply the kindness you have shown me and my family this day. Brethren, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. (Applause.)

Bro. Dr. BELL FLETCHER, Prov. D.G.M., then, on behalf of his brethren, asked Lady Leigh's permission to have the portrait engraved, and, on behalf of Sir John Watson Gordon, to have it exhibited in the National Gallery; both of which requests were granted.

The proceedings then closed, and the members of the Birmingham lodges returned home by the train which reaches Birmingham at 6:16 p.m.

IRELAND.

ROYAL ARCH.

CONN.—*Third Chapter of Ireland (the Key Stone)*.—This chapter held its usual quarterly meeting at the Masonic Hall, Maylor-street, on Wednesday, the 5th ult. This being nomination and election night, it was proposed and unanimously carried that, owing to the short period the chapter had been at work under the approved ritual, the whole of the officers be re-elected for the ensuing twelvemonth. The following officers were duly re-appointed:—Comps. J. T. Archer, 1st P., as H. Priest; William Ashton Hackett, 2nd P., as King; Francis Guy, 3rd P., as C. Scribe; Edw. W. Wigmore, Past 1st P., Registrar; Edward F. Hunt, Treas.; Joseph Guy, Capt. of the H.; John Hackett, R.A. Capt.; William H. Bullen, Supt. of Tab.; William Magrath, Capt. of 1st V.; Charles O. Dudley, Capt. of 2nd V.; James Bogan, Capt. of 3rd V.; William D. Stephens, Chap.; John B. Lacy, I.G.; and Thomas Bass, Janitor. Owing to a domestic calamity in the family of two officers (Comps. Guy), the High Priest adjourned the chapter to Friday, the 14th, previous to which Comp. Cleburne, Past 3rd P. No. 77 chapter, was balloted for and elected a joining member, and Bros. James Hackett and Henry Bullen, of No. 3 Lodge, duly proposed for exaltation. On Friday, the 14th inst., pursuant to adjournment, and by summons of the H.P., this chapter met for business. The minutes of last chapter being confirmed, Bros. James Hackett and H. Bullen being duly balloted for and elected, and properly vouched for as Mark Master Masons, were entrusted with the virtual P.M. degree and prepared for exaltation, which ceremony

was most efficiently worked by the officers of the chapter. Comp. E. W. Wigmore, Reg., not only served the office of conductor, but likewise, in the absence of Comp. F. Guy, C.S., gave the historical and traditional explanation of the emblems, jewels, and working tools most perfect, much to the instruction of the chapter and visitors, by whom he was highly complimented. The business of the evening being over, Bro. Marks (No. 3 lodge) the talented organist of the cathedral, was proposed and seconded as a candidate for exaltation. The chapter was then closed in due form and solemn prayer. The companions then adjourned to a most excellent banquet, provided by Comp. Stephens, of the Commercial Hotel. Among the visitors were Comp. Gregg, and Dr. Hobart, Chapter No. 1; Comps. V. Gregg and A. D. Roche, Chapter No. 8; Comp. Butcher, Chapter No. 95, &c. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Comp. V. Gregg, in returning thanks for the visitors, took the opportunity of expressing their great gratification in witnessing so perfect working under the approved ritual, emanating so recently from the Grand Chapter. After the Registrar and High Priests' healths had been given with all the honours, and duly acknowledged, the 1st P. returned his thanks to the officers for their support and constant attendance (with few exceptions) to the summonses and duties of the chapter, and with their excellent working he felt confident he should transfer the high position he held (which he felt proud of as an English Past Z.) to his successor, as a chapter second to none in Ireland. The remainder of the evening was spent in conviviality, with some excellent singing from Comps. William James and John Hacketts, A. D. Roche, &c., when the companions separated, much pleased with their meeting and the business of the evening.

ROYAL ARCH.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONPORT.—*Chapter Friendship* (No. 238).—The installation meeting of this chapter was held on Monday evening, the 17th inst., when, by the unanimous vote of the companions, the E. Comp. Rogers, P.Z., was duly elected as First Principal. After the usual formalities, the other appointments were duly made as follows:—Comps. Elphinstone, Second Principal; Fox, Third Principal; Crocker, Scribe E; March, Scribe N; Jennings, S. The visiting Comps. from Chapter Fidelity were Chapple and Ellis, who were duly elected Joining Companions.

MARK MASONRY.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONPORT.—*Lodge Friendship* (No. 16).—The first meeting under the new Warrant of Constitution granted by the M.W.G.M., Lord Carnarvon, was held on Thursday evening, the 13th inst., for the purpose of electing a Master, and re-obligating those brethren who had previously received the degree under the old mode of working. The lodge was opened by the R.W. Bro. Chapple, G. Dir. of Cers., in the chair. Upwards of twenty brethren were re-obligated during the evening. The choice of the lodge was unanimously in favour of Bro. Elphinstone as Master. After the usual installation, he invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Fox, S.W.; Jennings, J.W.; Emmett, M.O.; Crocker, S.O.; Ash, J.O.; Welsh, S.D.; Collins, J.D.; Benner, I.G.; Radmore, Tyler; and Murch, Sec. On the appointments being complete, Bro. Gova, P.M., delivered the usual oration to the officers. A vote of thanks was carried by acclamation to Bros. Chapple, Gova, and those who so kindly assisted at the opening of the lodge, and was ordered to be entered on the minutes. The lodge was graced by many visiting brethren, among whom we observed Bro. Thompson from London, Bro. Worth from Millbrook, and also many from the neighbouring lodges. Business having been brought to a close, the lodge adjourned for refreshment.

Obituary.

BRO. LEONARD CHANDLER, P.G.D.

This worthy brother died on the 10th inst., at his residence, in St. John's-street, E.C., aged 74. Bro. Chandler was initiated in the St. Paul's Lodge (No. 229) in the year 1823, and passed the chair of the lodge, continuing a member until his death. He joined the British Lodge (No. 8) in 1837, and continued a member eight years, having served the office of Grand Steward, and being elected President of the Board. He was exalted in the Cyrus Chapter (No. 21), and passed the various chairs, continuing a subscribing member to the time of his death. Bro. Chandler had served the office of Steward to each of the Charities, that of the Royal Benevolent Institution twice, and was a Life Governor and warm friend of all. His loss will be deeply felt by all who had the honour of his acquaintance, and by none more than by the members of his lodge and chapter.

MRS. GRAY CLARKE.

On the 15th inst., at No. 17, Dorset-square, N.W., Eleanor, wife of William Gray Clarke, Esq., G. Sec., and only daughter of the late Major James Brine, formerly of the 7th Royal Fusiliers. The unfortunate lady had been confined of twins a few days previously, and leaves eight children to deplore her loss.

Poetry.

THE SLAVE SHIP.

A ship bounds o'er the open sea,
Conceal'd by fog and night;
The waves are foaming over it,
Dash'd by the wild storm's might.

Two hundred slaves lie prison'd there,
Between the narrow beams;
Half waken'd by the howling storm,
Half brooding savage dreams.

They see themselves like laboring beasts,
Sold on a foreign shore;
They feel the scourge's heavy blows,
The sunbeams, scorching sore.

They pray with fervent soul, aloud,
Amidst the snow and rain.
"Oh Lord! release with sudden death,
Us from such lasting pain!"

And over slaves and sailors howls
The storm with savage might,
No beacon shines—the lightning's flash
Alone illumines the night.

The captain cries, "O Alla—help!
Save us from danger, save!"
The slaves within call wildly out,
"O Lord! give us the grave."

And fierce and fiercer drives the storm,
The ship bounds madly on!
Sudden—it strikes upon a rock!
And splits—all hope is gone!

And from the wreck: "O woe! O woe!"
Howls loudly o'er the sea;
But from two hundreds lips resound,
"Hail, Lord! we now are free!"

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty arrived on Friday, the 14th inst., at Windsor. She was accompanied by the younger branches of her family, and by her guests, Prince Christian and Princess Alexandria of Denmark. Her Majesty is expected to remain at Windsor about a fortnight. The Prince and Princess of Hesse (our own Princess Alice), also landed at Gravesend on the same day, from the Continent, and proceeded by rail and carriage to Windsor. It is expected the young couple will now take up their permanent abode at Frogmore Lodge, which has been provided for their residence since the time of their marriage.—A letter from Naples tells us how the Prince of Wales celebrated the day on which he attained his majority—an occasion which excited so much interest in England. He dined on board the *Osborne*, which was lying in the Bay of Naples, with the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Prussia, the Prince and Princess of Leinigen, his own attendants, and a number of naval officers and others. His health was proposed by General Knollys, who alluded to the melancholy circumstance which led the Prince to spend that day in a foreign land. "The Princesses were much affected, and, as the guests raised their glasses to drink the toast, the Princess of Prussia kissed her brother." A signal from the *Osborne* announced that the toast of the evening had been drunk, and her Majesty's ships in the bay were in a moment blazing with blue lights, "and the silence of the evening was broken by the cheers of the crews as they drank the health of the Prince of Wales." The Prince of Wales, and the Prince of Prussia have since visited Rome, and had an audience of the Pope. His Royal Highness is expected in England next week.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The cold weather that has lately set in tells with remarkable effect on the mortality of London. Last week it reached 1429; a fortnight before it was no higher than 1189. The average of the same week during the last ten years, calculated on the same population, was only 1323, so that the increase is more than 100; so fatal has been the fog and the cold of last week. The births, however, compensated for this loss, as they were 100 more than on the average, or 1904 boys and girls.—It is not expected that Parliament, which has been prorogued to the 13th of January, will meet for the despatch of business before the first week in February.—The public, on Saturday, saw the last of the Exhibition, and upwards of 13,000 persons assembled to witness its calm decease. The National Anthem was performed, and there was a faint attempt to get up a cheer. On a day in January, not yet fixed, the Prince of Wales will distribute the medals to the successful exhibitors, and it is said there will be an attempt to light the building with a view to a *fête* by gaslight after the distribution. There is some talk of the building being sold for a terminus of the West London Railway, but as yet nothing has been decided.—The road which was opened through Hyde Park during the Exhibition is about to be closed. There was no promise made that the opening should be permanent, but as it has proved a great convenience to the public, and has in no sense destroyed the amenity of the park, it might have been allowed to remain.—Mr. George Clive, M.P., the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, is about to retire from that office. Mr. Clive was seriously ill some time ago, but we are told that his health is re-established, and that his retirement is owing to the work being too heavy for him.—It is important at the present moment to know that successful experiments have been made with American cotton seed in the Turkish province of Adrianople. The Governor has just sent to this country for twelve tons of the same kind of seed, and the Sultan's Ambassador in London, in seeking the assistance of the Cotton Supply Association in the matter, remarks that "the well-known public spirit and energy of his Highness render it certain that, having interested himself in the cultivation of cotton in the extensive and important province under his administration, he will not relax his efforts until they be crowned with success."—The University of Oxford have passed a vote in Convocation authorising the sum of £1000 to be given, in four monthly payments, out of the University chests, to the relief of the manufacturing districts. It is understood that most, if not all, of the colleges will subscribe to the same fund.—Mr. Gladstone was among the speakers at a meeting of the parishioners of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, for the purpose of deciding upon measures for assisting in the relief of the suffering population in the cotton manufacturing districts. The right hon. gentleman urged that the landowners of Lancashire and those who, he alleged, were reaping fortunes at Liverpool from the continuance of the

cotton famine, ought to come forward liberally to the assistance of the operatives. He doubted whether the names of the mill-owners ought to appear in the subscription lists at all. Some of them had kept their mills at work at an immense loss, and it was a mistake to conclude that because great houses did not appear in print as the donors of great sums, the employers were neglecting the operatives in their hour of need.—Speaking at a meeting held at Droitwich, Sir John Pakington defended the millowners against the charge of neglecting the suffering operatives. The right hon. Baronet said that at one time he somewhat entertained the opinion that the manufacturers had not done their duty, but a better acquaintance with the facts of the case had convinced him that he done the employers an injustice. “With the exception of the unfortunate workmen themselves, he believed no class were more entitled to sympathy than these mill-owners and manufacturers.” They were deeply involved in this distress, and the whole circumstances of the crisis seemed to him to justify an appeal to Parliament for assistance. Sir John reiterated the opinion he expressed some time ago on the subject of European mediation in America, but observed that if Her Majesty’s Government decided not to interfere, that conclusion would, no doubt, be the result of a conviction that an offer to mediate would only tend to aggravate the present state of things.—At a public meeting held at Lees, Oldham, it was determined to memorialise Her Majesty’s Government to consider the propriety of advising a grant from the Consolidated Fund for the relief of the distress in the cotton manufacturing districts. The memorial contained a strong expression of opinion against an interference between the Northern and Southern states on the part of this country.—Mr. Farnall reports that on the 8th inst, 237,743 persons were receiving parochial relief in the 27 unions which now appear in his weekly tables. This shows an increase of 13,031 as compared with the previous week. It should be mentioned that the usual returns had not been received from Stockport and Clitheroe, and the figures for those unions in the present statement are, therefore, the figures sent in for the week ended the 1st inst. If we add the returns made by 41 out of 65 local committees, we find that, for the week ended the 8th inst., 330,664 persons were relieved by those bodies and the Boards of Guardians, and that the total outlay thus incurred was £22,516 7s. or a fraction under 1s. 4½d. per head.—The first meeting of the 109th session of the Society of Arts was held at the house of the society, John-street, Adelphi, on Wednesday evening. Sir Thomas Phillips, the President, delivered an inaugural address. He made touching allusion to the death of the Prince Consort, and spoke at some length in reference to the late Exhibition and the want of cotton.—The “female student question” is exciting some attention in Scotland. It may be remembered that a young lady, named Garrett, matriculated at the University of St. Andrews, and obtained tickets for the anatomy and chemistry classes. The Senatus, subsequently, interfered, and enjoined the professors to prevent her attendance until they had satisfied themselves as to its legality. The question was referred to an eminent member of the Scottish bar, and acting upon his opinion, the Senatus has just declared Miss Garrett’s matriculation to be null and void. The lady, on the other hand, laid her case before the Lord Advocate, who has also expressed an opinion fatal to her views.—Further experiments were made at Shoeburyness last week, with the wonderful shell invented by Mr. Whitworth. The projectile was, of course, again fired from Mr. Whitworth’s own guns, and the result of the day’s trial is summed up by Mr. Whitworth in the statement that has now made it a positive certainty that he can send shells through iron plates of 5in. or even 5½in., and not only through the plates, but through the backing and inner skin too. Sir William Armstrong is said to be bringing forward a weapon which is to throw into the shade all that Mr. Whitworth has accomplished, while Mr. Whitworth, not content with the laurels he has already won, is reported to be prepared with a gun which will send shell or solid shot through a 10-inch plate.—The Hon. W. F. Byng was defendant in an action in the Westminster County Court, on Wednesday. Mr. Thomas Davis, military tailor, of Regent-street, sued the hon. gentleman for £48 10s. for clothes supplied in 1841. Mr. Byng pleaded the Statutes of Limitations, adding that he did so because he believed he had paid the bill. Mr. Davis said he could prove by his books that he had never been paid. The judge held that the plea exempted the defendant.—The six men charged with the robbery of banknote paper, followed up by the forgery of banknotes, have undergone another lengthened examination at the

Mansion House. A great number of witnesses were examined, and several fresh features of interest in the details of this extraordinary case were disclosed, every step in the case showing the adroitness of the thieves and the bloodhound-like sagacity with which their trail was followed up by the detectives. The evidence could not be got through at the sitting, and the prisoners were therefore again remanded.—In the Court of Error on Saturday, the case of Mr. Meany, who was charged with having obtained some books under false pretences, was disposed of. It may be remembered that Meany, who gave himself out as editor of a Lancashire newspaper, and made himself very busy about the Exhibition in the early months of its opening, got some books from a bookseller, which he promised to pay for when the Exhibition authorities settled some accounts he had against them. The jury found that he had obtained the property by false representations, but added that they thought he meant to pay. The judge at sessions refused to receive the verdict, and the jury went back and returned a second verdict of guilty. In the meantime some of the other magistrates raised the question whether the first verdict ought not to have been received, and whether it was not equivalent to a verdict of not guilty. The court yesterday decided that the judge had the right to send a jury back to reconsider their verdict, and the sentence was therefore affirmed.—A serious charge was preferred against the Earl of Limerick, at Bow-street Police Court, on Wednesday. He was charged with having committed perjury, in having made an affidavit that he left England on the 27th of April, 1861, and was out of the country for some months. This affidavit, it is said, had been made for the purpose of escaping the consequences of disregarding a legal process. Proof was given that the Earl had been at Southampton within the time mentioned. Mr. Wontner, on his behalf, contended that the statement was merely a mistake, and that what Lord Limerick meant was, that he had not been in London. Mr. Corrie adopted this view of the case, and dismissed the summons.—A curious case of alleged poisoning was under investigation at Hindon, Wiltshire, on Wednesday. Mrs. Ann Kiddle, the wife of a respectable wheelwright in the hamlet of Sudwell, was taken ill in August. She was attended by a medical man, who found symptoms totally at variance with those which his medicines ought to have produced, and which indicated that some irritant was being administered. He spoke of his suspicions, but eventually Mrs. Kiddle died. Subsequently, a *post-mortem* examination of the body was made, and the stomach was sent to Dr. Herapath, of Bristol, to be analysed. He found slight traces of arsenic, bismuth, antimony, and silver. The bismuth, antimony, and silver had been administered to the deceased by her medical attendant, but not the arsenic. A Mrs. Trowbridge, who was in attendance on Mrs. Kiddle, is in custody on suspicion of having given her the arsenic.—In the case of John Barclay, under remand for an attempt to murder his wife by shooting her, the man having died in prison, the coroner’s jury have decided that the death resulted from natural causes.—The man, Cooper, who murdered his sweetheart, at Isleworth, was on Monday executed in front of Newgate Gaol. Before he was led to the scaffold, he admitted the justice of his sentence. Gardner, the sweep, who murdered his wife, has been reprieved.—Of the four men apprehended on suspicion of having been concerned in the barbarous murder of an old woman, at Ribchester, two have been discharged. Harrison and Davis are the two who remain in custody.—A fatal instance of the effects of unbridled lust and passion was brought before the Maidstone magistrates on Monday. A farmer named Murton about a month ago took two women of bad character home, and ordered his wife and married daughter to entertain them. One of the women was herself so shocked with this shameless proceeding, and wished to leave, on which the farmer became infuriated, rushed on his wife, dashed her on the brick floor of his kitchen, and so ill-used her that she has since died. The wretched man turned his own family out of doors, retaining the prostitutes, and when he was taken into custody he gave one of them his money and installed both in possession of his house. The magistrates committed him on the charge of manslaughter.—A shocking case of attempted murder which is but too likely to prove successful, took place in a coffee-shop in the Edgware-road. A man named Cobby and his wife went to a coffee-shop for a night’s lodging, and they had not been long gone to bed when the landlord was alarmed by loud screams proceeding from the room. He ran up, and found the woman with her throat cut, and a razor lying at a little distance. The man said she had done it herself, but the woman, though unable to

speak, indicated dissent. The magistrate was brought, as well as surgeons, and the woman answered the questions put to her in writing, distinctly charging her husband with the crime, which, however, he persists in denying. The man is in custody. There seems no hope of the poor woman's recovery.—A fatal accident arising out of the great fog on Thursday week, occurred in the case of a night-watchman in the Commercial Docks, Rotherhithe, whose body was found on Friday morning floating in the water. It is supposed the poor man had in the bewilderment of the fog, stepped into the water. An inquest was held on Saturday, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."—An inquest was also begun on the bodies of two men who lost their lives on the same night. The men were leaving the French steamer *Albert*, when both missed their footing and one fell into a boat alongside, while another fell into the water. The man in the boat lingered some days and died on Tuesday; the other was not extricated from the mud at the bottom of the dock till the next day. The inquest was adjourned till the return of the French steamer from her voyage.—Two railway accidents, which strongly remind us of the numerous casualties which marked the severe winter of 1860-61, occurred in the north on Saturday last. The 9.30 p.m. train from Edinburgh to London was passing along the Beattock incline, when the tire of the driving wheel of the engine broke. The carriages ran off the line; several of them went over an embankment, and one passenger was killed, while several others sustained injuries. The second accident was happily unattended with loss of life, but the destruction of property was very serious. A luggage train was approaching the Felling Station on the North-Eastern Railway, when a tire snapped, and several of the trucks were hurled against a passenger train, which had stopped at the Felling Station, on the opposite line of rails. Several of the trucks and carriages were smashed to pieces, but fortunately no serious injuries were sustained either by the passengers or the railway servants.—An accident, which at first threatened to have serious consequences, also occurred on the rails which are used in common by the South-Eastern and the Brighton lines. The former company dispatched a train on Friday morning at 7.55, and the latter another at 8. The weather was foggy, the rails were slippery, and the wheels of the first engine would not "bite" when they came to the incline beyond New Cross. The Brighton train being probably lighter found less difficulty in the ascent, while the fog prevented the driver of the hinder train from seeing the other till he was close upon it, and too late to prevent a collision. The passengers were a good deal shaken, but it appears that none were seriously hurt.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Baron Gros has been appointed Ambassador of France at our Court.—The trial of the Duc de Grammont-Caderousse and four other gentlemen concerned in the late duel in Paris, which ended in the death of Mr. Dillon, took place on Tuesday, at Versailles. The duke had only surrendered the previous day. The accused were all acquitted.—The Italian government has suspended martial law throughout the Neapolitan provinces, but the suspension is accompanied with exceptions that probably deprive the measures of any considerable importance which it might have possessed in practice. The Italian Chamber of Deputies opened its session on Wednesday. The minister for foreign Affairs laid upon the table the diplomatic documents recently issued relating to the Roman question; the principal of which were General Durando's now famous circular, and the despatch of M. Drouyn de L'Huys to the Italian Government. A member formally demanded of the Ministry a full explanation of the policy which guided them through the late transactions, and Signor Ratazzi declared himself perfectly prepared to explain and defend his conduct. It was therefore arranged that a debate upon the whole question should open on Thursday. This discussion will probably be the most important which has taken place in the Parliament of Turin since it became the mouthpiece of United Italy.—The Russian Minister at Finance has presented a favourable report to the Emperor.—The Ottoman Embassy here have given an official denial to the reports respecting the health of the Sultan and his mental condition. Those reports are stated to be entirely without foundation.—According to Greek intelligence, transmitted by way of Trieste, "demonstrations friendly to England" continue to be made in Greece and the Ionian Islands; and Prince Alfred's election to the Greek throne "is regarded as certain"—the Greeks being apparently confident that the crown of Greece is capable of tempting an English Prince.

AMERICA.—The news brought by the *Australasian* is extremely

important. From the army there is not much. Gen. McClellan is said to be still advancing, and General Sigel to have driven the Confederates out of Thoroughfare Gap. The Federal army in Kentucky is said to be marching on Nashville, and the movements of the Confederates are absolutely unknown. Gen. Mitchell, the rival in infamy of Butler and Turchin, has died of yellow fever at Beaufort. It is reported that the slaves in the eastern part of North Carolina are being withdrawn into the interior. The *Alabama* continues to be the terror of Northern commerce, and the New York papers are filled with frantic abuse of Captain Semmes and the English Government. Some Federal vessels were reported "ready to start in pursuit of her." The great fact of the day is the result of the New York elections. The Democrats have carried the Empire State. New Jersey has voted the Democratic ticket by a large majority. This gives the Democrats nearly all the chief states of the North—New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and probably Illinois, as well as New Jersey and Indiana. On the other hand, the Republicans have carried Massachusetts, as was to be expected, and Michigan, which is of trifling importance. By the arrival of the *Edinburgh*, we have news from New York to the 5th inst. McClellan's army was making a steady advance into Virginia. Ashby's Gap and Barbour, near the mouth of Chester Gap, had been taken possession of by the Federals. No information had, however, been received of the movements of General Lee's army. From Newborn, North Carolina, an expedition of 12,000 men and several gunboats had sailed for some unknown destination. According to a letter in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* 3000 Confederates had surrendered unconditionally to General Foster's expedition at Plymouth, North Carolina. General Hunter was to replace General Mitchell in South Carolina.—The *Moniteur*, published on Thursday the 13th inst., the text of the important despatch in which M. Drouyn De Lhuys made proposals to the British and Russian Cabinets with a view to a cessation of the hostilities in America. France, this despatch says, has deemed it her duty to remain strictly neutral; but neutrality does not necessarily mean an attitude resembling indifference. On the following day Earl Russell's reply was published. His Lordship states that Her Majesty's Government have no information that the government of Russia have assented to the proposal, but even if they should agree to co-operate in such a work, the intelligence from America gives no ground to hope that the course suggested would be received with favour at Washington. A refusal on the part of the Federal government at the present moment would prevent any speedy renewal of the offer, and it is, therefore, the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it would be better to watch carefully the progress of opinion in America, and, "if, as there appears reason to hope, it may be found to have undergone, or may hereafter undergo, any change, the three Courts might then avail themselves of such change to offer their friendly counsel with a better prospect than now exists of its being accepted by the two contending parties." Prince Gortschakoff's reply is also against intervention at present, but says "if, however, France should persist in her intention, and England should acquiesce, instructions shall be dispatched to Baron Stockel, at Washington, to lend to both his colleagues, if not official aid, at least moral support."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EXCELSIOR and BETA's questions are so similar that we answer both together. It is clear that under the law as it now stands, the removal of a lodge, when approved of by the Master, and the summonses issued under his authority, cannot be adjudicated upon, should he not be present when the motion is brought forward. But that that is not the spirit of the law is evidenced by the following:—"If the Master should refuse to issue the summonses, either of the Wardens may do so; and if the Master neglect to attend, the Senior or Junior Warden may preside in determining the question." BETA puts another question, which he surely cannot expect us to answer in the affirmative. We have permission from the Grand Master to publish Masonic proceedings, when they are not objected to by the Master or Members of the lodge.

O. B.—Not that we are aware of.

W. R.—We will make inquiries.