

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1863.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LXI.

XI.—JUNO AND JANUARY.

According to Varro, Juno signifies the earth, and Jupiter the heavens; by whose union, that is, conjugation by influences, all things are generated. But natural philosophers, known as the Stoics, maintain that by Juno is meant the air, and by Jupiter fire. The air, as Tully describes it, lying between the earth and the heavens, is consecrated under the name of Juno. Certainly in the Greek there is a close affinity between the words Juno and the air, he goes on to say, because the air is naturally of a cold nature, and can only be warmed by heat; therefore, Juno is properly called the wife of Jupiter. Her name being also *Aeria*, signifies that she is the individual principle and embodiment of the air, and, therefore she is styled the goddess of it. The ancient meaning of Juno being bound with golden chains, and iron anvils at her feet, appears profoundly this, that whereas the air purely became inflammable when attached to heat, it was to be mingled with the heavier elements, which are thereby specified as earth and water. But this representative allegory evinces another signification; namely, that air, anvils, and gold, were, as they still are, the first accessories to the requirements of life. There is not much difficulty to be overcome in comprehending, that, through the air-blast of the forge, the anvils were available for all manner of implements of war and husbandry, by which wealth has been mainly acquired, and what is more, the ancients used to convert their gold into chains and ornaments, for link-money, and the sake of its better security.

The want of typographical and even of typical language, whereby clearly to chronicle historical events, soon occasioned notions of unaccountable antiquity to forget their parent posterities, and, in the course of a few generations, vainly and ostentatiously to imagine themselves the descendants of their countries from the commencement of the world.

Conformably with this notion, the Egyptians, Phœnicians, Phrygians, and many other established divisions of remote population, have each believed they were the first of the human race. It is asserted as a matter of fact, that the Arcadians and Thessalians, prided themselves not a little on being *προσεληιοι* *Proscelēioi*, before the noon. Also that the Athenians thought they were *ἄτοχθονες* *Autoxthones*, or the people of the land they live in, and that they were originated at the same time with the sun. Therefore they assumed the names of *Autoxthones* and *Τεττεγες* *Tet-teg*, *Tettegesnæ*, meaning thereby, they were produced like locusts or grasshoppers, which they conceived to be generated by the sun out of the ground. In devout consideration thereof, they worshipped those insects, and made golden representative ornaments of them for use, and adornment. Positively with reference to the *Iliad*, and of other works, as of *Hypsichius* and *Menander* it became an everywhere received opinion that mankind, through some primordial vivification, was produced somehow or some way, like plants, out of the earth. Thus, literally, more than figuratively, it appears, almost without an exception, that the most

ancient nations have, similarly to the Greeks, styled themselves *Γηγενεις*, *Gegeneis*, sons of the earth. Respectively, therein, may be traced an ambiguous tradition of the scriptural creation of man: at least, in nearer approximation with truth than, during the time of Cadmus and the dissemination of letters, the record of the building of Thebes, B.C. 1493, by the workmen, or soldiers, sprung from the planted teeth of the serpent encountered and slain by the founder of the city, entitled the King of Sidon. Now, although that work of enchantment, for according to idolatrous history, miraculous event is chronologically set down at about forty years before the five books of Moses were written, that is to say, B.C. 1452, there is no trace in the character of the Greek lithography or alphabets of their being older than the Hebrew, nor of the Hebrew being borrowed from the enchorial of the Egyptians, but rather that the Egyptian is more distinctly united with the Hebrew than the Phœnician and Samaritan, which are in their characters much the same as the Greek. When the first twelve tables were written it is unlikely that they did not exhibit a caligraphy perfectly Judaical, but then it is to be borne in mind that Egypt was *Mazraim*, that is, by Ham. If the Jews derived their name of *Hebræi*, or were called Hebrews, from Heber,* that patriarch may have been the institutor of the hebraic form of letters and writing, as, apparently, they in common are named after him.

We read of Philobiblius in the time of Adrian, translating into Greek out of the Phœnician, the works of Sanchoniathon, a learned historian, and, a more ancient author than Moses. The erudition of Moses solved the secrecy of the sacred mysteries of the priestcraft of Egypt. But how are we to regard pictorial writing more than what is now termed illustrative, hieroglyphical devices more than what is now called cryptography? Shall we answer ambiguously by briefly asking, have not such things been within our own century?

Indeed, mystical representations are not rare, and pages of the text, now generally well known, can be read off at sight, in the grouping of a tablature or a painting. But were we to sigillarise by the *Ars Sigillaræ*, and make three images holding a money-box, and mount them in a temple, and inform the ignorant that they were the three angels that carry the souls to heaven of all who follow after them to put sixpence into the box, we should be perpetuating the Bull of St. Peter's pence. On the other hand should we call them the Charities, and see them there, or a sculpture in the figure of the widow dropping her mite into a corban, placed at the entrance of some European place of worship, or at the gate of our Royal Park, or Masonic Lodge, we should discern at a glance that Charity not only covers a "multitude of sins," but that they who "giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord," and furthermore the injunction, "Go and do thou likewise."

The Romans in honour of Juno had certain days set apart for acts of charity, and their feasts called *Charistia*, celebrated on the nineteenth of February, during which, as at our great festivals of Christmas and the Charities, they gave largely of their abundance, and distributed presents amongst their friends and relatives.

* Otherwise spelt Eber: in his days were the earth divided, Genesis, C. x.

GLAD TIDINGS.

The following sermon was preached by the Rev. Bro. R. W. Sanderson, Prov. G. Chap. Suffolk, at the consecration of the Waveney Lodge, Bungay, (No. 1231), on the 29th ult. (the proceedings at which were reported last week), from the following text:—

"The darkness is past and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light."—1 JOHN II., 8—10.

"Glad tidings of great joy; glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men," was the message of the angels when, at this time, the Prince of Peace was born into the world. Glad tidings, indeed! for the darkness in which God had hidden himself from the eyes of men began to pass away, and the true light to shine and show that God is love. And truly, my brethren, we who have met here during this holy Christmas tide are doing a work well suited to the season in this our constituting and dedicating a temple of universal brotherhood and good will amongst men. The very time of the year itself seems to enforce that principle on which all Freemasonry rests, telling us to love God as our Father and all men as brethren. As the created of Almighty God, the Great Architect of the Universe, the world of mankind is one family, one brotherhood. As the redeemed of Almighty God, the Saviour of the world, all are brethren and Christians; the Eternal God is our Elder Brother, "the first-born among many brethren." He who, as at this time, took mortal flesh for us men and for our salvation, he is the head stone of the corner, which the level of love has so placed as will one day unite and henceforth for ever support the whole building of the Father's care in indivisible and eternal unity. But, beloved brethren, we have just cause to mourn that although, as the created and redeemed of the Eternal God, all mankind are brethren, and ought to act as such, yet that this feeling is carried but too little into practice. Look into the world, and you see, as with our kinsmen in the West at this hour, even those who speak the same tongue divided and shedding recklessly each other's blood. Look into society, and you see neighbours distracted and estranged by dissensions; yea, and such is the decay of brotherly love, that even in the same family circle we often find three against two and two against three. These are sad truths, but does not the contemplation of them naturally lead us to consider how great must be the excellency of every bond of union and society which can in any way assist the gracious influence of godliness, in renewing, by Divine grace, our dying love, and restoring it to vigour and to exercise. Hence, without entering into its particular merits, I will take upon me to assert the excellency of the Masonic union, and fear not to say that this tie between man and man has its foundation in God, the Great Architect of the Universe, whose name is Love; and that when He who will one day complete the Temple of his redeeming mercy shall make up his jewels he will place in his kingdom, with ornaments of his triumph, every real Mason; and that whatever his station may have been in this world—whether as a Master to devise, a Warden to explain, a Steward to superintend, a Secretary to transcribe, or a workman to raise the fabric by his industry—all shall be accessories and assistants to this grand edifice of love, and each shall be rewarded, not according to the perfection of his work or the greatness of his post, but according to the sincerity of his intentions and the zeal of his endeavours. Having thus, my beloved brethren, briefly pointed out the necessity of your labour, and the certainty and excellency of your intended reward, let me now, in the plain language of a brother labourer, point out to you more particularly the nature of this your work in the rebuilding of the human heart, that temple of love which sin and human frailty have too universally laid in ruins. For I would fain stir

up your pure minds by way of remembrance, and explain to others, without betraying any secret, the grand essential of our union, brotherly love. It is our pride as Masons to call ourselves sons of the light, and unless we would be deservedly condemned as empty professors of good which we do not carry into practice, it behoves us to bear in mind that word of exhortation which bids them that are in the light walk as children of the light. And what is the test by which we are to prove ourselves? We find it in the text. "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him;" whilst, on the contrary, "he that hateth his brethren is in darkness even until now." Now if there be any praise that we, as Masons, especially desire, next to the praise of God, I suppose it is the praise of being deemed an eminently practical body, not a mere sort of benevolent dreamers, imaging to ourselves a kind of Utopia of harmony and fraternity, but really and zealously labouring for the good of each other and of the world at large. I, therefore, already anticipate the question. "I know that working love is the test of our being in the light; but how is this love to be shown? If to be a working Mason means anything, it means no sickly sentimentalism, but one practically labouring in the erection of the Great Temple to the Glory of God, and to peace and good will among men." Most true: and I answer that brotherly love must find its due expansion, just as does love to God. It must be the love of thought, word, and deed. Masonic work, then, my brethren, begins from the heart. That is the fountain, and from thence all its streams take their rise. Hence we are bidden in Holy Scripture to keep the heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Now, the same fountain cannot send forth sweet water and bitter; but if the fountain be sweet, the water will be sweet also. How good, then, and excellent is the command given us by the inspiration of the Apostle of Love: "Think not evil one of another, but be kindly affectioned." If, then, we would live in the exercise of brotherly love, we must not only endeavour to keep the affections of the heart untainted with hard thoughts and evil surmises, but endeavour, if I may so speak, to keep the ear of the heart uncorrupted by the tongue of evil report, and not only strive against suspicion ourselves, but when little words are spoken, consider how much exaggeration mostly accompanies slander or tale-bearing, and, briefly, think well of a brother as long as we can, and when we cannot, still call to mind all that may extenuate his frailties. We are cautioned at our admission into the Order that we are not to come there seeking advantage to ourselves, save that of instruction, but rather seeking to obtain large means of promoting the welfare of others. But we are only too prone to think too much of our privileges and too little of our duties. I ask of your own hearts, if any of you have ever been hurt by the conduct of a brother, was not the most painful sense of injury this—that it came from a brother's hand? My beloved, let the thought be far from you. Do not say "that was the last hand that should have dealt me so cruel a blow;" but rather "this is the man from whom I am bound to bear most, and most to try to forgive, and with God's help so I will." Remember that we, as Masons, are taught as part of our charity not merely to forbear slandering our neighbour, and to refuse to believe a tale reported to his prejudice, but to forgive the injuries of men, and to endeavour to blot them from our recollection. Brotherly love is not a matter of barter and sale, but a sacred tribute due from man to God, to be paid to all for His sake, who died for all. But to the thoughts and affections of the heart, let me proceed to enforce the exercise of brotherly love as regards the tongue. This may be called the trumpet of the heart; for if the heart be pure it will send forth pure things. It is the pen of the heart; and if the heart be embittered the tongue is like to be a bitter scribe. Remember, then, that the character of a brother is a sacred deposit, lay it not out

then in cruel slander; the character of a man is his greatest treasure, squander it not, therefore, for once spent it can never be recovered. It is, indeed, like the breath of life, take it away and it can never be restored. Wound a man's body, or impair his health, the surgeon or physician may heal the one or restore the other; injure his property and thou mayst, if thou hast it by thee, restore him fourfold; but if you woundst his good name, ten thousand words will seldom restore what a few syllables have blasted. Keep, then, the door of thy lips. Think the best and never speak the worst; reverence and imitate others good, but to all their defects, whether real or imaginary, unless plain duty should call thee to speak out, be a Mason in secrecy, and thus prove to the curious world that one of the secrets of Masonry is the concealment of a brother's fault, if discovery can neither amend nor efface it. But, again, there are brethren, of good report for uprightness of life and for purity of intention, who are often, from deficiency of judgment or from infirmity of temper, betrayed into errors of the tongue, causing great detriment to Masonry and to the cause of good in general. Such seem to find a perverse pleasure in speaking harsh truths in the harshest manner, and sometimes even go beyond the limits of justice in the severity of their reproofs, thereby estranging the affections of their brethren, and undoing all that would else be effected by their otherwise blameless conduct and unimpeachable zeal. To such I would say, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of," nor what injury ye are working to the cause that, in spite of errors of judgment, ye have sincerely at heart. O, study to speak gently. Think how you would feel were other eyes as keen to mark, and other tongues as sharp to comment, on whatever there may be of infirmity in you, as you are in the case of others. O, study to speak gently, for gentleness has never yet done harm, and severity but seldom done good. O, study to speak gently; so shall your good example go in tenfold weight, and your good advice tenfold influence, when men see that both spring from the true spirit of brotherly love. If you gain nothing else you will at least have gained this, that none have, in your needless harshness, met with a stumbling block. But as the love which, confined to the heart finds no expression in the tongue, is barren and unprofitable, even so it is with the love which, free in words, is close and niggardly indeed. To pity the distress and to relieve the necessities of the afflicted, this is to imitate the example of an elder brother, who went about doing good, and at last gave his life for the destruction of the greatest misery of all, the misery of sin. To irritate in our human connections, as far as human frailty permits this glorious pattern, medicine is to be given to the sick, the hungry are to be fed, the naked are to be clothed, the sorrowful heart is to be comforted, the wanderer is to be recalled into the paths of peace, the ignorant are to be taught. These are the offices of the loving heart, and this is the character of the true Christian and Mason—to be regardless of our own pleasures that we may soothe the grief of our afflicted brother. But some without will say, is this Masonry? These are no more than the old precepts of the Gospel, which day by day are from this place sounded in our ears. Well, my brethren, it is true. The morality of Masonry and the morality of the Gospel are one. The bright sisters, Masonry and Christianity, walk lovingly side by side on their path of duty, nor ever part company, save when Christianity spreads her angel wings and soars aloft into those regions of Divine light, where nought merely of the earth can follow her. I say, then, to my fellow Masons, ye who walk in the light love your brethren. Seek the cottage of affliction, support the aching head, speak words of hope to the dying, cherish the orphan, thus fulfilling the words of him who hath taught us that "pure religion and undefiled before God, even the father, is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." And you, my brethren, whose lodge we this day dedicate to the glory of God, suffer, I beseech you, the word

of exhortation. Masonry is here no strange thing; and on your good conduct or misconduct it mainly depends whether it shall fulfil its intention as a mighty agent for good, or shall become a byword of reproach amongst your neighbours. Your master and wardens, therefore, I exhort so to preside in the lodge that rebellion may never be excited by overbearing conduct, nor license spring up from lack of due authority and pusillanimous lenity, ever remembering that authority may be very mild, yet very steadfast. It should be ever lenient, yet never timid. It should always be at once a sceptre of peace and security to the good and the obedient, and a rod of righteous correction to the wanton and rebellious. The other brethren I exhort to submission to rule and order, to perseverance in the paths of duty, contentment in their station, and reverence to their superiors, fitting themselves to govern by submitting to obey. All alike I remind that they have an example to set to those without; I bid them, therefore serve and fear God, and strive by his grace to do their duty; avoiding all things which may disgrace themselves and bring scandal on the Craft: never letting our wholesome enjoyment when work is done degenerate into riot and excess; but in all things striving to approve themselves good husbands, fathers, brothers, citizens, to the glory of God most high. Above all things, my brethren, have fervent charity among yourselves, that it may be said of you, as it was said of the Christians of old, "see how these Masons love one another." We may talk of religion, its doctrines, its precepts, its privileges; we may talk of philosophy, with all its train of human perfections and acquirements; we may talk of Masonry, boast of its secrecy, its science, and its morals; but if our religion is void of love to God and man, if our philosophy is not philanthropy, or if our Masonry is not activity in doing good,—then, away with religion, it is an empty name—away with philosophy, it is but sounding brass—away with Masonry, it is a tinkling cymbal. But, beloved, let it not be so with you. Here, says religion, soothe this troubled breast, teach resignation to that sorrowful heart. Here, bring medicine to heal this sick father and restore him to his weeping wife; feed this famishing infant, dry you weeping widow's tears, and let not her cry of sorrow be a cause against thee before God. Yes, daily, my brethren, daily let the secrecy of your Masonic benevolence be known to him who seeth in secret, telling of tears wiped away, sighs lost in thankfulness, groans turned to praises of God, ignorance of him to light which leadeth unto life; so in that awful day, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, then shall they who have curiously enquired of our secret, and perhaps thought hard things of our mysteries, learn with wonder that the greatest deep of Masonic secrecy was the unpublished act of doing good.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

ANTIQUITY OF MASONIC DEGREES.

Permit me a few words in reply to Bro. Findel's Queries. It is generally conceded that the Operative Freemasons, held a general assembly under a Master, Judge, or President. The first Grand Lodge of speculative Master Masons, however, was established in 1717, that body being formed by a few rusty speculative Masons, who had passed the degree of a craft, and the Wardens of the Operative Lodge at St. Paul's, under Wren, who was made a Free and Accepted Mason in 1691, and elected Master a few years later, and they were consequently ignorant and careless of anything beyond the degree of a Master. Very few Masons, we are informed, went beyond the degree of an E.A., the other degrees, for several years, being given imperfectly—it is asserted in Grand Lodge only. The signs, constitutions, &c., of the operative lodges have been preserved, and I challenge

Bro. Findel to point out any close resemblance to our present Masonry in them. And yet Dr. Anderson alludes to the warlike fraternities, who had borrowed many usages from the Order which had existed from the beginning. Bro. Findel is well aware that the ancient Masons, previously to Dermott's time, published nothing; that strictly our degrees yet prohibit it, and that the Gothic constitutions of the Craft Freemasons were recognised to give the Order publicity. Pritchard (a copy of whose work I have) was a member of this Grand Lodge only. In France a body was chartered by it, and a ritual supplied, as early as 1726, a pretended copy having been printed in Germany. Yet the Order of the Temple practised the high degrees, and printed its statutes, attested by one of the Orleans, in 1705. The first mention of a Royal Arch degree is said to be in 1722 and more fully in 1743; but what is the present degree? It is identical with the degree of Sword of the East, of Babylon, or of Palestine, in the French order of the Temple, the York Rite, and A. and A. rite, combined with the lost secrets which were given in the third degree in the Craft rite, and by them thus introduced into France, Holland, &c. It is impossible to read Dermott's book without being convinced of its truth, and he states that there were many Masons in the South, who had refused to join the modern rite, from whom they received the genuine system identical throughout the world; the same thing is acknowledged by Preston, but he states that the Grand Lodge would permit their Catholic or universal Masonry only. The St. Clairs, the Grand Master Masons of Scotland, resigned their authority, when a Speculative Grand Lodge was formed in 1736. They had previously to this, for centuries, ruled the Operative Masons, but as far as I am aware the ancient minute books of these lodges, contain no allusion to our present mysteries, but the true and only speculative Masons, viz., the Kilwinning Templars, or Royal Order of Scotland, are thought to have been under the same G.M. However this may be, it is quite certain that the lodges of York, Scotland, and Ireland, were in alliance with the ancient Masons last century, and refused to have any connection with the modern. We are informed on excellent authority that the high grades are mentioned in 1722, and I feel at liberty to inform Bro. Findel, that there are genuine English rituals of some of them extant, of very little later date. A few queries to Bro. Findel. Where were the factories of degrees he states established in England? Why did the Irish Masons in 1725 (vol. 1 of Magazine), ridicule the account of the origin assigned to the order by modern Masons, and state that it was and had been composed chiefly of the principal nobility? There is an authentic list of the York Masons from 1705; how happen they to commence and continue with Baronets, Lord Mayors, &c.? How is it that wherever the genuine York rite has penetrated, there also is Templary along with it? It is traditionally and historically true, that the Templars of York re-established their lodges in 1314, they were there in 1561, and from 1700 to 1787. Whilst in the south from 1485 to 1530 Masonry was practised by the Knights of Malta, and about this time or a little later, speculative Masters are for the first time mentioned. In our every difference is concord. Why were the ancient Masons not exposed and confounded? The modern would gladly have done it. Lastly: How does he get over the constant allusions in old mystical writers, to high grade symbolism, and such extracts as that respecting Jacques Cœur, given a few weeks ago, and who were the first authors, about 1400, alluded to by the Rosicrucians? It is easy to assert that anything militating against a preconceived opinion is a forgery. An English divine has proved that no such personage as Napoleon I. ever existed. In like manner, our worthy brother may extinguish an ordinary reader, and scatter English Masonry to the four winds of heaven. Let me close with an apophthegm of Lord Burghley,—“Unity is the strength, and division the ruin of any body

politic. All things in this world are valuable but in estimation: for a little to him that thinketh it enough is great riches.”—Δ

CHARITY IN SWEDEN.

April, 1760. “The Freemasons established at Stockholm, in Sweden, at the annual meeting on the 1st inst., in that capital, collected 5404 dollars, copper money, for the indigent poor.” July, 1760. “The Freemasons lodge at Stockholm have presented the orphan house, in that city, with 10,000 dollars.”

TEMPLAR NOTE.

It is well known that the Akkals of the Druses have a tradition claiming identity of ceremony with their ancient neighbours the Templars, There is in Lebanon, a place called “Valley of the Kadesha,” or Holy Valley.—Δ

SPECULATIVE ALLUSION, B.C.

“For as the master builder of a new house must care for the whole building; but he that undertaketh to set it out and paint it, must seek out fit things for the adorning of it: even so I think it is with us. To stand upon every point, and go over things at large, and to be curious in particulars, belongeth to the first author of the story. But to use brevity, and avoid much labouring of the work, is to be granted to him that will make an abridgement. 11, Maccabeus; chap. 2, vs. 29, 30, 31.—Δ

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

BRO. ROB. MORRIS OF KENTUCKY.

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

Dear Frater,—Some months ago we directed attention to the great personal peril to which the above named distinguished Mason was exposed through the deplorable events at present transpiring in the midst of our trans-Atlantic kinsmen—he having had assigned to him the command of a regiment of the State Guard. That body of volunteers, having, on the evacuation of Kentucky by the Confederates, been honourably discharged from active service, Bro. Morris has been enabled to return to his Masonic duties. Now that he has removed his office and correspondence to the city of Chicago, it is much to be desired that he may be allowed to “hang his trumpet in the hall” and leaving the study of war to others, devote himself anew to a source in which his herculean labours have already effected results beneficial to the Order rarely falling to the lot of one man to accomplish.

We understand from a trustworthy source that the governments, both Federal and State, were satisfied with Bro. Morris's military services, and that had he consented to enter the Federal ranks the most flattering assurances were held out to him of office and honour.

Our brother may not have much to recall in his military experience that is agreeable, for guerilla-warfare is but little better than Indian strife. The recollection of one important service rendered by Bro. Morris to his country many among the reminiscences of his military career afford him some pleasure however. He had the duty of guarding the railroad communication between Frankfort (the seat of government) and Louisville, and thus preserving a train containing the archives and treasures of the state, the bank treasures, the government and whole state and executive officers, and the entire Legislature—protecting them from probable capture by the Confederate army.

Our former notice of Bro. Morris appeared in the Magazine was copied by the *New York Sunday Despatch*, the editor thereof, Mr. R. D. Holmes, having kindly prefaced and endorsed it.

I am, dear Frater, yours truly,
D. MURRAY LYON,

Ayr, Jan. 14, 1863. P.J.W. of Mother Kilwinning.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The Lodge of Friendship (No. 1230), Petersfield, Hants, will be consecrated on the 27th inst., by Bro. Beach, P. Prov. S.W. Hants and Oxfordshire.

The Old Concord Lodge Ball takes place at the Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover-square, on Tuesday next, the 20th inst. It is well worthy of support, the proceeds being devoted to charity.

METROPOLITAN.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, Jan. 12, at the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane. Bro. Henry Wilson, W.M. presided, supported by Bros. Henry Thompson, S.W., Osborne, J.W., Russell, Brett, Haydon, and Elmes, P.M.'s and the rest of the officers. The lodge was opened at four o'clock, and the minutes having been received and confirmed, Bros. Woolf and Stephenson being candidates for the second degree were questioned as to their proficiency in the science, and their answers being considered satisfactory they were in due form advanced to a higher degree. The making of this degree was performed by the W.M. in a manner that elicited great approbation. The lodge was resumed to the first degree, and some unimportant business having been disposed of it was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The brethren then adjourned for refreshment, and about forty sat down to a very ample fare, provided in Bro. Ireland's usual liberal manner. The cloth having been drawn, the usual formal toasts were given and responded to, after which the W.M. in very appropriate terms proposed "the health of the visiting brethren," and assured them that it was always with sincere pleasure they received brethren who honoured them by visiting the Domatic Lodge. The toast was very warmly responded to. Bro. Denton, W.M. of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 1139, in returning thanks on behalf of the visitors, said it was with extreme pleasure he had had the opportunity of visiting the Domatic Lodge that evening, and was delighted with the able manner in which its working had been carried on by the whole of the officers, and he regretted to say that in the part of the country from which he came they fell far short of the orthodox way in which that working should be performed. He resided in Leeds, but every month he went thirty miles to attend to his duties, as well as of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, held at Ripon, and he was sorry to say that they were but scantily supplied with brethren who were able to perform the ceremonies. He frequently came to London, and he certainly never lost an opportunity of attending a lodge of instruction, where he had met many members of the Domatic Lodge, which fully accounted for the excellent manner in which their officers had discharged their duties. He would just mention that last week they had held a Provincial Grand Lodge of the province in which he resided, at which the Earl De Grey and Ripon, Prov. G.M. and D.G.M. of England, presided, and as that eminent brother was to take the chair at the Festival on behalf of the Boy's School in March next, it was the determination of the West Riding of Yorkshire to stand by him on that occasion, and unless Middlesex or any other county came forward with something very handsome, they would be a long way behind. (Cheers.) He thanked the brethren cordially for the way in which the visitors had been received amongst them. The health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Rnsen, P.M., to which the W.M. replied in very warm terms. On the health of the G.M.'s of the Domatic Lodge being proposed, Bro. Rnsen took the opportunity of reminding the brethren that he

was to be their Steward at the approaching Festival for the aged Freemasons and their Widows, and hoped that more brethren who had not already subscribed would do so, so that the contributions of the Domatic Lodge might be the largest that had ever come from them on any similar occasion. A considerable additional sum was subscribed to be put down to Bro. Rnsen's list. The health of the officers was proposed, for which Bros. H. Thompson, Osborne, Meekham, Simpson, and Smith, severally returned thanks, all expressing a determination to support the W.M. during his year of office to the best of their ability; some other toasts were given, and the evening was passed in the most complete harmony.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—On Monday evening, the 5th instant, the members of the above lodge assembled at the Albion, in Aldersgate Street, when the W.M., Bro. S. V. Abraham raised Bro. Goodwin to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and initiated into the Order Mr. Israel Russell, Captain Stanhope Byrne, Mr. Elkan, and Mr. Nathan. This being the night of installation, after some routine business, the W.M. proceeded to install the S.W., Bro. Benjamin Alexander, who had been duly elected into the chair according to ancient form; and the manner this, as well as the other ceremonies of the lodge, were performed by him, elicited the warm eulogiums of the many visitors and brethren present, who expressed their approbation of his conduct in the chair, by presenting him with a most elegant and valuable P.M.'s jewel, subscribed for by the members of the lodge. In presenting it, Bro. Selig, P.M., said, that the pleasure he had in doing so, on the part of the lodge, was increased by the knowledge that the Master had not only striven in every way to conduct the business of the lodge in a proper way, and raise its position in the Craft, but that he had succeeded in his endeavours; and he paid a high compliment to Bro. Abraham for his meekness in the chair, for while he held the rod of authority, it was administered in such a way as to enforce obedience by kindness and not by power. After a very eloquent and able address, he concluded by wishing, in the name of the lodge, that the Brother might wear it for many years in the enjoyment of good health and happiness, and hand it down as an heirloom to the members of his family. Bro. S. V. Abraham said, that he might with confidence ask the indulgence of the brethren if he were not able to acknowledge in suitable terms this additional mark of their kindness, for, said he, for the first time since he was elevated to the chair he found himself incapable of performing the task which devolved on him, and he trusted he might avail himself of the true spirit of an Englishman, who in one genuine and trite remark will express what otherwise would acquire a lengthy address. If he had succeeded in his duties it was only owing to the assistance the Brethren at all times accorded him, and he thanked them for that as well as the generous liberality they had evinced in presenting him with so beautiful a Jewel. He certainly should hand it down as an heirloom in his family, and assured them that while he wore it on his breast in acknowledgment of their liberality, there was yet another Jewel beneath which would ever reflect the kindness and attention he had received at their hands. The Lodge being called off, the brethren, numbering about ninety, sat down to a most sumptuous banquet, provided by the excellent caterers, the Messrs. Staples; and the manner the newly-installed W.M., Bro. Benjamin Alexander, fulfilled the duties of the chair fully bore out the expectation, of the Lodge; brief but apt in his remarks when proposing the various toasts, he was particularly happy in that of the Queen, a also the Newly Initiated, and the Visitors. In responding to the toast of the Initiates, Bro. Israel Russell said he was in possession of a glass cup, beautifully engraved, and formerly in the collection of the late G.M. the Duke of Sussex, used on the occasion of the banquets, which he should be happy to present to the Lodge, and the W.M. accepted it on the part of the Lodge. The W.M. Bro. E. Sydney (218), also P.M. H. A. Isaacs (218), and Bro. the Rev. M. B. Levy acknowledged the toasts of the Visitors. The officers appointed by the W.M. were:—Israel Abrahams, S.W.; H. Levy, J.W.; Lyons, S.D.; Hamilton, J.D., P.M., B.W.; Aarons, Treasurer; P.M. Seliz, Secretary; A. Eskell, I.G.; A. Blumenthal, D.C.; D. Loui, Steward; and P.E. Van Noorden, Organist; and the visitors, which were numerous, included E.A. Sydney, W.M. (218); H.A. Isaacs, P.M. (218); Hart, P.M. (218); S. La Mert (12); L. La Mert (12); Rev. M. B. Levy Noorden, Albion Grahams Town; Hart (91), and several other brethren. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. P.E. Van Norden (Organist).

PROVINCIAL.

CHANNEL ISLES.

JERSEY.—*Lodge La Cesarée* (No. 890).—On Thursday, Jan. 5th, an emergency meeting was held, which was attended by nearly sixty of the brethren. The lodge was opened at six o'clock in the first degree by Bro. John Durell, W.M., assisted by Bro. Ph. Le Sueur, S.W., and Bro. Clement Le Sueur, J.W. The order of the day was read by the Secretary, from which it appeared that there were four passings and four initiations. Messrs. Ch. Ph. Ahier, Ph. de Ste. Croix, jun., J. Oatley, and Captain Ch. de Gruchy, having been well and strongly recommended by their respective proposers, were severally balloted for and unanimously accepted. The usual questions as a test of proficiency were put to Bros. A. Desmoulin, Ph. G. Laurens, De Ste. Croix Blampied, and G. J. Renouf. These having been satisfactorily answered, the brethren retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and the Entered Apprentices having been reintroduced, properly prepared, were passed to the rank of F.C. The lecture on the tracing board was given by Bro. A. Schmitt, P.M., which was followed by a splendid philosophical lecture, delivered by Bro. Rondeaux, on the bearings and importance of this degree, its obligations on the Craftsmen to cultivate their minds, and urge them onward in the acquirement of knowledge, as well as on its general utility to mankind.* The lodge was resumed in the first degree, when the first three of the candidates before named were duly initiated into the mysteries of the Order, and declared their wish to become subscribing members of the lodge. Captain De Gruchy was prevented from attending by unavoidable circumstances. Both the ceremonies were most impressively conducted by the W.M. The lodge having been closed in the usual form, all the brethren repaired to the adjoining room for refreshment, and spent an hour harmoniously together, each meeting affording additional proof of the satisfactory condition of the lodge, and of a probability that it will continue to prosper.

CHESHIRE.

CHESTER.—*Cestrian Lodge* (No. 615).—The brethren of this lodge held their annual festival at their rooms, Royal Hotel, Chester, on Monday, 29th ult., as stated in our paper last week. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. W. Butler, at three p.m., when the solemn ceremony of installing the new Master (Bro. Cuzner), for the ensuing year took place, commencing with the ancient charges being administered by the oldest P.M. present (Bro. S. Brown), the new Master, Bro. Cuzner, after being in due form inducted into the chair of King Solomon (by the late W.M.), proceeded to appoint his officers:—Bros. Wilcock, S.W.; Maudesley, J.W.; Minchull, Treas.; Platt, Sec.; Trevor, S.D.; Hunt, J.D.; Butt, I.G.; Duke, Tyler. The Masonic business being concluded, the brethren were called from labour when they formed in procession to the Westminster Great Rooms, where a sumptuous banquet was served in Bro. McGregor's usual style, Bro. the Hon. Colonel Cotton, M.P., R.W. D. Prov. G.M. occupied the throne, in the absence of his father (F. M. the Viscount Combermere), supported by Bros. the Lord De Tabley, Sir Watkins Williams Wynne, Bart., M.P., and R.W. Prov. G.M. for North Wales and Salop, Willoughby, V.W. Prov. G. Sec., Wardens, several P. Prov. G. Officers, Trass, Prov. G. Supt. of Works for the province of Cheshire, the W.M. of Lodge of Independence (No. 1023), S. Brown (who was the active Dir. of Cers. in lodge and at the banquet), Bulley, Platt, Weaver, Dutton, Butler (late W.M.), Ralph, McGregor, Gittins, 1023, Huxley, Hitchens, Wigan, Pigot, B. Owen, Dirksen, &c. On the removal of the cloth, the D. Prov. G.M. gave the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft, the Earl of Chester, and the rest of the Royal Family," which was loyally honoured, followed by the National Anthem; "The Army, Navy, Militia, Volunteers, and Yeomanry," which having been responded to, the D. Prov. G.M. proposed "The Health of the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland, and his Deputy, Earl de Grey and Ripon," which was drunk with Masonic honours.—Lord de TABLEY then

proposed "The Health of their Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Lord Combermere."—The D. Prov. G.M. returned thanks for the way in which his father's name had been received. They were all greatly indebted to Lord Combermere for having revived Masonry in Cheshire. When he was appointed Grand Master it was at a very low ebb in the county, and it was owing to his exertions that it had reached its present flourishing state. He was sorry he was not able to be present, and Lord Combermere too was sorry, for his heart was still with Masonry, and as long as he lived, and he trusted it would be for many years to come, he was quite sure the brethren of Cheshire would look upon their Grand Master with joy and pride, and if they wished to do him honour and to please him, they would do all they could to keep up Masonry in Cheshire.—Bro BUTLER then proposed "The Health of their Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Colonel Cotton," who showed every capacity and willingness to walk in the steps of his excellent father. He had the pleasure last year of seeing him preside over them, and was both surprised and gratified at the manner in which he discharged the duties of the chair at Chester and also at Sandbach.—The D. Prov. G.M. returned thanks. He was grateful for the kindness and forbearance which had been shown him on that and every previous occasion. The more he saw of Masonry the more he saw its utility and beauty, and the longer he lived the more he would endeavour to fulfil his duty to the Craft and to do everything to support it.—The D. Prov. G.M. said he had now to ask them to charge their glasses for a toast which he was sure would be received with the satisfaction with which he gave it, it was the health of his oldest friend, one who had been his schoolfellow, who had been in the same regiment with him, and had been made a Mason with him at the same time in the Cestrian Lodge, he alluded to Sir Watkin. He was sure, whether as a Mason, a friend, or a country neighbour, they would drink the health of Sir Watkin with enthusiasm. (Cheers.)—Bro. Sir W. W. WYNN, Prov. G.M. of Salop, responded, and expressed his thanks for the kindness he had invariably received from the brethren in Chester. He wished he could see as many there to do honour to his old friend as he had seen gathered together in former days, but he knew at least they were all thorough good Masons at heart. He trusted Masonry would go on and flourish in the city of Chester as it had done for the last thirty years. (Cheers.)—The D. Prov. G.M., in eulogistic terms, proposed "The Health of the Past Senior Grand Warden of England, Bro. Lord de Tabley. (Cheers.)—Bro. Lord de TABLEY, Prov. G. W., responded.—Sir W. W. WYNN proposed "The Health of Lady Combermere," which was enthusiastically honoured, and touchingly responded to by the D. Prov. G.M., who then gave "The Master and Officers for the ensuing year."—Bro. CUZNER, W.M., in an able speech responded. He expressed his intention to do his utmost to forward the interests of the lodge, and hoped the members would maintain their fidelity to it. (Cheers.)—Bro. WILCOCK, S.W., followed, and hoped the same good feeling and harmony would reign amongst them through the coming year as had prevailed for so many years past. (Cheers.)—Lord de TABLEY next gave "The Health of the Past and Provincial Grand Officers," to which Bro. CHARLES DUTTON responded.—The D. Prov. G.M. next proposed "Success to the new Masonic Educational Institution."—Bro. J. PLATT responded. The proposed educational institution would, he believed, in a few weeks be established, and he was quite sure that the brethren of Cheshire, when they saw it established and working, would never regret having given it their support. They were aware of the great difficulty they had experienced in cases of distress in getting their candidates into the London institutions. This was not from want of kindness but from want of accommodation. The present was no new project. Ten years ago they had attempted it, but failed. Two years afterwards another similar attempt was made which again failed. West Lancashire meanwhile took the start and has succeeded; and now from the promises of assistance they had received from the Prov. G.M., the D. Prov. G.M., and others, he felt assured that this time they should succeed. (Cheers.) He was much obliged the D. Prov. G.M. for bringing the subject before the notice of the lodge, and he hoped when they had their meeting at Birkenhead this month, they would be in a position to see the institution successfully established. (Cheers.)—The D. Prov. G.M. then gave the "Visiting Brethren," to which Bro. BULLY responded; after which the W.M. resumed the chair. The brethren were called from refreshment to labour, and the lodge was closed.

* We hope to give, in a future number of THE MAGAZINE, a translation of this address, as well as of the one on the third degree, delivered at a meeting in the previous week.

CORNWALL.

ST. AUSTELL.—*Lodge Peace and Harmony* (No. 728).—The brethren of the above old and progressive lodge celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist, at their lodge-room, White Hart Hotel, St. Austell, on Monday the 5th inst. Bro. Plowman was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, who then proceeded to select his officers, as follows:—Bros. Meredith, S.W.; T. Hancock, J.W.; Sullivan, Senior Deacon; Beard, Junior Deacon; Samuel Butler, I.G.; B. Brokenshar (P.M., P.S.D.), Treasurer; E. Kitt, Secretary; W. Mitchell, P.M.; H. Borrowes, T. When six o'clock came they adjourned to the banqueting-room, where the repast provided by the worthy host was of the best description. The usual masonic and loyal toasts having been given and responded to, the brethren separated at an early hour, having enjoyed a meeting replete with that harmony and good feeling which distinguishes this ancient order.

LAUNCESTON.—*Dunheved Lodge* (No. 1091).—The brethren of this lodge assembled at their lodge-room at the King's Arms Hotel on Monday the 5th instant, to celebrate their annual festival of St. John the Evangelist. There was a tolerable large gathering of the craft, including some visiting brethren, amongst whom were Bro. Mason, P.M., 815, Prov. S.G.W., and Bro. Pearce, P.M., 815, P.Prov. G.J.W. The newly-elected W.M., Bro. Hawkins, having been presented, he was duly installed as the W.M. for the ensuing year, after which he invested the following brethren as his officers, viz:—Bros. Derry Pearce, P.M.; Metherell, S.W.; Couch, J.W.; Thompson, Treasurer; Facey, Secretary; Parsons, S.D.; Chubb, J.D.; Farthing, I.G.; and Dingle, Tyler. After the usual business of the lodge, the brethren, at 4 o'clock, were called from labour to refreshment, when they sat down to an excellent dinner provided by their worthy host, Bro. Facey. The usual masonic and loyal toasts were given and responded to, the organ being kindly presided over on the occasion by P.M. Bro. Derry Pearce. The brethren were afterwards called from refreshment to labour, the lodge being finally closed at 8 o'clock in the evening, when the brethren separated, highly pleased with the proceedings of the day.

DEVON.

TEIGNMOUTH.—*Teignmouth Lodge* (No. 380).—Monday last was a grand day with the masonic brethren of Teignmouth and its neighbourhood. At a preliminary meeting of the brethren, held at the Masonic Lodge in the morning, which was numerously and influentially attended, F. Lemon, Esq., was elected Worshipful Master for the present year. Several Wardens and Deacons were also elected. Later in the day, the brethren held a banquet at the Queen's Hotel, which was of the best description, and reflected much credit on Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, the host and hostess. On the removal of the cloth, the usual masonic and loyal toasts were proposed and suitably responded to, and a most pleasant evening was spent by the brethren present.

DURHAM.

DARLINGTON.—*Restoration Lodge* (No. 128).—The annual festival of this lodge was held at the Fleece Hotel, on Tuesday, the 30th ult. The lodge, according to summons, was opened at half-past two, p.m., by the retiring W.M., Bro. J. E. Mac Nay, who passed Bro. W. Hird to the degree of F.C., and also initiated Mr. Joseph Robinson (previously balloted for and unanimously accepted), the charge being given by Bro. J. W. Marshall, S.W., and W.M. elect. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Hammerborm, P.M., and P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. for Durham, took the chair, and proceeded, in his usual able and impressive manner, with the installation of Bro. Marshall as W.M. for the current year, who, on being placed in the chair of K.S., invested his officers as follows:—Bros. J. E. Mac Nay, P.M.; Edward Waldy, S.W.; T. B. Smith, J.W.; G. J. Wilson, P.M., and P. Prov. J.G.W., Treas., who was previously unanimously re-elected; Cusworth, M.D., S.D.; C. B. Dinsdale, J.D.; James Davis, Sec.; Minter, I.G.; Gargett, Tyler; Garthwaite, M.C.; and Lithgo and Barlow, Stewards. At half-past five precisely the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Robinson, of the Fleece Hotel. After ample justice had been done to the well ordered repast, the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts, at the same time expressing cordial and sincere wishes that the approaching nuptials of the Prince of Wales might prove a source of life-long happiness to himself and advantage to the powerful nation, which sooner or

later he would have to govern. The M.W.G.M. and Grand Lodge officers were next proposed and responded to; after which, Bro. Walder, S.W., proposed, in appropriate and complimentary terms, the newly-elected W.M., which was warmly responded to and ably replied to. The P.M.'s, Past Officers, Visitors, Candidates and other customary toasts followed in turn, interspersed by appropriate songs, and after an evening spent in that harmony which invariably characterises the meetings of the brethren of this lodge, each one left, gratified with the proceedings of the day. We had almost forgotten to remark that the claims of the Masonic Charities were earnestly advocated by Bro. Mac Nay, and subscriptions entered into towards their support.

ESSEX.

COLCHESTER: UNITED LODGE (No. 998).

The Annual Festival of this Lodge was celebrated at the George Hotel, Colchester, on Monday last.

The business of the Lodge was opened shortly after three o'clock by Bro. Hall, P.M., and the ceremony of installing a W.M. for the year ensuing commenced shortly after the Lodge had been opened in the third degree. The W.M. upon whom the unanimous choice of the brethren fell was Bro. Major Hugh Somerville S. Burney, formerly attached to the Camp at Colchester, but who has been for some time past residing at Walmer, Kent. The gallant Major was one of the founders of the "United Lodge," and in conjunction with some three or four of his brother officers, has succeeded in raising it to its present flourishing condition. A more wise choice could not have been made by the brethren, for during many years Major Burney has been highly regarded by the Masonic body in Colchester for his gentlemanly bearing and his firm and devoted attachment to Masonry; in proof of which, though residing at Walmer, he travelled to Colchester on Monday to meet the brethren of that Lodge, whose interest he has at heart, and has undertaken that which we feel assured he will faithfully perform—the onerous duties of W.M.

The ceremony of installation was ably performed by Bro. Peter Matthews, Prov. G.D.C. for Essex, at the conclusion of which the W.M. selected the following brethren to fill the several offices of the Lodge:—S.W., Bros. Major Browne; J.W., Lieut. Nichols; S.D., Lieut. Hume; J.D., Sergt. Paul; I.G., Sergt. Lloyd; Treas., Quarter-Master Anderson; Hon. Sec., H. C. Joslin; Dir. of Cers., Lieut. Lamplan. The J.W. was absent on military duty, and his place was ably filled by Bro. Griffin. The S.D. was also absent through illness. At the conclusion of the ceremony,

The W.M. ELECT, addressing the Lodge, said it was a source of great pleasure to be called upon by the brethren of the United Lodge to fill that high and honourable position to which they had just elected him. He was only sorry that their choice had not fallen upon some brother who would probably have been able to perform the duties of such a responsible office. But he could assure them that it would be his study faithfully to discharge the duties of the high office he held, and to uphold the dignity of that trust they had placed in his hands. His next duty was to thank Bro. Peter Matthews for the able manner in which he had performed the ceremony just concluded. He (Bro. Matthews) was well known to them all, and they knew, too, his uniform kindness on all occasions, and the impressive manner in which he performed the various ceremonies connected with Masonry. He, therefore, could not do less than propose that the thanks of the Lodge be accorded to Bro. Matthews for his kindness in attending their Lodge that evening.

The vote of thanks having been seconded by the S.W., was unanimously passed by the brethren.

Bro. MATTHEWS, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed the great pleasure it always afforded him in coming into Essex. He had the pleasure of consecrating "the United Lodge," and therefore he naturally looked upon all that pertained to its prosperity with great interest. There were brethren connected with that Lodge who left after a few years upon military duties, and disseminated Masonry to all parts of the globe, and their knowledge of Masonry must have been very considerable, as they had so ably fulfilled the duties pertaining to the various offices they had held in that lodge. He trusted others would follow the bright example set them by their W.M., for he felt assured he would perform the duties of his office in such a manner as would call down the respect of the Lodge, and that he would take pleasure in instructing those who desired to advance in the knowledge of Freemasonry. He had very

great pleasure in seeing Bro. Burney in that chair, and he could assure him he had his most sincere wishes for his welfare. (applause.) Their worthy Bro. Hall (Bro. Matthews) was glad to see amongst them, and for the efficient manner in which he had performed the duties of his office, he was entitled to the respect of all the brethren. (Applause.)

The W.M. said he did think their best thanks were due to Bro. Hall for the service he had given to the United Lodge. The W.M. was very frequently absent, and, therefore, they were deeply indebted to him for his kindness in taking the chair. He thought they would agree with him in proposing a vote of thanks to Bro. Hall for his kindness. (Applause.)

The vote was unanimously and cordially passed.

Bro. Hall said he felt very deeply their kindness in proposing to him such a mark of their approval. He felt he had only done his duty in rendering what service he could to Freemasonry. What he had done had been a source of pleasure to him, and he should feel it his duty to do so wherever he might be. (Hear, hear.) He sincerely thanked the W.M. for the kind manner in which he had referred to him. As to Bro. Matthews, it always afforded him the greatest possible pleasure to meet him and to hear the manner in which he spoke of Masonry; and to the brethren present for the kind consideration with which they had treated him, he thanked them sincerely. (Applause.)

The W.M. announced that communications had been received from the Prov. G. M., the R.W. Bro. R. J. Bagshaw; the D.P. G.M., Bro. Major Skinner; and from Bro. the Hon. Major Addington, regretting their inability to attend.

The Lodge was then closed in solemn form by the W.M. Elect, and the brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment.

THE BANQUET,

which was most sumptuously served by Bro. Guiver, was attended by nearly thirty brethren, amongst whom were the W.M., Bros. Major Hugh Somerville S. Burney; Major Brown, S.W. 998; John Mann, Prov. G. Sec. for Essex; S. O. Owen, P. Prov. G. Reg. and P.M. 935; Peter Matthews, P.M. 343, P. Prov. G. J. W. and Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. for Essex; Lieut. Evans; Lieut. Torrens; the Rev. Crespiigny; Edward Dorling, P.M. 522, and Prov. G. Sec. for Suffolk; C. T. Townsend, P.M. 522, Ipswich; W. O. Ward, W.M. 935, Harwich; Lieut. Lampan, Dir. of Cers. 998; Sergt. Lloyd, I.G. 998; H. C. Joslin, Hon. Sec. 998; Colour-Sergt. Paul, J.D. 991; Sergt. Early; Gluckstein, 59; A. E. Church, W.M. 59; W. Gywnn, 59; W. Griffin, P.M. 59; Quarter-master Anderson, Tyler 998; Jackson; G. E. Thompson (Boxford), &c.

Grace having been said, and the door closely tyled,

The W.M. gave "The Queen and the Craft," followed by "The Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," uniting with the last toast the name of the Princess Alexandra. The toasts having been duly honoured,

The W.M. again rose, and said it now became their duty to pay respect to the superiors of their Order. He would give them "The W.M., the Earl of Zealand, G.M. of England." (Applause.) Though they saw little of him, they heard a good deal of what he had done for Masonry. He believed him to be a most conscientious Mason. (Drunk with Masonic honours.)

The W.M. next gave "The D.G.M., the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Grand Officers of England." He was sure they must do their duty, or Masonry would not flourish as it did. (Drunk with Masonic honours.)

The W.M. said they had now come near home. He had the pleasure of knowing the Prov. G.M., and he only regretted he was not present amongst them that evening. They all, however, knew his worth and his zeal in the cause of Masonry. (Hear, hear.) They were under great obligations to him, and he (the W.M.), should ever remember the great assistance he had been to them. It gave him very great pleasure in proposing "The Health of the Prov. G.M., Bro. R. J. Bagshaw." (Applause.) The toast having been Masonically honoured,

Bro. J. MANN, Prov. G. Sec. for Essex, responded on behalf of the Prov. G.M. He said he regretted very much that the Prov. G.M. was compelled to be absent on urgent business. He (the Prov. G.M.) had always taken a very lively interest in the lodges of Colchester, and perhaps more especially in the United Lodge. He felt sure he would be highly gratified when he was informed of the honour which had been paid him by the brethren. (Applause.)

The W.M. rose and proposed "The D. Prov. G.M., Major Skinner, and the Prov. G. Officers," one of whom, he was pleased to say, had paid them the compliment to come amongst them

that evening. He alluded to Bro. Peter Matthews. (Loud applause.) They had many brethren of note in the province whose hearts and souls were in Masonry. (Hear, hear.) He thought the selection of officers reflected great credit upon the Prov. G.M., and one of the best selections was that of the Prov. G.D.C., Bro. Matthews. (Applause.) He, therefore, called upon them to join in drinking to the health of the D. Prov. G.M. and his officers. (Drunk with true Masonic honours.)

Bro. MATTHEWS, on rising to reply, was warmly greeted. He said he had expressed his feelings in the lodge-room after the ceremony of installation, but he might be permitted now to add that it was with the warmest feelings of gratification that he heard that their worthy brother, Major Burney, was to fill the W.M.'s chair for the ensuing year. He knew that he (the W.M.) was anxious to become the Master of that lodge, and very naturally so, as he was one of its founders. (Hear, hear.) There were also many present that evening who could testify to the untiring exertions of Col. Maydwell, to promote the welfare of the United Lodge, and whose energies were ably seconded by the W.M. elect. (Hear, hear.) He merely mentioned this to show how anxious Bro. Burney was to exalt the position of the lodge, and to see it flourish; and now they saw before them in their W.M., a star of the first magnitude, and one who would shed lustre on the lodge over which he was called upon to preside. (Hear.) He hoped the brethren would rally round him under his banner; and he felt assured, if they did so, they would find much to instruct and gratify them. As to their D. Prov. G.M., he did not know where they would find a better—(hear, hear)—and he was only sorry he was not present that night. This was the first time that he ever knew him absent on an occasion like the present. As for himself, he was a plain-spoken individual, glad to serve them on all occasions, and if one pleasure in Masonry was greater than another, it was that of coming down to the United Lodge, especially to meet military men, for he had been a military man for nearly 30 years. His was an old-established society, for he had the honour of belonging to the Hon. Artillery Company, and though they had not travelled over many lands, still they had been over many seas—(laughter)—yes, there was Battersea, Chelsea, and many other seas—(continued laughter)—and he could truly say they had never disgraced the service—(hear, hear)—and after all these difficulties, here he was, Dir. of Cers. for Essex; and he could assure them, if they followed his example, they would never be unhappy, for he was certain they never saw a gloom on his face. (Cheers and laughter.) He could only say, for their great mark of respect he thanked them most sincerely. (Loud applause.)

Bro. MATTHEWS shortly afterwards again rose and said he had the greatest possible pleasure in proposing the health of their W.M. (Loud applause.) Those who knew Bro. Burney well knew his merits, and those who did not had yet a treat in store, and he trusted they would avail themselves of it. (Hear, hear.) In his day Masonic knowledge was not so easy of attainment as it was in the present. Some thirty years ago he went a long way to gain that knowledge which he now willingly dispensed at his own house. It was, however, very different now. All they had to do if they desired to advance in Masonic knowledge was to visit their W.M. when he was in Colchester, and he felt assured they would receive every assistance from him, who would only be glad to give it. (Applause.) They all knew his gentlemanly urbanity, and his great desire to advance those principles of Masonry with which his own heart was so thoroughly imbued. He, therefore, called upon them to drink his health and wish him all happiness and prosperity during his year of office. The toast was most cordially and enthusiastically drunk with Masonic honours.

The W.M. on rising was warmly received. He said he thanked them from the bottom of his heart for the cordial and kind manner in which the toast had been received. He feared Bro. Matthews had given him credit for attainments which he did not possess. His heart was in Masonry because he believed in it, and what he could do he would willingly perform for the benefit and advantage of Masonry. (Hear, hear.) As far as the working of a lodge was concerned, much depended upon its officers. The W.M. might do something, but the work could not properly be performed without the assistance of his officers. He came amongst them almost a stranger, and he must confess he felt very great interest in the lodge over which he now had the honour to preside, for it was one of the dearest wishes of his heart to become W.M. of the United Lodge. (Loud applause.) For it was so rare for military men to think

of becoming W.M.'s. at all times a very great compliment, but much more so to one who, like himself, had been so much away from them. His best services would always be at their command. (Hear, hear.) He thanked them most sincerely for their presence there that evening. (Applause.)

The W.M. then proposed "Our Immediate P.M., Bro. Col. Pender." (Applause.) He regretted his absence that night, but he knew he was at the extreme end of England. Bro. Pender had been three times elected W.M. of that lodge, and he felt assured the brethren could not have made a better selection, and they must not forget him in his absence. (Applause.) There was another brother who took a deep interest in the welfare of the lodge—he alluded to Bro. Col. Maydwell. (Loud applause.) He hoped before his year of office was over to have the pleasure of welcoming Bro. Maydwell to their festive board. (Hear, hear.) The toast was drunk with all the honours.

Bro. Major BROWNE, S.W., said he had permission to propose a toast, which he felt assured would not be the least amongst those which had been honoured that evening. He had not known the brother to whom he alluded long, but that was his (the S.W.'s) own fault. He was one of the first to found the United Lodge, and he was certain when he mentioned the toast they would do honour to it. He called upon them to drink the health of Bro. Hall. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) Drank with due honours.

Bro. HALL, in responding, said it was to him a pleasurable duty to assist in anything which belonged to Masonry. (Hear, hear.) It was true he had something to do with the establishment of the United Lodge, for it depended upon his vote, and he gave that vote in favour of it. (Applause.) He felt that by the establishment of a military lodge in Colchester the principles of Masonry would be disseminated throughout every part of the world. Though the lodge might have been distressed at times, yet it had stood its ground. Its present financial position was good, and it bid fair to increase in prosperity. (Hear, hear.) A great deal of credit was due to Colonel Maydwell and to their present W.M.; and he felt assured a better selection could not have been made by the brethren of the United Lodge. (Hear, hear.) He thanked them sincerely for the compliment paid him.

Bro. HALL said he had great pleasure in proposing the next toast, and he felt sure it would meet with a warm response. He begged to propose "The Health of the Visitors," to whom the lodge was much indebted. (Loud applause.) They were always glad to see brother Masons, come from whatever part they might. Bro. Dorling, was one who was well known to the Masons of Colchester, and to whom they were much indebted for the valuable assistance he had so frequently rendered to them. (Loud applause.) He was very highly esteemed and respected by all Masons, and he begged to couple his name with the toast. (Loud applause.)

The toast having been drunk with honors known only to Masons, the loving cup was passed round, and each Mason pledged his brother from the ancient goblet.

Bro. EDWARD DORLING, in acknowledging the compliment on the part of the visitors, said he thanked the brethren most sincerely for the kind hospitality they had shown towards them that evening. He had the pleasure of being associated with a Lodge second to none in the county, and he wished their excellent and worthy Prov. G.M. of Suffolk, Bro. Col. Adair, had been present that evening. (Applause.) And if Bro. Major Burney would inform him when he would hold a Lodge in Colchester, he felt assured Col. Adair would be only too happy to meet him. The name of Col. Adair was well known to many present, and though in the earlier part of his career as a Mason he had not attended many Lodges, still in his official capacity as Prov. G.M., he had been working closely, and was now enabled to perform his work in a manner which was not to be exceeded by any Prov. G.M. the district. (Hear, hear.) He begged in return for their kindness, to drink all their good healths. (Applause.)

The W.M. had great pleasure in proposing "The Wardens of the Lodge." (Applause.) One of them he regretted to say was absent on military duties. The S.W. was present to answer for himself, and he felt sure that he would do his duty, so as to give the Lodge that high standing which it was the desire of all it should attain. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in proposing "The Wardens of the Lodge, and Bro. Major Browne." (Drank with Masonic Honors.)

Bro. Major BROWNE, in returning thanks, said he was very sorry his brother W. was absent, and he felt assured that it was

duty alone which prevented his being present amongst them. He thanked their W.M. for the kind manner in which he had spoken of him, and he could assure them he would endeavour to perform the duties of his office to the best of his ability. (Applause.) He was sorry he had not joined their order before, but he would make it his constant care to uphold the prosperity of the United Lodge. (Applause.)

Bro. Major BROWNE, in appropriate terms, proposed "The Treasurer and Secretary of the Lodge, Bros. Anderson and Joslin." (Drank with Applause.)

Bro. ANDERSON briefly replied.

The W.M. proposed the other officers of the lodge—the D.C. and D.'s" (Applause.) Bro. Colour-Sergeant Paul acknowledged the compliment. Bro. Lampan also briefly replied.

The W.M. next gave "The W.M. and brethren of the Angel Lodge." (Applause.) They had been in the habit of meeting at each other's lodges, and the members of the United Lodge had always received a hearty welcome on visiting the Angel Lodge. He hoped they would always receive them in a like spirit. (Applause.) Drank with Masonic honours.

Bro. A. D. CHURCH, in replying, said the W.M. had been kind enough to say that they would be happy to receive the members of the Angel Lodge. He could assure them it would afford them a very great gratification to receive the brethren of the United Lodge. (Hear, hear.) He being present that evening had afforded him much pleasure, as he had had the opportunity of meeting the W.M. of the United Lodge, and also Bro. Matthews, who he had not the pleasure of knowing. Bro. Matthews had one of those faces one could never forget. (Hear, hear), and he scarcely knew whether he would rather meet him as a member of the Hon. Artillery Company, or as a Mason. At any rate, he should endeavour to cultivate his acquaintance. (Applause.) He hoped the Masons of Colchester would not only meet together in their separate lodge, but call themselves a united lodge. (Hear, hear.) They (the Angel Lodge) would only be too glad to receive the able assistance of the brethren of the United Lodge. For there was not only good in the refreshment, but in the labour department as well. He hoped they would meet together frequently; and if it was the means of uniting them together, they would not have lived in vain. (Applause.)

Bro. GRIFFIN, P.M., gave "Success to the Masonic Charities." He said no town had greater reason to bless these Charities than Colchester. (Hear, hear.) They had derived great blessings from their beneficence. In these Charities the children received a good education, were well clothed and fed, and they were conducted in such a manner as to render them one of the greatest ornaments to Masonry. (Applause.) They had not only boys' and girls' schools, but institutions for their aged brethren. He, therefore, had great pleasure in proposing "Success to the Masonic Charities." (Applause.) He congratulated the lodge on having such a W.M., and he sincerely hoped good feeling and unanimity would prevail, and that they should go on prosperously together. (Applause.)

The W.M. said he would only add one or two remarks to the speech of Bro. Griffin. Charity was the great object in Masonry—(hear, hear)—not only for giving alms and supporting those connected with them, but giving relief to those who were in distress. (Hear, hear.) He would merely refer them to the munificence of Freemasonry in the case of the distress in Lancashire, when the sum of £1000 was voted to the funds for Lancashire. (Applause.) He hoped that the United Lodge would not be behind in giving their donation for the distress of those in Lancashire. He thought some amount might be sent up either monthly or quarterly for this purpose. He had endeavoured to ascertain whether it was not practicable to have a Masonic fund in that district, but it was found that the expense of administering would be too heavy to be of any benefit.

Bro. DORLING said he came a little nearer home, viz., the adjoining country. (Hear, hear.) There was a case in Ipswich, where four orphan girls were left, he might say, almost entirely unprovided for. They were the children of a brother connected with one of the lodges in Ipswich, who had died but a few months after his wife, leaving a young and helpless family without father or mother. One of these children was a candidate for the Girls' School. It came a little nearer home, though he knew they had all hearts that would feel for Lancashire. (Hear, hear.) But here were four young children—all girls—that was the misfortune—without the means of subsistence or anything to bring them up. It was a sad and painful case. Bro. Woolnough had been a subscribing member for many years, and he

(Bro. Dorling), now made this appeal on behalf of his four orphan children under ten years of age. He hoped to get one of them into the Girls' School in May, and he should be very happy to receive any proxies on her behalf. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. HALL hoped the appeal of Bro. Dorling would not be in vain. The brethren of Suffolk had on previous occasions rendered them assistance, and he hoped the brethren of Essex would not forget to do the same. He thought they had had been very successful in their Masonic Charities. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. PETER MATTHEWS said he never allowed the toast of the Masonic Charities to pass without rising to respond to it. He was one of the officers connected with the schools, and therefore knew all about them. Let them do as he did—visit them—and see for themselves how they were conducted, and he felt sure they would come away satisfied and delighted with the arrangements. He did not believe there were boarding schools where the children were treated better or more happily. (Hear, hear.) They were adding to the school, and he doubted not but that in a short time they would have 100 girls under that hospitable roof. They knew not how soon death might call them away. Many were in prosperity now, but soon circumstances might create great and important changes. They knew of cases where medical men held a high position in life, but on whose removal by death it has been found that nothing has been secured to support their families. (Hear, hear.) No provision had been made for them, and the only alternative was to apply to brother Masons for assistance. In their school they would see boys clothed, educated, and made fit for commercial pursuits. A clergyman, a *M.A.*, superintends their education, whilst his lady attends to the other departments. He only hoped his brother Masons would render these schools all the support they could. If only sixpence a week were subscribed it would pay the guinea a year and leave something to spare. Let them look at the aged Masons and the old women. He was sure they would not forget them in their old age. (Hear, hear.) In thinking of Lancashire let them not forget those who were connected with them in Masonry. (Applause.) In the case alluded to by Bro. Dorling, the orphans were girls, and it was their duty to see they were taken care of. (Cheers.) Had they been boys they might have pushed them on the world, but as girls they were bound to protect them. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Much good had been already effected by these Charities. There had not been one girl connected with the school but who had been a credit to her family and to the institution to which she had been attached. On the part of the Masonic Charities he begged to thank them. (Applause.)

This closed the list of toasts.

On no occasion do we remember to have seen a more genial feeling existing, or a greater desire evinced amongst the brethren of various lodges to make each other happy.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

BERKHAMPTSTEAD.—*Berkhamptstead Lodge* (No. 742).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, January 7th, at the Kings Arms Hotel, in the ancient town of Berkhamptstead. The lodge was opened by Bro. J. Burton, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Lambert, and J. B. Newall, there being also present Bros. J. E. Lane, H. G. Lane, J. Johnson, and Dr. F. Barringer, P.M.'s, W. Lumley, J. Gurton, S. How, and R. B. Lumley, visitors. The minutes of the lodge held in October were read and confirmed. The minutes of the meeting in July, which stood over from the last lodge, were then read and a long discussion followed thereon, which resulted in a resolution "that being informal they be not confirmed." The effect of this resolution is to ignore the assumed membership of Bro. C. J. Nicholson, the brother alluded to in the "Stars and Garters" correspondence. Bro. Burton then requested Bro. J. How to take the chair, and presenting Bro. George Lambert, the W.M. elect, that worthy brother was duly installed into the chair, and proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees. The W.M. appointed and invested as his officers the following brethren:—Bros. J. B. Newall, S.W.; W. Lumley, J.W.; H. G. Lane, Sec.; J. Gurton, S.D. Bro. J. E. Lane, P.M., who had been elected Treasurer, and Thomas, Tyler, were also invested. All business being ended, the lodge was closed in peace, harmony and brotherly love, and adjourned to the banquet, which gave the greatest amount of satisfaction to all present.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

ROCHDALE.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 375).—The annual festival of this lodge was held on Wednesday the 7th inst. in the Masonic Rooms, Ann Street. The brethren assembled at three o'clock, and were soon after agreeably surprised by Bro. W. Roberts, P. Prov. G. Purst., presenting three new pedestals from a brother who desired to remain *incog.*, and a portrait in oil of the retiring W.M., Bro. John Knight, the artist being Bro. Waugh. The ceremony of installing Bro. James Stott, as W.M., was then gone through, the officiating officers being Bro. John Batty Lambert, P. Prov. G.S.D., E.L., and P. Prov. G.C. W.L.; and Bro. John Lord, Prov. G. Standard Bearer, E.L. The W.M. appointed the following as his officers:—Bros. J. White, S.W.; Edward Chadwick, J.W.; William Ashworth, S.D.; George Brown, J.D.; William Roberts, Treasurer; Joseph Standing, Secretary; John Handley, L.G.; Richard Pickering, Dir. of Cers.; and Steward Edmund Wrigley, C.; John Ashworth, G.O. A very neat silver inkstand was then presented, in the name of the lodge, to the Past Sec., Bro. W. H. Prince, by Bro. Lambert, who is a P.M. of the lodge. The stand bears the following inscription:—"Presented by the Masonic Lodge of Harmony, No. 375, Rochdale, to Bro. W. H. Prince, as a slight acknowledgment of his services as Secretary, January 7th, 1863." The brethren subsequently partook of a sumptuous banquet, which had been prepared by Mrs. Land, of the Botanist Inn.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 971).—This lodge was opened at 81, Duke-street, on Jan. 7th, by Bro. Thornton, P.M. in the absence of the W.M., assisted by the officers of the lodge. The minutes of the last regular lodge were read and confirmed. One candidate was initiated by the acting W.M., the J.W. explaining the working tools and the S.W. giving the charge. Two candidates were passed to the *Fellow Craft* degree by the W.M. The working tools were explained by P.M., Bro. C. J. Banister, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., and a charge delivered by him. A number of visitors were present: Bros. Ellis, P.M. 245, Jackson, P.M. 845, &c. Bro. Banister advocated the cause of the Royal Benevolent Institution and obtained several subscribers. Four candidates were proposed for initiation. Business of the lodge over it was closed in solemn form.

GARSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 267).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was opened, at the Wellington Hotel, January 5th, by P.M. Bro. James Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., as W.M., assisted by the officers of the lodge. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was visited by Bros. Ellis, P.M. 245, Jackson, P.M. 845, Thomas Howell, of Lodge 23, Ireland. Business of the lodge over it was closed in form and with prayer. At refreshment the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed by Bro. James Hamer, and duly responded to. Bro. C. J. Banister, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., returned thanks for the Provincial Grand Officers, and introduced his list for the Royal Benevolent Institution, and obtained several subscribers, but in consequence of the distress in this district and the calls on the lodge no amount was voted from the general funds of the lodge this year. Bros. Ellis, P.M., and Jackson, returned thanks for the visitors, Bro. Edward Pierpoint for the P.M.'s of the lodge, Bro. Charles Ludham, S.W., for the officers. The evening was spent in love and harmony, which is always the case at the meetings of this lodge, and the brethren for Liverpool left the hotel in a special omnibus for town.

ROBY.—*Alliance Lodge* (No. 965).—The brethren of this lodge held their annual meeting on Wednesday, the 7th inst., at Bro. Houlston's, Stanley Arms Hotel, when upwards of fifty brethren were present. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Urmsom, to the F.C. degree, when Bro. Winkeep, the W.M. elect, was presented by P.M. Bro. J. C. Banister, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. for the benefit of installation; all the usual and necessary forms having been complied with, a board of installed Masters was duly and properly opened by P.M. Bro. J. Pepper, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. The W.M. elect was admitted, and he was duly installed in the chair of K.S., proclaimed, and saluted in the usual way. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers, and the various charges were given by the installing Master. This lodge without exception, is one of the most prosperous and harmonious in the province, and its working second to none. To the Treasurer, Bro. Yeatman, is due the best thanks of the brethren, for his

able and faithful discharge of the important duties of his office, and for his zeal for the prosperity of the lodge he having introduced so many gentlemen into it. To the W.M. Bro. Winkup, the brethren are indebted for his constant attention during the two years he filled the Warden's chairs, and the memory will long retain the effect, and the heart find a response to his very feeling and beautiful delivery of the charges and the working tools; and now that he is placed in the highest position the Lodge can bestow, we anticipate a year of great intellectual enjoyment. To the officers generally we rejoice to bear our testimony of the zeal they have for the order and the spirit with which they have emulated each other, and congratulate them on their preferment. Business being closed in due form, the Lodge was called off to refreshment. On entering the dining-rooms the eye was dazzled by the splendour of its decorations and the brilliant appearance of the table. Ceres, Flora, Pomona, and Bacchus, vied with each other in providing for the sons of light, nor were their labours in vain, for after ample justice had been done there was profusion: the worthy host Bro. Houlston must have felt proud to hear the eulogiums passed upon him as an accomplished caterer. The dinner over the usual loyal and masonic toasts were proposed and responded to in a truly fraternal spirit.—P.M. Bro. Witter obtained permission to propose the health of the immediate past Master Bro. Urmsen, and in doing so paid a very high compliment to him for the manner in which he had conducted the Lodge during his year of office, for his mild but firm and courteous conduct to all with whom he came in contact, and the prosperity which had crowned his efforts, but above all he congratulated him on the good esteem he had secured to himself from the brethren of the Lodge: in testimony of which, (in the name of the brethren) he presented him with a Past Master's Jewel as a small token of the high regard in which he is held. Bro. Thomson in returning thanks, observed that he was taken by surprise, and hoped the brethren would allow for his inability under present circumstances to thank them as he could wish, it is laid down on the tracing board of the master builder that, "from the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh," but in his case his heart was full to overflowing and his lips could not perform their office or give utterance to his feelings, but he assured them he appreciated their kindness, and trusted they would accept his gratitude in return.—The next toast was "The Educational Institution for the education and advancement in life of the children of distressed Freemasons," responded to by Bro. S. V. Brabner, V.W. P. Prov. G.S.W.; Hon. Treas., who observed that the institution was not only in a flourishing state, but at the present time self-supporting, its capital exceeded £4000, and the interest with the dues educated the children at present on the foundation; he urged the brethren to become governors, and so increase the funds and extend its benefits. It was and should be considered a privilege to the brethren of West Lancashire to be able to point to such an institution and to feel proud they had the opportunity of supporting one of the best and most useful institutions Freemasonry can boast of. The last and crowning toast of of this happy meeting having been given from the chair, the J.W. did his duty, and the Lodge was duly closed and the brethren wended their way homewards.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

LOUTH.—*Lindsey Lodge*. (No. 1014). The brethren of this Lodge met at their rooms in Rosemary Lane on the 2nd of this month for the purpose of installing their W.M., and celebrating the Festival of St. John. Capt. Smyth of the 2nd Lincoln Rifle Volunteers, having been unanimously elected to the chair, was duly presented and installed by Bro. J. F. Waite, P.M. in the presence of the very worshipful the D. Prov. G.M. of Lincolnshire, Bro. Harvey, the P.D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Coltnan; and several officers, brethren from other Lodges in the neighbourhood. The officers were installed as follows:—Bro. Jas. Fowler, P.M.; Bro. C. E. Lucas, S.W. C. M. Herbert, J.W.; W. L. Mason, Sec.; J. F. Waite, Treas.; W. Oldroyd, Dir. of Cers. W. A. Sander, S.D.; W. Griffin, J.D.; R. Robinson, I.G.; W. P. Roberts, and E. W. Wilson, Stewards; and R. P. Hodgson, Tyler. The newly elected W.M. passed Bros. Lockett and Hibbitt to the second degree in a masterly manner; indeed, it has never been our lot to witness the Lindsey Lodge better worked, giving, we may hope, an earnest for future excellence. After

the business of the Lodge was over the brethren adjourned to the Mason's Arms, where Mrs. Mitchell, the respected widow of a deceased brother, served up a supper of a most excellent kind, to which we need hardly say ample justice was done. Loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and the utmost harmony prevailed. In the course of an excellent speech Bro. Harvey referred to his intention of visiting the Lodges in his province, and thereby make himself acquainted not only with the members personally, but the manner in which the Lodges were worked; and we cannot but think this will do more towards the efficient working of our Lodges than any other plan that could be adopted, as not only will the very worshipful brother's presence amongst us act as an incentive to every officer to do his best, but a spirit of emulation will be raised amongst the Lodges, that each may be as well or better reported of than the others. The utmost cordiality prevailed amongst the brethren, who did not separate until midnight. As the brethren were taking their departure a sudden cry of fire was raised, and it was soon discovered to be on the premises of an esteemed brother (Bro. Oldroyd,) who was present. One and all rushed to the scene of the disaster and used their best efforts to extinguish the flame, but nothing could save the building. Every brother felt it a sad ending to a pleasant evening.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Isca Lodge* (No. 988).—The installation of Bro. John Laybourne, as W.M. of this lodge, took place at the Masonic Hall, Dock-street, on Friday, January 2nd, the ceremony being most ably performed by Bro. Bridges, Prov. G.S.B. The following brethren were appointed and invested officers for the ensuing year, viz., Charles Simpson, S.W.; William Burton, J.W.; James Maddocks, Treas.; John Middleton, Sec.; John Frazier, S.D.; James Maddocks, J.D.; Henry Mullock, I.G.; William McFee, Tyler. The interesting ceremony completed, an adjournment was made to the Westgate Hotel, where a most sumptuous banquet was partaken of, fully sustaining the character of the *cuisine* of the establishment. The cloth removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and enthusiastically received. The proceedings terminated after a most agreeable evening had been spent about eleven o'clock.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*Lodge of Perfect Friendship* (522).—On Wednesday evening, the 7th inst., the members of this lodge of Free and Accepted Masons celebrated the Festival of St. John the Evangelist at the Great White Horse Hotel. Thirty-two brethren sat down to dinner, served in first-class style by Bro. Henry Guiver. The W.M., Bro. Stephen B. King, presided, supported by the S.W., Bro. Henry Luff, and the J.W., Bro. W. Spalding, who officiated in the absence of Bro. George Turner, absent through illness. Amongst the brethren present were R. N. Sanderson, Prov. G. Chap.; E. Doring, Prov. G. Sec.; J. Franks, Prov. G. Reg.; Findley, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; R. Girling, P.M.; A. Pettitt, J.D.; W. P. Mills, Treas.; F. B. Jennings, I.G.; Pitcher, P.M.; C. T. Townsend, P.M.; W. Sidney, P.M.; A. Bowles, Prov. G. Org.; Ward, W.M. (Harwich); J. A. Pettitt, P.M.; Turner, W.M. (St. Luke's); R. Cade, P.M. (St. Luke's); N. Tracy, P.M.; &c. All the brethren dined in full Masonic craft clothing.—After the dessert and wines were placed upon the table, the W.M. gave in succession "The Queen, Prince of Wales, and the Royal Family;" "The G.M. of all England, the Earl of Zetland;" "The D.G.M., the Earl De Grey and Ripon;" "The Prov. G.M. of Suffolk, Colonel Adair;" "The D. Prov. G.M., the Rev. W. F. Freeman." The toasts were honoured in true Masonic style.—The W.M. next gave "The Prov. G. Officers, uniting with the toast the names of the Prov. G. Chap., Bro. R. N. Sanderson, and the Prov. G. Org., Bro. Alfred Bowles," who he (the W.M.) was glad to see restored to health and enabled to meet them on such an occasion.—The toast having been duly honoured, Bros. Sanderson and Bowles briefly replied.—The W.M., in an able speech, paid a well-deserved compliment to Bro. C. T. Townsend, who had so ably filled the W.M.'s chair during the past year, and who had done so much for Masonry.—Bro. Townsend briefly replied, and said, as they were taught to do unto others as they would others should do unto them, he had great pleasure in proposing the W.M.'s health, and wishing him a prosperous year of office.—Both toasts were drunk with full Masonic honours.—The W.M. having replied, gave "The Prov. G.

Officers of Suffolk, uniting with it the name of Bro. Pitcher, who, he felt quite assured, had the respect of every Mason.—Bro. Pitcher in acknowledging the toast, said this was the 33rd anniversary he had the pleasure of attending.—Bro. Edward Dorling having permission for the W.M. to propose a toast, gave the health of Bro. Edward Plantin, one of the founders of the Perfect Friendship Lodge, and the only one living. He thought Bro. Plantin was worthy of their esteem, and in order to perpetuate his name amongst Masons, he had great pleasure in presenting to the Perfect Friendship Lodge a portrait of Bro. Edward Plantin. (Applause.) Bro. Dorling then presented to the W.M. a very handsomely-framed photograph portrait of Bro. E. Plantin, executed by Bro. Robt. Cade. At the foot of the picture was the following inscription—"This portrait of Bro. Edward Plantin, the only surviving founder of the Perfect Friendship Lodge, was presented by Bro. Edward Dorling, P.M., on the anniversary of St. John's, 1862, Bro. S. B. King, W.M." It is needless to say that this memento of so venerable and respected a brother was received with great satisfaction by the Lodge.—Bro. Spalding on the part of Bro. Plantin, returned thanks.—Bro. Luff, S.W., in a well-wordsed speech, called the attention of the brethren to the bereaved family (four girls) of the late Bro. Woolnough, and said he hoped the brethren would lend him and Bro. Dorling all the assistance they could, as they were endeavouring to get one of the girls in the Freemasons' School at the election in April next.—*Br. E. Dorling also appealed on behalf of the orphans.* He said it was a most painful case, and he did hope the brethren in this part of the country would do all they could to second his efforts. He had already received many promises of support, and he did most earnestly hope they would be successful. (Applause.)—The W.M. next gave "The Visitors—the W.M. of St. Luke's Lodge, Bro. Turner; Bro. Ward, the W.M. of Harwich Lodge; and the members of the British Union Lodge," and thanks to them for honoring them with their company.—Bros. Turner, Ward, and Guiver acknowledged the toast, and expressed the pleasure they felt at being present on such an occasion.—This closed the list of toasts.—Several songs were sung by the brethren, and the evening appeared to be one of enjoyment to all.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—*St Peter's (607).*—The annual installation meeting of this lodge was held on the 1st instant at the Swan Hotel, under the presidency of Bro. Thomas Cooper, W.M., and in the presence of a goodly number of the brethren, the only business being the installation of the W.M. elect (Bro. S. J. Cook) and officers for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened in the several degrees, according to ancient form; after which Bro. E. Haseler, P.M., occupied the chair, and installed Bro. Cook according to ancient form. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. E. J. Purnell, S.W.; G. Pendelow, J.W.; C. A. Newnham, S.D.; S. F. Acton, J.D.; B. Deane, I.G.; J. F. Warner, sec.; and Purnell and Wilde as stewards. The sum of £3 3s. was unanimously granted from the lodge funds towards the relief of the distress in the cotton districts. Some formal business having been transacted, the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to the banquet. After which the usual masonic toasts were duly honoured, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The following visitors were present:—Bros. G. Whitehead (435); A. Puddicombe and C. Matthews, P.M. (769); and C. H. Bayley, W.M. (960).

SUFFOLK.

ALDBOROUGH.—*Adair Lodge (No. 1238).*—At a meeting of emergency of this lodge, held at the White Lion Hotel, Aldborough, on Friday, the 9th inst., Bros. E. Garret, William Tate, and another, were severally passed to the degree of F.C. After the lodge was closed in the second degree, Mr. Patcher was regularly initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. The brethren of "The Adair" were assisted by Bro. Head, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W. Suffolk, and Bro. C. T. Townsend, P.M. 522. After the business of the evening terminated, the brethren retired to refreshment, under the presidency of Bro. Newson Garrett, the P.M. of Lodge No. 3, and the first W.M. of "the Adair," under whom we doubt not the lodge will have a successful career. We are pleased to find such a kind and genial feeling existing amongst the brethren connected with the various lodges in the province, and that the elder brethren most willingly give their valuable assistance to their younger brethren, and to lodges in their infancy.

WALES.

NEATH.—*Cambrian Lodge (No. 472).*—On Tuesday, January 6th, the brethren of the of this lodge mustered strongly, and after initiating a few members, and going through the usual routine upon such occasions, they retired to Bro. Henry Hancock's, Castle Hotel, where they partook of their usual annual dinner. The spread was ample in every particular, and served up in that excellent style for which the Castle is so celebrated. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given with very good and appropriate speeches, and the evening was delightfully and harmoniously spent. The band of the 15th Rifle Volunteers, under the leadership of their bandmaster, Mr. Goodburn, at intervals entertained the company with some excellent music.

WARWICKSHIRE.

NUNEATON.—*Abbey Lodge (No. 425).*—The brethren of Nuneaton held their annual meeting at the Newdegate Arms Hotel. The room, which has been recently decorated, was visited by a great many ladies and others, to see the book recently presented by the Warwickshire Masons to Lady Leigh. The usual business of the lodge was transacted, and the W.M. installed by Bro. Edward Nason, in a most impressive manner. Bro. Cowley, W.M., then appointed his officers; by a bye-law, no other business can upon the day of the festival be transacted. The brethren afterwards partook of an excellent banquet provided by Bro. Hill. The W.M. presided, supported by Bros. Charles W. Elkington, the D. Prov. G.M.; Edward Mason, and about twenty brethren. Bro. Elkington, in responding to the toast of the Prov. G.M., alluding to the deep regret he felt, in Warwickshire, at the absence of Lord Leigh, and said he was sure it was not only the prayer of every Mason, but of every person in Warwickshire who knew Lord Leigh, that he might speedily return, and that Lady Leigh's health, which caused Lord Leigh so much anxiety, would be fully restored. The other usual toasts were given, and the evening's enjoyments were brought to a close.

WESTMORELAND.

KENDAL.—*Union Lodge (No. 151).*—This lodge was opened on Jan. 13th, by the W.M. Bro. Horne, assisted by the officers and brethren of the lodge. The minutes of last regular lodge and Lodge of Emergency were read and confirmed. Bros. Thompson and Hogg wishing to take the second degree were examined and being found proficient were passed to the degree of F.C. by Bro. C. S. Banister, Prov. G.D.C., West Lancashire, &c. Bros. Cookley, and W. Webster were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. Dr. Greaves, R.W.D. Prov. G.M. in a very solemn and impressive manner fully explaining all the symbols, &c. Bro. Horne, being elected as W.M. for the second year, the ceremony of installation was dispensed with. He then invested the following officers:—Bros. Pettitt of Lodge 173 and 1041, S.W.; Johnson, J.W.; Owen, Treasurer; Wilson, Secretary; Hogg, S.D.; Thompson, J.D.; Webster, I.G.; Lyon, Tyler. The R.W.D. Prov. G.M. delivered a charge to each of the officers. P.M. Bro. Webster, No. 151, and Bro. Hibbert, No. 122 and No. 238, assisted in the ceremonies, also Bro. Banister. One gentleman was proposed for initiation, and two as joining members. This lodge, which for many years past has been quite dormant, is now by the perseverance and good working of the W.M., Bro. Horne, raising itself to a respectable position, and will ere long be an excellent working lodge. At refreshment the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given and drunk with spirit. Bro. C. J. Banister, in suitable terms, proposed the health of the D. Prov. G.M. Bro. Dr. Greaves, and in responding gave the brethren excellent advice which was listened to with great attention; in conclusion he proposed the health of the W.M., which was received with acclamation. P.M. Bro. Webster proposed the health of Bro. Banister, thanking him for the valuable assistance. Bro. Banister in returning thanks said, he considered it his duty to at all times to do what he could for the benefit of the order, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than assisting young brethren to work the ceremonies of the lodges, he hoped they would have a Lodge of Instruction, for that was the only way to become perfect, and he would endeavour to visit them as often as possible; before sitting down he proposed the health of the officers of the lodge, and gave them good advice. The D. Prov. G.M. proposed the health of the P.M.'s of the lodge, which was responded to by Bro. Webster in a spirited speech. The evening was spent in social harmony, and after the last toast was done justice to, the brethren separated highly pleased with the happy

evening. The lodge meets at the Commercial Hotel, but they are looking out for private rooms and this will be one of the surest steps to make this a good lodge.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTER.—The festival of St. John the Evangelist was celebrated by the Semper Fidelis Lodge (No. 772) on Monday, the 5th inst., and the Worcester Lodge (No. 349), on Wednesday, the 7th inst. At the former, the newly-elected W.M., Bro. T. Hobbs, presided. After the business of the evening, an elegant and sumptuous banquet was placed before the brethren by the worthy host, Bro. T. G. Fuggle, whose polite attention to his guests was duly acknowledged.—The Worcester Lodge held their anniversary at the Masonic Hall, Bell Hotel, under the able presidency of the Master for the ensuing year, Bro. Alfred Powell. It is needless to say that Bro. Webb maintained his well-merited *prestige* in providing the necessary accompaniments to a Masonic Festival.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

WAKEFIELD.—The Festival of St. John the Evangelist was celebrated on Monday, the 5th instant, by the two Wakefield lodges—Unanimity (No. 179) and Wakefield (No. 727).—The brethren assembled at the Wakefield Lodge (727), Zetland-street, at half-past four o'clock, when the lodge was opened in due form by the officers of the Wakefield Lodge, and then Bro. M. E. Naylor, the W.M. elect of Unanimity Lodge (179), was installed as W.M. of the lodge for the ensuing year. After the ceremony, the brethren adjourned to the Great Bull Inn, where a most sumptuous banquet was provided by Mr. Sweeting. Bro. M. E. Naylor presided, and was supported on his right by Bros. Sir J. C. D. Hay, *Bart.*, *M.P.*; J. C. D. Charlesworth; Colonel Cobbe; Rev. A. F. A. Woodford; Colonel Holdsworth; Rev. Dr. Senior, Prov. G. Chap. of England; T. K. Sanderson, &c.; and on his left by Bros. W. Slatter, S.W.; Tew, W.M. of Pontefract Lodge (No. 1212); N. L. Fernandez; G. H. Westerman; and W. Teall. The vice-chair was occupied by Bro. D. Wilson, W.M. of the Wakefield Lodge (No. 727), supported on his right and left by his Wardens, Bros. J. Handley and Capt. Williams. A great number of brethren were present. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given from the chair, and responded to by Colonel Cobbe for the Army, Sir John Hay for the Navy, and Colonel Holdsworth for the Volunteers. Bro. Sir John Hay then proposed "The Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland, the D.G.M., and the other Officers of the Grand Lodge," to which Bro. Dr. Senior, Prov. G. Chap., responded. Bro. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford responded to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, the Earl De Grey and Ripon, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Dr. Pearnley." Bro. T. K. Sanderson proposed, and Bro. Slatter responded to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Officers." Bro. J. C. D. Charlesworth proposed "Bro. Sir J. C. D. Hay, *Bart.*, *M.P.*, P.D. Prov. G.M. of Perthshire," to which the gallant Baronet responded. Other toasts were proposed by Bros. T. K. Sanderson, Colonel Holdsworth, T. Senior, F. Lamb, &c., and the proceedings terminated at a late hour.

LEEDS.—*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 382).—This lodge met at 3 p.m., December 31st. After the usual routine business had been gone through the W.M. elect, Bro. the Rev. T. B. Ferris, P.M. 412, Yeovil, was duly installed for the ensuing year, in the presence of a considerable number of P.M.'s. and W.M.'s. of other lodges, although the latter were also members of this lodge. After the installation and the W.M. had invested his officers, to whom he explained the nature of their duties with their respective badges, Mr. Wilkinson was initiated into the arts and mysteries of Freemasonry by the W.M., assisted by P. Prov. G.W., Bro. John Lee, and P.S.W. of the lodge, the newly initiate being deeply impressed with the ceremony. Previous to the closing of the lodge a long and animated discussion arose, with respect to the exclusion of several brethren, owing to their not having paid their subscriptions in due time, some holding the opinion that the new bye-laws, which had received the sanction of the R.W. D. Prov. G.M. and acknowledged by the W.M., were not binding. Bro. V. W. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, *M.A.*, P. Prov. G.W. and P.M. 382, strongly exhorted the brethren to act as leniently and forbearingly as possible, urging that it was a serious matter for a brother and a P.M. to be excluded. Should that be done he would lose all rank and could not regain it without rejoining this or some other lodge, and being elected to the chair. The lodge was

closed in peace and harmony at 5 p.m. The brethren then adjourned to Bro. Deighton's, the Great Northern Hotel, to celebrate the Festival of St. John, where a very excellent dinner had been provided to which the brethren did ample justice. After the cloth was drawn the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to, amongst which the W.M.'s health was proposed by the immediate P.M., Bro. Perkin, when the W.M. responded and acknowledged in a very feeling and appropriate manner the heavy but pleasing responsibility of being elected to fill such an exalted position, and said that nothing on his part, which he was capable of doing, should be wanting to carry out the end and aim of this lodge, which stood so high in the province of West Yorkshire. Bro. V.W. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, *M.A.*, P.M. 282, P. Prov. G.W., responded to the toast of the ladies in his usual able and telling style. On the health of the visiting brethren being given, there were only two brethren who could be at all considered as such, Bro. Kay, W.M. of the Fidelity Lodge (No. 364), and Bro. Denton, W.M. of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge (No. 1139). Bro. Kay, W.M., in responding trusted that the year so happily began, under such brilliant auspices, would continue to mark the progress not only of this lodge but Freemasonry in general. Bro. Denton, W.M., in responding thanked the brethren for the kind and cordial manner in which their healths had been drunk, and remarked, among other things, that actually speaking they were not strangers, but members of this lodge, for he believed that such a circumstance as three brethren of one lodge being W.M.'s. at one and the same time, and in the same province, had, probably, never occurred before, and was not very likely to occur again. At 10 p.m. the W.M. vacated the chair, the evening having been spent in the greatest conviviality.

SCOTLAND.

MONTROSE.—*Montrose Kilwinning Lodge, No. 15.*—On Wednesday, Nov. 26, a meeting of the Lodge was held at the Commercial Inn—Bro. James Jolly, W.M., in the chair. Deputations from St. Peter's Lodge, No. 120, and from the Incorporated Kilwinning Lodge, No. 182, having been admitted, Bro. David Joss, of the Kilwinning Lodge, in an excellent speech, in which he highly lauded their R.W.M.'s unwearied efforts to promote the interests of the Lodge, presented Bro. Jolly with a likeness of himself, in an elegant gilt frame, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr. James Jolly by the Members of the Montrose Kilwinning Lodge, No. 15, as a mark of respect and esteem to him as their R.W.M., Montrose, November 1862." Bro. Jolly made a suitable reply. Bro. Dr. Steel, W.M. of St. Peter's, having expressed the pleasure he felt in being allowed to take part in the presentation, and his high opinion of the very efficient manner in which Bro. Jolly had conducted the affairs of the Kilwinning Lodge during the two years he had acted as its W.M., the Lodge was closed, and the brethren thereafter adjourned for refreshment, under the presidency of W.M. Jolly. A most harmonious and agreeable evening was spent, enlivened with toasts and several excellent songs, and at an early hour the brethren dispersed.

KILMARNOCK.—*St. John Kilwinning* (No. 22).—This, the oldest existing lodge in Ayrshire, originally holding of Mother Kilwinning, held a meeting on Monday, the 5th inst. for the installation of the office-bearers for the ensuing year, who had upon a previous day been elected as follows:—Bros. John Steven, R.W.M.; James Brown, P.M.; Robert Tannock, D.M.; A. Douglas, S.M. Mackay, P.M.; John Londown, S.W.; Thomas Brown, J.W.; Peter Peebles, Treas.; Richard Thomson, Sec.; Rev. A. Inglis, Chap.; James Brown, Assist. Chap.; Archibald McKay, Poet Laureate; George Miller, S.D.; James Wood, J.D.; J. Richmond, I.G.; T. Montgomerie, Tyler. The installation was succeeded by the celebration of the Festival of St. John, the chair being filled by the R.W.M., who had the pleasure of being supported by a deputation from Mother Kilwinning, with Bro. Wylie at its head as Acting Master. The sister lodges, St. Andrew's, Kilmarnock, and St. Clement, Riccarton, also sent deputations. Amid much harmony and brotherly feeling, the night glided away, and when the Masonic sun had with his departing rays tinged the western horizon, the lodge with the usual formalities made the transition from refreshment to labour, and was shortly afterwards closed. Bro. Wylie, the Secretary of the Mother Lodge, with the good taste for which

he is proverbial, when returning thanks on behalf of his lodge, drew a graphic sketch of the relationship formerly existing between No. 22, and the Parent of Scottish Masonry; recalled to mind how in the person of the Earl of Kilmarnock Mother Kilwinning had been governed by a son of the Lodge St. John, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning; and as furnishing a specimen of the filial regard at one time entertained by that Lodge towards the Lodge of Kilwinning, read the following letter which had been addressed by No. 22 to the Mother Lodge:—

“From the Lodge of Kilmarnock, 15th Nov., 1743.

“Brethren,—We return you humble and hearty thanks for the honour you have done us in sending your Worshipful Master and Warden to constitute a lodge here. Dependent upon yours, we shall always acknowledge our Mother Lodge with all due fealty and submission, in answering after calls and assisting her poor's box, as far as is due from a grateful daughter to so worshipful and ancient a mother. Meantime we have sent three pounds to your box, by your Worshipful Master, as one acknowledgment of the favour you have done us and the duty we owe you.

(Signed) “KILMARNOCK, Master.
JOHN PATERSON, Senior Warden.
WILLIAM HUNTER, Junior Warden.”

But with the history of a more distinguished man and brother even than the Jacobite Earl of Kilmarnock is the Lodge St. John, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, associated. Bro. Hunter, of No. 8, in his Lecture on “Burns as a Mason,” tells us that it is known that on one occasion at least the poet paid a visit to the Lodge No. 22, presided over at the time by Bro. William Parker, one of his principal friends, and a subscriber for several copies of the Kilmarnock edition of his poems. Burns, whose muse was ever ready, composed a song for this occasion, which was no doubt sung in the Kilmarnock Lodge for the first time. It is entitled “The Sons of Old Killie,” and concludes with the stanza which is frequently quoted within the walls of a Masonic Lodge:—

“Within this dear mansion may wayward contention
Or wicher'd envy ne'er enter;
May secrecy round be the mystical bound,
And brotherly love be the centre.”

ROYAL ARCH.

ALLOA.—*St John's Chapter*, (No. 92).—On the evening of Monday the 22nd December, a deputation from Edinburgh, consisting of Comps. L. Mackersy, G.S.E., Alexander Hay, Grand Recorder, W. Campbell, H. R. Kay, and W.M. Bryce, proceeded to Alloa to inaugurate the new Royal Arch Chapter. The Chapter having been opened, in the Lodge-Room, Royal Oak Hotel, Alloa, by Comp. Hay, Grand Recorder, the Grand Scribe E. read the charter erecting the St. John's, Alloa, Royal Arch Chapter, No. 92, into a regular Chapter, holding of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland; and Comps. Hallen, Cromer, and Duff, were respectively installed into the chairs of First, Second, and Third Principals. Thereafter the Chapter was closed, and the Companions adjourned to another room, where the deputation from Edinburgh was entertained at a substantial banquet by the members of the new Chapter. The newly-installed First Principal occupied the chair, and the office of Croupier was ably discharged by Comp. S. N. Morison. After passing a very pleasant evening, the Companions separated, with a most cordial wish that the new Chapter might have a prosperous career. We may add that eight Master Masons were exalted to the Royal Arch Degree in the course of the evening.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

SUPREME COUNCIL OF 33RD DEGREE.—A meeting of the Supreme Council for Scotland of the 33rd and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was held in Freemasons' Hall, Monday, the 2nd December,—J. Whyte Melville, Esq. of Bennochy and Strathkiness, Most Ill. Lieut. Gr. Commander, presiding. A petition was presented by several members of the 18th and 30th Degrees, setting forth the difficulties experienced in obtaining these Degrees, in consequence of their working being confined to the members of the 33rd Degree, and craving permission to be allowed to confer them under such restrictions as the Supreme Council should be pleased to impose. The Supreme Council having considered the petition, granted the prayer thereof, and a committee was appointed to

make the necessary arrangements. Thereafter the Supreme Council proceeded to fill up the vacancy in their number, caused by the death of Bro. Andrew Murray, Ill. Grand M.C., when Thomas Elder MacRitchie, Esq. of Dunorth and Craighton, a member of the 32nd Degree, was unanimously elected.

INDIA.

(From the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*.)

INDIAN MEMS.

A committee has been appointed to take seriously into consideration the question of erecting a Masonic Hall in Calcutta, the property of the Craft.

R.W. Bro. Hoff having made over all the records of the District Grand Lodge, a room has been appropriated for them in the Freemason's Hall. A table, with writing materials, a few chairs, and several volumes of books, presented in former days by Brothers Boileau, Birch, King, and others, also occupy portions of the room. The books include novels, histories, travels, Asiatic researches, &c. Some of them may be considered curiosities. We happened to find one which had been printed in 1683, and seemed a combination of chemistry and Freemasonry. It was probably the production of some Rosicrucian of those days. Here we have the nucleus of a library ready to our hand; and if contributions were to be called for, we think they would pour in abundantly.

HOFF TESTIMONIAL.—Almost one of the first acts of the Provincial Grand Master was to address the following letter to the lodges and the officers of the District Grand Lodge:—“It is with feelings of great regret that I have to inform you that our R.W. Bro. John Jacob Louis Hoff has expressed his intention of retiring from Freemasonry, after a continuous and arduous service of thirty-seven years. The name of this deservedly respected brother is so familiar to every Indian Mason, and his labours for the good of our Order so well known to every brother, that it would be quite superfluous on my part to attempt, in any way, to dwell upon or to praise the great merits and the Masonic zeal which have so justly entitled him to our gratitude and fraternal love. Suffice it to say, in proof of the general esteem in which he is held, that he has obtained the rank of a Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge of England as a reward for his services, and that he is an honorary member of not less than fourteen lodges in Bengal, as well as of others in the Districts of Bombay and Madras. It would, I am certain, not be pleasing to the large society of Masons which exists in Bengal, if our right worshipful brother were to be allowed to retire from the Craft without carrying with him some substantial proof of their admiration of those excellent qualities which have been the means of obtaining for him so justly the general affection and esteem of his brethren in Freemasonry. With this end in view, I have taken upon myself to appoint a committee in Calcutta, with R.W. Bro. Howe, Past Dep. Prov. G.M., at its head, to consider the best form in which a fitting and handsome testimonial might be conveyed to our excellent brother. I know that the proposition to present Bro. Hoff with a testimonial, will be well received everywhere, and that the Mofussil Lodges will also be glad of the opportunity of subscribing to it. Should, therefore, the members of your lodge be desirous of taking part in the presentation, either collectively or individually, I request that you will kindly remit any amounts that may be subscribed, at as early a date as possible, to Capt. Howe, 3, Middleton-street, Calcutta. It is desirable that the presentation (in whatever form the committee may decide upon) should be made on St. John's Day, the 27th December.”

CALCUTTA.

LODGE INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE.—This lodge had a regular meeting on the 17th day of October, inst., Bro. John William Brown, Honorary P.M., presiding; Bros. Dr. Frank Powell, S.W.; Peach, as J.W.; Baxter, Master of Lodge Saint Andrew (No. 401), of Scotland, Secretary and Treasurer; Strong, as S.D.; Charles Linton, as J.D.; Campbell, as I.G.; Daniel, as Tyler. Of the brethren present, we noticed Bros. Doctor John Smith, Master of Lodge Saint David in the East (No. 371), of Scotland (Bro. Smith was initiated in No. 126 in the early part of the year 1856, and is now the oldest subscribing member of the worshipful lodge); John Cameron, P.M. of

No. 371, of Scotland, the founder thereof, and who has for years steadily and ably worked Lodge Saint David in the East; Linton, Master of No. 551, of England, and a member of No. 126, also other worthy brethren, members and visitors. The absence of Bro. Davis, the Master of the lodge, was mentioned by Bro. Brown with great regret, more especially as it was caused by indisposition. The work before the lodge was to advance Bro. Doctor Peers, who was initiated on the first day of August, ultimo. The degree was conferred by Bro. John William Brown. Bro. H. D. Sandeman's circular, announcing his appointment as Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, in succession to the late lamented Bro. General Boileau, was read. Bro. Brown directed it to be circulated to the brethren of the lodge not present, and suitably acknowledged. Bro. Doctor John Smith expressed his satisfaction at the appointment, giving, as it did, to the Craft a resident chief.

LODGE HUMILITY WITH FORTITUDE.—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 20th October. Among the visitors we noticed two of the Grand Officers, viz., Bros. J. B. Roberts, and L. A. Emanuel. We were also glad to see Bro. Chardon. A letter was read in lodge from Bro. Hugh Sandeman, notifying his appointment as Provincial Grand Master; the other was, that Bro. William Hoff had consented to retain the post of Provincial Grand Secretary, so that a name which his respected father had so closely associated with the history of Indian Masonry, would still be in constant and familiar use. Whatever differences of opinion might have existed in the past, there could be no question R.W. Bro. Sandeman would now receive the hearty allegiance of every true Mason. He was not an unknown man. His social position recommended him to their respect; while his long experience in Masonry, and his energetic and liberal support of it at all times, pointed him out as one under whose rule the Order would attain to a high pitch of prosperity. The W.M. spoke in terms of high respect of the labours of the late D. Prov. G.M., R.W. Bro. J. J. L. Hoff, in and on behalf of Masonry, and concluded by expressing a confident hope of the extension of the influence of Masonry under the new regime. At the banquet, the W.M., in proposing the first three toasts of obligation, expressed the great pleasure he felt at being able once more to include the health of the Prov. G.M. of Bengal. Loyalty lay deep in the heart of every Mason,—loyalty to their gracious Queen, loyalty to the head of English Masonry, and loyalty to the G.M. of the Province in which they lived. He congratulated them on the accession to this office of so good a Mason and so worthy a man, and called on them to drink the toasts with all the honours. The toasts were most heartily received. Another meeting of this Lodge was held on the 3rd November, when one candidate was initiated. The W.M. read out the Prov. G.M.'s letter regarding the Hoff Testimonial, and then himself offered some remarks on the subject. He stated that Bro. Hoff had belonged to the Lodge for many years, had filled the chair six times, and had adhered to it in adversity as well as in prosperity. The Lodge had therefore a peculiar interest in the matter, and should make it a point of honour to stand well in the scale of subscribing Lodges. He concluded by stating that he had received a private letter from one of the members of the Lodge, intimating that, after the subscription had risen to a certain amount, he would himself contribute one hundred rupees.

LODGE COURAGE WITH HUMANITY.—This Lodge held a regular meeting on Thursday, the 23rd day of October. Present: Bro. J. H. Linton, W.M.; Bro. John William Brown, Hon. P.M.; Bro. Walter Bentson, S.W.; Bro. Wybrow as J.W.; Bro. Reid as S.D.; Bro. Stephen Nation, of Lodge No. 126, as S.D.; Bro. Campbell as Secretary; Bro. Jacob Tyler. Mr. Henry Barrick, Chief Officer of the ship *Maid of the Sea* was initiated into Freemasonry. There were the names of four other candidates for the First Degree set down as a part of the work, but they were not present. Five brethren, who had duly served their time, were passed to the Second Degree. Of three brethren entitled to the Third Degree, one only was present. Owing to the small attendance, two lodges could not be formed, and it was arranged that his advancement should be deferred. There was pecuniary relief given in several cases. The number of members and visitors was very small, owing no doubt to the state of the weather—the *finale* of the gale that the weather-wise of this place had been speaking about for some time past. R.W. Bro. Hugh Sandeman's circular, announcing his appointment as Prov. G.M., in succession to the late lamented General Boileau, having been read, it was resolved that an answer in the form of a congratulatory address be submitted to the R.W. Brother.

LODGE ST. JOHN (No. 715).—This lodge held a regular meeting on Friday, October 24. Present:—Bro. John Wm. Brown P.M. of the lodge, presiding; Bros. C. T. Davis, Master of Lodge Industry and Perseverance (No. 126), and member of St. John; Dr. John Smith, Master of Lodge St. David in the East (No. 371) of Scotland; Sutherland and Barker, of the above lodge; Dr. Frank Powell, S.W.; Strong, J.W.; Stephen Nation, S.D.; Morgan, J.D.; Lumsdaine, I.G.; W. G. Baxter, Master of Lodge St. Andrew (No. 401), of Scotland, Sec. and Treas.; and D. S. Daniel, Tyler. Bro. Thomas John Holmes, a M.M. of Lodge St. David in the East, (No. 371), of Scotland, was elected a joining member. Mr. James Evans Coser, indigo planter, a candidate for initiation, being accepted by ballot, was initiated by Bro. Brown. Pecuniary relief was given in the case of a shipwrecked brother mariner, and to the widow of a deceased P.M. of one of the Calcutta lodges, holding under the Constitution of England.

DUM DUM.—Lodge St. Luke (No. 1150).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, November 5th. Present:—Bros. Capt. Wilson Clark, W.M.; John William Brown, Hon. P.M.; C. T. Davis, W.M. of Lodge No. 126, and member of No. 1150; G. Baxter, Master of Lodge St. Andrew in the East (No. 401), of Scotland, and member of No. 1150; Rev. Dr. Lindstedt, S.W.; Captain Fenwick, P.J.W., as J.W.; Pritchard, S.D., as Tyler; Morgan, as S.D.; Bick, as J.D.; Dr. Frank Powell, Sec. and Treas.; Rosamond, I.G.; members and visitors of the worshipful lodge. Messrs. Peter Pritchard and Alexander C. Galbraith, having been accepted by ballot, were initiated by Bro. John William Brown. Relief for six months was granted to the widow of a P.M. of one of the Calcutta lodges. It was arranged that the contributions to the Hoff Testimonial should be made by the members of the lodge individually. The circular announcing the appointment of Bro. Hugh D. Sandeman, C.S., as Prov. G.M., was read and recorded. There were a few visiting brethren from the Calcutta lodges present.

AKYAB.—A brother writes from Akyab:—"Not much stirring down here. Our Tyler, Bro. Jansen, lately died, and in distressed circumstances. He had received 200 rupees from the lodge and the brethren. We are unlucky: both the Wardens, the Deacons, the Inner Guard, the Tyler, the Treasurer, and Secretary will have left the Station before St. John's Day. Such changes are disheartening, and render it difficult to keep up the lodge."

BENGAL.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

At a special communication, holden at the Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 29th October, 1862, R.W. Bro. Sandeman announced his appointment as Prov. G.M. of Bengal, and requested the Prov. G. Sec. to read the patent which had been received from England.

After the patent had been read, the brethren, at the request of R.W. Bro. Howe, P.D. Prov. G.M., rose and saluted the Prov. G.M., in recognition of the authority vested in him by that document.

The Prov. G.M., after returning the salute, addressed the assembled brethren as follows:—

W. brethren, while cordially saluting you in return for the compliment you have paid me at the request of our R.W. Bro. Howe, I take the opportunity of addressing to you, in accordance with custom, a few words upon my assuming the Hiram of this District Lodge. I would wish, in the first place, to express a sense of the satisfaction which I feel in having been entrusted with the Masonic charge of this district, and also of the gratification afforded me by the general assurance of support from the officers and past officers of this District Grand Lodge, and by the Masters of private lodges. Without your aid, and the confidence of the Craft generally, I should feel quite unable to perform the duties of a Prov. G.M. with either credit to myself or advantage to the Order. Believe me, that I have not accepted my present office with any idea that it is a sinecure or an honour for which a very considerable return is not both expected and due; on the contrary, I enter upon it with the knowledge that it is one that demands labour, vigilance, attention, and care, and I am prepared to devote both time and labour to the work before me, knowing, as I do, that I shall always meet with ready assistance from you, should I at any time fall into difficulty, requiring the benefit of your aid. The first announcement that I have to make to you is one that will cause great regret to all Masons in India. I am sorry to say

that our R.W. Bro. John Jacob Louis Hoff, who has, for a period of not less than seven and thirty years, devoted his time, energies, and, I may say, his heart, to the welfare of the Craft, has expressed his intention of withdrawing himself from all open connection with Masonry, and his absence from our meetings will cause a blank that cannot easily be replaced. Bro. Hoff is well known to every one of us, and, being respected and loved by every Mason in Bengal, will carry with him into his retirement the hearty good-will and wishes of the entire Masonic community of India. I do not, however, think that a mere verbal declaration from this chair, that Bro. Hoff has eminently succeeded in gaining to himself the esteem and respect of his fellows, will serve as sufficient on the present occasion, but that the Craft would wish him to have some solid and substantial proof of their love, and I have therefore asked a few of the chief Grand Officers to form themselves into a committee to consider the best form which a handsome testimonial should take. I have also addressed a circular-letter to all lodges within the province, asking the brethren attached to them, who may, either collectively or individually, be desirous of subscribing to the testimonial, to communicate with our R.W. Bro. Howe, who has kindly consented to be President of the committee. I would propose, in the event of a testimonial being got ready in time, that R.W. Bro. Hoff be invited to attend Grand Lodge on St. John's Day, and that the presentation be made to him in this room, accompanied by those marks of honour which are due to our brother's long services and his position in the Craft. Touching the present position of Freemasonry in this province, I find that there are eight lodges working in the town of Calcutta, and nineteen in the provinces, viz., in Bengal Proper, three; in the N. W. Provinces, including Oude, eight; in the Punjab, four; and four in the Burmese Provinces. The Calcutta lodges are, generally speaking, working well and prosperously, as also are some of those in the Mofussil, which, it must be remembered, are always open to great fluctuation by the frequent changes which took place among the residents of out-stations, by removal to other places, by retirement, or by casualty. Mofussil labour under very great difficulties, as I am able, from personal experience, to testify; they have to make up numbers from a limited society, to obtain a house and to purchase furniture and fittings with scanty funds, and constantly to replace brethren who remove, or who are ordered from the stations at all seasons of the year. The state of Mofussil lodges is always, therefore, a matter of uncertainty and anxiety. There are five lodges in abeyance, and should these not be resuscitated within two years from the date of their last meeting, their warrants will be returned to the Grand Lodge of England, in conformity with custom. The returns of many of the lodges are in arrears. For this there is some excuse, viz., that for some months there has been no legal Masonic authority to whom they could be transmitted, but I am sorry to say that there are five lodges that have returned up to the end of 1860 only, and two only to the end of 1859. Every endeavour is being made by the Provincial Grand Secretary to bring up those arrears. I should mention that, under the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England, and under the by-laws of this District Grand Lodge, any lodge that does not make returns for a twelvemonth, is liable to erasure, and its officers are disqualified from attending the District Grand Lodge, or sitting upon any committee. I cannot refrain from noticing the great number of "demitted" Masons in Calcutta, and indeed in all India; I mean those Masons who have, in many cases to suit merely their own tastes or convenience, withdrawn from all open connection with our Order, by ceasing to bear their names upon our rolls. Seeing that it is impossible for any man to cancel his Masonic obligation, and that the true maxim is, "Once a Mason always a Mason," it is not pleasant to hear Masons admit that they have not visited a lodge for years, or that they have "quite given up" Freemasonry. When a candidate is admitted into our Order, he gives a solemn assurance that he will ever abide by the landmarks of the Craft; and one of those primary landmarks is that every brother should belong to some lodge, so as to be subject to its by-laws and the general rules and regulations of the Craft. This applies even to the Entered Apprentice, while the Fellow-Craftsman and the Master Mason are still more solemnly pledged to obey all signs and summonses, to plead only the most urgent necessity for absenting themselves from regular attendance at a lodge, and to maintain the principles inculcated in the first degree. I should be glad to see those brethren who are constant in their fidelity to the Craft use their endeavours to reclaim to our lodges those Masons who have set aside the allegiance that

they voluntarily took upon themselves at their initiation. It is my intention, after having disposed of business which requires more immediate attention, to visit officially, from time to time, the several lodges in and near Calcutta, not only for the purpose of inspecting their books and observing their modes of working, but of making myself more generally acquainted with my Masonic brethren. Many essential benefits frequently arise from this custom of periodical visitation. I shall be glad to see some decisive action taken in the matter of a Masonic Hall. I believe that the feeling of the Craft generally is undivided on this one point, that it is not dignified for us, as a large and influential body, to hold our meetings in a hired building, from which we are, at any time liable to be ejected upon the expiration of a lease. There are, undoubtedly, obstacles in the way. There is the difficulty of obtaining a suitable plot of ground at anything like a reasonable outlay, and the high prices of all building materials and of labour, as well as the scantiness of our funds, have to be considered, added to the fact that the residence of the majority of our number in this country is, more or less, ephemeral; these are, doubtless, great obstacles, but surely not insurmountable, and a plan might not improbably be devised for raising, by debentures or by other means, such funds as would enable us to erect a building sufficient for our own immediate purposes, and likely to yield a remunerative return by being made partly available to the public for meetings of a general nature. I purpose forming a select committee for the consideration of this important subject, and I have no doubt that our worthy brother the G. Supt. of Works will give the members of it the benefit of his co-operation and advice. I am confident that it would be gratifying to every Mason to feel that we had a building which we could call our own, and much good might be derived by establishing within its walls a good library, reading room, and "coffee shop," all being placed under the care of a resident Tyler, who might, at the same time, be clerk to the Prov. G. Sec., and have charge of the archives of the District Grand Lodge. The next point to which I solicit your attention is to our bye-laws. The last edition was printed in 1858, after a lapse of five years. Five years have again now nearly elapsed, and the edition of 1858 is out of print. It will therefore be necessary to reprint; but before doing this, it would, perhaps, be advisable to consider the present edition very carefully, so that the opportunity may be taken of making any alterations that may appear suitable or necessary. A committee will be formed for this purpose, and their report laid before a communication of the District Grand Lodge for consideration. There is one innovation in the system of working in this District Grand Lodge which I would like to see introduced, and which is founded upon the system which obtains in England. It must be remembered that, in this Hall, we are legislating for Masons scattered over a vast area of country, and that questions of considerable general interest and of importance are frequently discussed. It is but proper, therefore, that no member of the District Grand Lodge should ever be taken by surprise, but that he should be enabled beforehand to know what questions are to come forward at each meeting. I propose, therefore, at least ten days before each communication of the District Grand Lodge, to forward to the Master of every lodge a printed paper showing the business to be brought forward, and a copy of this paper will also be put into the hands of every brother on his entrance into the hall. I will also suggest to the committee who will sit upon the bye-laws, whether provisions might not be made to the effect:—

1. That all notices of motion must be made either at one communication of the District Grand Lodge for consideration at the next, or to the Prov. G. Sec. in reasonable time for incorporation in the printed paper of business.
2. That all notices of motion once made shall stand upon the printed paper of business in their order of precedence.
3. That no motion or other matter shall be brought into discussion in the District Grand Lodge unless it shall have been entered upon this paper, except in very special cases, when the unanimous assent of the District Grand Lodge may be given to depart from the rule.

Should the District Grand Lodge concur with me in this suggestion, some clauses on the subject might be introduced in the revised edition of the bye-laws under the head of "Motions in District Grand Lodge," and, in the meanwhile, I will have agenda papers circulated for the next quarterly communication as an experimental measure, in order that we may be able to judge from experience how the principle will act, and how far it will be advisable to introduce rules into our bye-laws confining

our discussions to those motions of which due notice has been given as above suggested. I have nothing further to add but the expression of a fervent hope that we may be long spared to enjoy each other's society, and that we may have many happy meetings together as brethren in Freemasonry.

The PROV. G. MASTER—Brethren, my next duty is to appoint Provincial Grand Officers. In making the appointments, I have endeavoured to abide by the relative positions in which I found the brethren to stand. My effort, in this respect, will be generally to distribute the honours of the District Grand Lodge impartially, and to promote those who are working zealously for the good of the Craft, and who enjoy the confidence and esteem of their brethren. My wish is to act upon the principle laid down by Bro. Oliver, in his *Masonic Jurisprudence*, that every brother who is ambitious of being raised to the Purple should show himself to be a zealous and worthy Mason in his private lodge, have held some of its chief offices, and enjoyed the favourable report of his brethren.

The PROV. G. M. then invested the following brethren, accompanying each investiture with a short appropriate speech:—Bros. William Clark, D. Prov. G.M.; William J. Judge, Prov. S.G.W.; Peter Anderson, Prov. J.G.W.; James W. Browne, Prov. G. Reg.; William H. Hoff, Prov. G. Sec.; William Clark, Prov. S.G.D.; C. J. Evans, Prov. J.G.D.; Walter Bourne, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Louis A. Emanuel, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. H. Linton, Assist. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Jeremiah King, Prov. G.S.B.; C. Kelvey, Prov. G. Org.; W. M. Benwell, Prov. G. Purs.; J. B. Knight, F. Powell, J. W. Payne, Hugh McLardy, A. Simson, and Walter Bourne, Prov. G. Stewards; D. J. Daniel, Prov. G. Tyler.

The PROV. G. MASTER stated that it rested with the brethren to elect a Prov. G. Treas., and that he had ascertained that Bro. William Clark, who had so long and successfully filled that post, was willing to continue in the office. It was then proposed by Bro. Anderson, Prov. J.G.W., and seconded by Bro. Judge, Prov. S.G.W., that Bro. Clark be elected by acclamation. There being no other nomination, Bro. Clark was unanimously elected.

The following brethren were appointed to act in the Finance Committee by the Prov. G.M. under rule 10 of the bye-laws of the District Grand Lodge:—

President—R.W. Bro. William Clark, D. Prov. G.M.; members—R.W. Bros. William Judge, Prov. S.G.W.; P. Anderson, Prov. J.G.W.; James W. Browne, P.M. No. 265; J. B. Knight, W.M. No. 279; John W. Brown, P.M. No. 715; ex-officio—V.W. Bros. William Clark, Prov. G. Treas.; William H. Hoff, Prov. G. Sec.

The PROV. G. MASTER announced to the brethren that the usual procession to St. John's Church would take place on St. John's Day, Saturday, the 27th December next.

The PROV. G. MASTER then reported to the District Grand Lodge an unfortunate disagreement in Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood (No. 673), at Simla, which had resulted in the punishment of two of its members.

Bro. ABBOTT gave notice that he would, at the next quarterly communication of the District Grand Lodge, propose that, in future, the use of the Freemasons' Hall be not given for religious purposes.

Bro. DAVIS gave notice that he would, on the same evening, propose that our Scottish brethren be recognised as brethren in Masonry.

All business being concluded, the District Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and adjourned to the banquet, where the Town Band was in attendance.

ROYAL ARCH.

LANCASHIRE.

LIVERPOOL.—*Mariners' Chapter* (No. 310).—This Chapter was opened in the Temple, Hope-street, on the 9th of January, by P.Z. Comps. James Hamer, Z.; P.Z. P. Maddox, H.; and John Pepper, J.; assisted by P.Z. T. Wylie; P.Z. W. Laidlow; P.Z. C. J. Banister; Comps. R. Langley, Thomas Marsh, J. R. Gopel, E. Roberts, W. Woods, Rev. J. Porter (21, Belfast), E. Slee, J. Robinson (267), Smith, &c. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Bro. Thomas Dean, of Lodge 1125, and, being unanimous, he was prepared and presented to the M.E.Z., who performed the ceremony in his usual effective manner, Bro. R. Langley taking

the part of P.S. with great care and judgment. M.E.J. Comp. J. Pepper delivered the first *Historic Lecture*, P.M.E.Z. Thos. Wylie the second, and M.E.Z. J. Homer the Symbolic and Mystic Lectures. Comp. Rev. J. N. Porter delivered a Lecture on the Degree, comparing it with the Holy Bible, which was listened to with marked attention. Business of the Chapter over, it was closed in due and solemn form. At refreshments the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to. Comp. Pepper returned thanks for the three principals in a spirited speech, giving the companions excellent advice. Comp. Rev. J. N. Porter returned thanks for the visitors. C. J. Banister, for the Masonic Charities, obtained a few subscribers. Comp. Meyer Goudsmit, United Pilgrims Chapter (No. 745), was also a visitor, and returned thanks. After spending a very happy evening, which was enlivened by songs from Comps. Marsh, Hamer, &c., the companions separated at ten o'clock.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*Royal Sussex Chapter* (No. 522).—At the quarterly convocation held at the Great White Horse Hotel on Wednesday Dec. 3rd, the three Principals chosen at the last meeting were regularly installed into their respective offices, viz.—Comps. Luft, Z., Head, P.P.Z.; Girling, H.; Townsend, P.P.Z.; Comp. Sanderson, J.; Comp. Franks, P.P.Z. The Companions voted the sum of Five Pounds from the chapter funds to a companion in distress who was formerly a member of this chapter. After the transaction of some important private business the chapter was closed in ancient form, and the companions adjourned to refreshments provided by comp. Guiver.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

WATFORD.—*Stuart Encampment*.—An encampment was held on Monday, the 5th of January, in the Freemasons' Hall, Watford. Present, Sir Knts. C. M. Layton, E.C.; George Lambert, 1st Capt.; H. E. Finch, 2nd Capt.; also the M.E. William Stuart, Sup. G. Master; G.E. George Francis, G. Com. of Herts; H. H. Burchell Herne, Thomas Rogers, John Goodyear, J. Barton, F. C. Humbert, and others. Comp. T. A. Brett, of the Watford Chapter was installed into the Order, Sir Knt. J. How, P.E.C., acting as Expert. A ballot was taken for the choice of E.C. and Treasurer, and Sir Knt. John Goodyear, P. 1st Capt., was elected E.C., and Sir Knt. Thomas Rogers, Treasurer. The usual pleasant banquet followed the proceedings, the M.E. Sup. G.M. presiding.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—*Oriental Lodge* (No. 983).—Saturday, the 27th December, 1862, being the festival of St. John the Evangelist, and the installation of W.M., this lodge was held at Batzer's Hotel, Pera of Constantinople, and opened by the retiring W.M. and his officers, at half-past four p.m. The minutes of the last regular meeting having been confirmed, the W.M., before leaving the chair, gave a short *resumé* of the past year's work, and in a feeling manner acknowledged and thanked his I.P.M., Wardens, Officers, and brethren, for their regular attendance and cordial assistance rendered to him personally, and for the welfare of the lodge during his year of office; and trusted the same support would be tendered to his successor. Several unattached brethren and deputations, consisting of the W.M., officers, and members of the French Lodge, *L'Union d'Italia*, the English Lodges, No. 1121, *Deutscher Bund*, and No. 1192, Bulwer, were respectively admitted in form and welcomed. The installation ceremony was performed by the retiring W.M., Bro. Silly, P.M. (the founder of the lodge), in the presence of W. Bros. P.M.s Hähnel, Aznavour, Pulman, W.M.s Brackett and Brown, who paid the installing Master deserved eulogiums for the correct and praiseworthy manner the same was conducted. Bro. Alfred W. Mountain, S.W., the W.M. elect for 1863, was duly installed in the chair of K.S., in accordance with ancient custom, and the landmarks of the Order, and proclaimed and saluted by the M.M.'s, F.C.'s, and E.A.'s respectively. The W.M. then invested his officers, as follows:—Bros. Smorfit

S.W.; H. Wills, J.W.; Junor, Treas.; Pulman, P.M. and Hon Sec.; R. Warren, S.D.; Easton, J.D.; Ford, I.G.; Knight Steward; and Cipriotti, Tyler. To each officer on investiture, the installing Master, Bro. Silly, gave the full charge of office, and afterwards recited to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren, in such a clear and appropriate manner as became the occasion, their respective duties, to the instruction and gratification of all present. Before closing the lodge, it was voted that the proceeds of the charity box should be given to the Distress Fund in England, when the brethren present liberally responded to the "Call of Charity." This makes the second donation, the lodge having voted at the previous meeting the sum of £20, and it is expected a third handsome donation will be forthcoming, as the proceeds of the Masonic Ball to take place at the end of January, are also to be devoted to the Lancashire Relief Fund, thus proving the brethren of Constantinople practise that virtue all Masons profess to admire. The banquet was held in the Saloon adjoining which was gaily decked with National flags, evergreens, &c. After thanks had been returned for the excellent dinner provided by the host and enjoyed by forty-three brethren, the following toasts were eloquently proposed by the W.M., and cordially responded to; Our Sovereign Lady the Queen; the Sultan; H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family; the M.W. the G.M., the Earl of Zetland; the R.W. the D.G.M., and G. Officers of England; the Prov. G.M., His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir H. E. Bulwer (who was unavoidably absent); the Prov. D.G.M., V.W. Bro. Hyde Clarke, and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge; the W.M. of 988 (proposed by I.P.M. Silly), the Officers of 988, the Visiting Brethren, the respective lodges, viz., *L'Union d'Italia*, Bulwer, 1193, *Deutscher Bund*, 1121, and the Charity Fund, to all Poor and Distressed Masons. The evening passed off delightfully owing to the eloquence and enjoyment of all present, and great thanks are due to the vocal and instrumental assistance of those brethren who interspersed harmony amongst cordiality.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. CAPTAIN RATCLIFF.

Bro. Captain Charles Ratcliff was, on Monday last, presented by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of his Company (No. 7) of the Birmingham Rifle Volunteers, with a costly sword and an address, in token of the respect which they entertain for him, and in recognition of his patriotic zeal for the promotion of the Volunteer movement during its early stages in this town, when the Company was organised and equipped at his expense. They assembled at the Armoury, New-street, from whence, accompanied by the drum and fife band of the battalion, they marched to Aston Park, where they were met by Captain Ratcliff, Adjutant M'Innis, Sir John Ratcliff, and other gentlemen. Under the command of the worthy Adjutant they executed a variety of manœuvres, and were afterwards formed into a hollow square, in the court-yard adjacent to the hall. Mr. D. J. O'Neill then advanced and made the presentation, explaining, in the first instance, that he had received from the Lieutenants and Ensign letters expressive of regret at their unavoidable absence, and consequent inability to participate in rendering honour where honour is due. The object which had brought them together (the speaker proceeded to explain) had been entertained for some months, but obstacles to its realisation had intervened. They could all bear testimony to the perseverance, energy, liberality, courtesy, and punctuality which Captain Ratcliff had displayed from the first formation of the Company. At the outset, when very hard drills had to be gone through, he was one of the hardest workers amongst them, and he used to shoulder his rifle, and stimulate them by his good example. Since that time he had been foremost in doing his duty as an officer, and studying the good discipline and comfort of the Company. Mr. O'Neill concluded by reading an address which had been beautifully written and illuminated by Mr. Newey, of New-street, formerly Quartermaster of the Company, and which bore the signatures (about twenty in number) of the Testimonial Committee. Captain Ratcliff, in acknowledging the kindness which had prompted the gift, observed that if he had done his duty in connection with the corps in a manner to warrant its appreciation in so substantial a form, all he could say was that the compliment which he had just had the honour of receiving would be a stimulus to him on all future occasions, not only to be present with them on the drill ground, but to do all he could by example and by work to encourage them to maintain their efficiency. He knew of no

company in the battalion which had shown a greater desire to perfect themselves in drill than No. 7, and he did not wish to flatter them when he said he regarded them as equal to any other in the 1st Warwickshire Corps. After noticing with satisfaction that the company had taken some of the first prizes at the regimental shooting at Bournbrook, Captain Ratcliff expressed a hope that this would induce them to acquire still greater efficiency, and again tendered his thanks for the gift presented to him. He said he should ever prize it and look upon it with pride, and if it should ever happen that his active exertions in the field should be required in defence of his country, he hoped they would all stand by him, and that would be the sword he should use to lead them. Three cheers were then given for Captain Ratcliff, and on his proposition three more for the Adjutant. After partaking of the refreshments provided by Sir John Ratcliff, the company marched back to the armoury, and were then dismissed. We may add that the sword, which is one of the value of fifty guineas, was manufactured by Messrs. Aston, of the Town Hall Works, Edmund-street, from a design furnished by Mr. J. J. Allen, of Vittoria-street. The hilt guard is elaborately wrought in dead and burnished steel, the regulation ornamentation of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, the royal monogram, &c., being introduced in a novel and elegant manner, and being "tooled" into relief instead of being merely "chased." At the back of the hilt are the captain's crest and monogram, also in relief. The blade is richly damascened.—*Midland Counties Herald*, January 8th.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A Mademoiselle Mary Trautmann has just created a *furor* at Munich by her splendid pianoforte playing. She is only 15 years old. She is naturally coming to London. Richard Wagner has gone to Vienna to superintend the production of his new opera, *Tristan and Isolde*. Verdi is at work upon a new opera, called *Esmeralda*. Victor Hugo writes the *libretto*.

There have been five great theatrical successes in Paris during the past year:—*Le Fils de Giboyer*, at the Français; *Lalla Roukh*, at the Opera Comique; *Les Ganaches*, at the Gymnase; *Le Bossu*, at the Porte St. Martin; and *Rothomago*, at the Cirque. Each of these pieces has yielded to its authors something like 100,000 francs (£4000). Four out of the five works are still being played.

M. E. Legouvé has just remonstrated in the *Sidèle* against the exclusion to which comedians are subject in the nominations to the Legion of Honour. The remarks of M. Legouvé are made in favour of M. Samson, the actor and professor.

Of all the characters in which Madlle Patti has yet sung in Paris, that of Lucia is (says *Galignani*) accounted by many the finest. Madlle. Trebelli, fresh from her triumphs in London and Vienna, made her *début* in Lucrezia, at the Italian Opera, on Saturday, for the first time this season. It is reported that the first named lady is about to be married.

The rehearsals of *La Muette de Portici*, at the Grand Opera, Paris, interrupted by the sad accident to Madlle. Livry, have been resumed, the part of the Muette being transferred to Madlle. Vernon. It is expected to be brought forward before the close of January.

Auber's *Haydée*, and a new operetta, *La Déesse et le Berger* are in active operation at the Opera Comique, Paris.

M. E. Augier's new comedy, *Le Fils de Giboyer*, continues to be the vogue at the Français, Paris. On the first of the month no places were to be procured to see it before the beginning of February. "In the mean time," says *Galignani*, "critical opinion, with all fair allowances for the merits of the piece, is really at a loss to discover the cause of its extraordinary success. The charge of its being a libel on the clerical party has been of vast service to its popularity, and the author ought to be immensely obliged to those who brought it against him."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and other members of the Royal Family continue at Osborne. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales is at his seat in Norfolk, enjoying himself as an English gentleman. On Wednesday he was at a meet of the Norfolk hounds and had a splendid run, being in at the death.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The deaths in the metropolis last week were very nearly on a level with the numbers of the week before, being 1535 in all. This is 43 more than the average of the last ten years, which, corrected to allow for the increase of population, would give 1492. The most fatal disease during the week was bronchitis; after which followed phthisis; small-pox, measles, and diphtheria were also conspicuous. The births amounted to 1954, which was rather above the ten years' average.—The formal ceremony of proroguing Parliament has been gone through for the last time previous to the coming session, which is to commence on the 5th proximo, and is to be convened for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs.—A new writ has been issued to the Arch-bishop of Canterbury commanding him to summon convocation of his province for Tuesday, the 10th of February. This appears to have become necessary through the death of the late Archbishop during the prorogation of Parliament.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has advised the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to refrain from taking any step towards the settlement of the question of its relations with the heterodox Bishop of Natal, until after the Bishops can meet for a full discussion of the subject, early in February.—The proposal made to the guarantors of the International Exhibition and others, to purchase Captain Fowke's structure, with the view of rendering it one of the permanent institutions of London, is said to have received but little support, and to have been finally abandoned. The future destiny of the building, therefore, remains uncertain, and various schemes are being mooted for the settlement of the point. One of these—a project, we should think, which stands but little chance of being realised—is that the Government should come to some arrangement with the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851, and at once relieve them and those interested in the fate of the South Kensington building of all further trouble and anxiety.—The Metropolitan Railway was fairly opened to the public on Saturday, and it was calculated that between 30,000 and 40,000 were carried over the line in the course of the day. Indeed, the desire to travel by this on the opening day was more than the directors had provided for; and from nine o'clock in the morning till past mid-day it was impossible to obtain a place in the down or Cityward line at any of the mid-stations. In the evening the tide turned, and the crush at the Farringdon-street station was as great as at the doors of a theatre on the first night of some popular performer. Some lighting of the pressure was obtained by the Great Western lending some of their engines and carriages supplemental to the rolling stock of the company. Notwithstanding the throng, it is gratifying to add that no accident occurred, and the report of the passengers was unanimous in favour of the smoothness and comfort of the line.—A county meeting in aid of the Lancashire distress, was held at Worcester, on Saturday. Lord Lytton, who presided, read a letter from Sir J. K. Shuttleworth, who said there was reason to expect that "the mills in the present year would be put on half work." Sir John Packington passed a high eulogium on the liberality of England during this sad calamity. It was not a case in which the sufferers ought to be left to the pittance to be drawn from the Poor Law, and the spectacle which England held out by the brotherly spirit in which this distress had been met, presented a remarkable contrast with the state of things on the other side of the Atlantic.—At the meeting of the Central Relief Committee on Monday, Mr. Farnall reported a still further decrease in the number of persons in receipt of parochial relief, but he repeated the warning he gave last week against a hasty inference that the figures of his return indicated a sure and progressive revival of trade. This painful qualification was strengthened by remarks which fell from several members of the Committee. Lord Derby said it was unreasonable to hope, that under the most favourable circumstances there could be more than "three days" employment for the operatives

during the present year, and the demand on charitable aid was, therefore "likely to be of very long continuance."—Mr. Stuart Wortley, who has held the offices of Recorder of London and Solicitor General, referred, in the course of his address to the Grand Jury, at the Sheffield quarter sessions, to the great uncertainty which has been imparted to criminal punishments. Referring to the Commission of Inquiry recently issued, he expressed his regret that the Home Secretary had not taken upon himself the responsibility of deciding as to what was necessary to be done. In his opinion, there was no information to be had on the subject which must not have been within the reach of the Right Hon. Baronet, and he greatly regretted the delay the Commission would involve in applying a remedy to the present state of things. At the same time, the course taken by the Government afforded the certainty of "a full and searching inquiry."—The Haigh murder continues enveloped in mystery. The Government has added £100 to the £200 previously offered by Lord Crawford for the apprehension of the murderer or murderers, and it is further announced that Sir George Grey will advise Her Majesty to grant a free pardon to any person concerned in the crime, other than the actual murderer, who may reveal what the police are now seeking in vain to discover.—The trial of the six persons charged with having been connected with the great robbery of Bank of England paper from the Laverstoke Mills, and with forging Bank of England notes, was brought to a close on Saturday, having lasted four days. Two of the prisoners, Brewer and Cummings, were acquitted, although in the case of the latter, Mr. Justice Byles stated that there could be no doubt that he had been concerned in this great conspiracy, and that he had only escaped by a flaw in the evidence. Griffiths, who seems to have carried on a regular trade in engraving spurious notes, was sentenced to penal servitude for life; Buncher, who was the main agent in putting the forged paper into circulation, to 25 years' penal servitude; Burnett, the man who procured the robbery of the Bank paper, to 20 years' penal servitude; and Williams, a minor member of the gang, to four years of the same description of punishment.—A man named Bucknell, charged with being a fraudulent bankrupt, was brought up at Guildhall, on Saturday. He had undertaken to construct an Italian railway, and he had debts both there and in this country. He took refuge in Italy, with which country we have no extradition treaty, and it was a matter of difficulty to capture him. The Italians, however, who had first put him in goal, next expelled him from their territories, and once across the French frontier, he was at the mercy of our detectives. He was examined on Saturday, on various charges, and was then remanded, bail being refused.—Rev. J. Wood, Incumbent of Clayton-le-Moors, was yesterday committed for trial for forgery.—A fatal collision occurred in the Solent on the morning of the 8th. The Peninsular and Oriental Company's ship *Ceylon* was steaming past Colshot Castle, when she ran into a brig which was being towed out by a steamtug. The brig went down, but the whole of her crew escaped. The tug's funnel was carried away, and falling on a pilot, killed him; while one of the tug's firemen was either knocked overboard or jumped into the water under the impression that all was lost. The poor fellow was drowned. The *Ceylon* suffered considerably from the collision.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The session of the French Cabinet was opened on Monday by the Emperor, and his Majesty delivered his address. As the present is the last session of the Corps Legislatif the Emperor took occasion to review what had been done during the last five years, abroad and at home. He said that though people often attributed to the acts of Sovereigns concealed motives and mysterious combinations, his policy had been simply to augment the prosperity and moral ascendancy of France. He first alluded to the action of France in the various complications in the East, and then passed to the Italian question, stating that the arms of France had defended the independence of that country without abandoning the Pope, whom both honour and engagements obliged him to sustain. Having briefly stated that all difficulties with Spain and Switzerland had been smoothed over, he passed on to the expeditions in China and Cochinchina, and that in Mexico, and in reference to the latter remarked that such events cannot take place without bringing with them some complications. Treaties of commerce, he said, had been completed with England, Prussia, Italy, and Switzerland, and during the five years just elapsed, he had met most of the Sovereigns, and from those interviews friendly relations had arisen which were so many pledges for the peace of Europe. With reference to internal affairs he pointed out that he had endeavoured by a complete amnesty to efface the recollection of past civil discord; that he had enlarged the powers of the great bodies of the state, with guarantees for the liberty of free discussion, and renounced a valuable prerogative in order to enable the Legislative body to control the public expenditure. The armies on land and sea had been reduced, which, with some financial operations had greatly relieved the finances. The Emperor then alluded to the distress caused in France by the war in America, to relieve which a vote of money will be asked for. He had, as was known, made an offer of mediation, but, the great maritime powers not being prepared for such a course he had been forced to postpone his offer. His Ma-

jesty then alluded to the various administrative improvements, and concluded with an exhortation to persevere with him in endeavouring to promote the general welfare of the country. The official papers distributed among the members of the French Legislature state that, while the Emperor has abandoned the project of a joint mediation between the Northern and Southern States of America, in consequence of the refusal of England and Russia to join with him in his overtures of conciliation, His Majesty has informed the Cabinet of Washington that he is still ready to mediate, provided the American Government desires that France should facilitate the task of peace, either alone or collectively, in whatever form may be pointed out to her. With regard to the French expedition to Mexico, these official papers also tell us that the Mexican question has entered an entire military phase, of which it will be requisite to await the issue."—The Legislative Body, on Tuesday, entered on its duties, the Duke de Mory giving an inaugural address, and of course taking a very favourable view of affairs. A French blue book has just made its appearance, giving an exposition of the situation of the Empire. This official document, however, has the common fault of official papers—that of elaborating unimportant matters and slurring over those of which we are very anxious to hear the particulars.—The British Government, it seems, has made some very just complaints about the arming of Austrians and Bavarians in Rome to be despatched into the Neapolitan provinces. The French Government promised to look into the matter; but it seems almost superfluous to say that the French Ambassador in Rome reported that he had made inquiries and could not find out anything about the armaments. The stay and the conduct of Francis II. in Rome have also been matter of diplomatic remonstrance from England to France; but the French Government, while regretting that the ex-King should remain in Rome, declares (not very unreasonably) that it is unable to interfere directly in order to bring about his departure.—The Upper House of the Danish Rigsdag, or Parliament for the separate affairs of the kingdom proper, has resolved, by a majority of 32 to 1, to present an address to the Crown, calling upon it to firmly resist the demands of Germany. The proposition was opposed by the Minister of the interior, upon the grounds—first, that it was not competent for the Rigsdag, a body charged only with pure provincial matters, to interfere in questions affecting the whole monarchy; and secondly, that it was equivalent to a declaration of want of confidence in the Ministry. These views, however, found, as the division shows, but one supporter.—A Greek journal of the 1st inst. gives a singular illustration of the tenacity with which the people of Greece cling to the hope that they may yet secure Prince Alfred as their King. On Mr. Elliot's arrival at Athens, he was waited upon by a deputation from a club, from which he received an address. In acknowledging this compliment, he was obliged to tell them that they could not have Prince Alfred, and that they had better make up their minds to elect Dom Ferdinand of Portugal. He endeavoured to soothe their feelings by promising them the Ionian Islands, but the president of the club replied that while the proffered cession was accepted with gratitude, "Greece is more in need—at all events just now—of an honourable and sincerely constitutional Prince than of an increase of territory. He added, that he feared that this refusal to allow Prince Alfred to accept the throne would give rise to serious troubles, not only in Greece, but throughout the East. The Greeks, says the same journal, intend to maintain the candidature of the Prince, and, if it be deemed necessary, to send a deputation to London to plead their cause. Dom Ferdinand of Portugal is said to have definitively rejected the proposal that he should become a candidate for the vacant throne of Greece. The inhabitants of the Ionian Islands, it seems, are not particularly pleased with the idea of being turned over to Greece. The measure has pleased the opposition party, but the bulk of the population view with alarm the loss that will ensue on the withdrawal of the English fleet and garrison, the High Commissioner and the officials, besides many merchants, proprietors of houses, and retailers, involving a money expenditure in the island of more than half a million sterling. At Corfu a proposed address thanking the English Government for their offer to cede the Ionian Islands to Greece, has been abandoned, as opposed to the wishes of the principal merchants of Corfu.

AMERICA.—By the arrival of the *Scotia* and *Etna* we have news to the 3rd inst. They bring President Lincoln's anxiously-awaited proclamation on the subject of slavery. This document proclaims Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, the two Carolinas, and portions of Virginia and Louisiana to be in rebellion, and the whole of the slaves in those states and parts of states are, therefore, declared to be henceforth free. The slaves are enjoined to abstain from violence, "unless in necessary self-defence," and it is intimated that negroes of "suitable condition" will be received into the armed service of the Federal Government. The President invokes "the considerate judgment of mankind and the favour of God" upon this measure, which he believes to be "an act of justice warranted by the Constitution and by military necessity." Governor Seymour, of New York had delivered his inaugural speech. Mr. Seymour has commenced his reign by ordering the Police Commissioners and the Police Superintendent of New York to be put upon their trial on a charge of having permitted the use of the police stations for "the illegal detention of citizens." The President has recognised the new State formed out of Western Virginia. There was a report that Stonewall Jackson had attacked General Sigel's corps in the neigh-

bourhood of Stafford Court House, which ended in his drawing a portion of the corps into an ambuscade, and making many prisoners. The news of the movements in the South-west are very puzzling. It appears certain, however, that General Grant's advance on Vicksburg has been stopped, and that he has been obliged to fall back, and as the Federal pickets at Memphis had been driven in, it is likely we shall hear of the capture of that city by the Confederates. The Confederate General Morgan, after capturing Elizabeth Town in Kentucky, and cutting the railroad between Louisville and Nashville, is reported to have been defeated near Bardstow, and to have moved eastward. A battle had been opened at Mufreesboro', Tennessee, and had been attended, so far, with enormous loss on both sides. The fighting seems to have extended over the 31st of December, and the two first days of the new year, and, at the date of the latest advices, it was still going on. Four Federal regiments are reported to have lost half their men, and the whole of their officers, while three of the Northern generals were wounded. The Confederate loss was still greater, their killed including, it was rumoured, two generals—the first and second in command. The Federal expedition against Vicksburg—a city built on a high bluff on the Mississippi—had, according to accounts from Richmond, proved a failure up to the 29th ult. The Federals are said to have thrice attempted to carry this commanding position, but to have been repulsed on each occasion with serious loss. The premium on gold had risen to the extraordinary figure of 34½. President Jefferson Davis had issued a proclamation, which, among other things, declares General Butler to be a felon and an outlaw, and gives a horrid picture of the atrocities perpetrated by him. The Southern President also declares that Butler's officers shall be considered as robbers and outlaws, that the privates shall be regarded as mere instruments used for the commission of crimes, and that all negro slaves captured in arms shall be delivered to the executive authorities of their respective states, to be dealt with according to the laws of those states.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The news brought by the Overland Mail from Calcutta to the 8th ult. is of no general importance, being nearly confined to commercial matters. In China, as usual of late, the proceedings of the rebels occupy a prominent position. A battle had taken place between them and Colonel Burgevine, (Ward's successor), having under him a force of 1000 drilled Chinese. The rebels were strongly entrenched at a place called Pao-Kong, not far from Kahding. Colonel Burgevine gave orders to storm the place, which was gallantly done, and after an hour the rebels were driven out. The Chinese exhibited great bravery, which shows that under English officers they will make good soldiers. Great preparations were being made by the Imperial Government for the capture of Nankin. The rebels were again in the neighbourhood of Shanghai.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

We have been requested to again publish the following:—

The committee on Grand Lodge Property, with the desire to give every Brother an opportunity of expressing his views on the important subject entrusted to them, will be perfectly ready to consider suggestions from any Brethren, whether in London or the Provinces, who may have interested themselves in the subject of the appropriation of Grand Lodge Property and are desirous of expressing their opinion thereon. It will, of course, be understood that the Committee do not, by this, invite suggestions as to details of plans or designs, because these will hereafter come legitimately within the province of architects, but suggestions as to the general principles to be borne in mind in considering the whole subject; and especially—

First. The nature and form of the buildings which shall include the accommodation requisite.

a. For the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, and the Executive generally.

b. For Private Lodges and Chapters.

c. For individual Members of the Craft; e.g. Library, Reading Rooms, Coffee Room, &c.

d. For the Tavern purposes.

Second. The maximum amount of cost which it would be prudent and justifiable to incur.

To these may, with advantage, be added any suggestions as to the best means of making the Masonic and the Tavern portions as separate and distinct as possible, and as to the returns for outlay which may reasonably be expected for the increased accommodation provided under the heads b, c, and d.

All communications should be made in writing and addressed to the Grand Secretary, and as the work of the Committee is now actively progressing, it is most desirable that they should be sent in on or before the 7th February.

K. S.—Must excuse us if we decline to reply until he gives us some proof that he is a Mason.

J. W.—You have no claim to office if, as you admit, you only attended your duties once during the past year.

J. H.—We have not seen the work to which you allude. If it was worth anything, we have no doubt it would have been sent to us.

P. M.—Should send the warrant to his lodge.