

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1863.

SECESSION FROM THE SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

(From our Scottish Correspondent.)

What we have hitherto written of as being a threatened secession from the Supreme Chapter, has now been consummated by the erection, in Glasgow, of what its promoters are pleased to designate the "General Grand Royal Arch Chapter for Scotland and the Colonies;" and, in order to strengthen their position, widen their sphere of influence, and obtain a show of recognition by some independent body, the schismatics have, we understand, through their "emissaries" in Ayr, opened negotiations with the heads of the only other unrecognised Masonic body in Scotland, viz., the Early Grand Encampment, an association consisting of some four or five encampments practising Royal Arch, Knight Templary, and about a score of side degrees, in Ayrshire, and among the mining population of Wishaw in Lanarkshire. The Early Grand will, we think, best consult their own interest by remaining aloof from the proposed amalgamation with the "General Grand." If the many advantages arising from recognition as regular Royal Arch Masons, fail to induce the Early Grand to surrender their independence, and come into the bosom of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, is it to be supposed that they will permit themselves to be cajoled into union with a body who can offer no such advantages, and whose claims for recognition as independent Royal Arch Masons cannot for a moment be compared with those which could be advanced in favour of the Early Grand, and who, a few months ago, would have spurned the very thought of being found under the same roof with those whose countenance they now so humbly court, and for whose prosperity they profess to entertain such an unfeigned regard. The men who can so unscrupulously ignore their solemn obligations to their head in Royal Arch Masonry, rather than be curbed in their tyrannical and persecuting policy towards those who did not choose to be cyphers, merely that a few Masonic quacks should monopolise the chief seats of Masonic honour and power in the west of Scotland, are not likely to be less scrupulous in their dealings with the Early Grand whenever its interest could be supposed to militate against Glasgow supremacy. The rank and file of the Early Grand know this, and have their eyes upon those of their number, who are being tampered with by the agents of the schismatics, and who must of necessity consult their constituents before in any way attempting to compromise their position as members of an institution priding themselves upon never having broken any

obligation come under to the parent body, but whose independence, according to their own showing, was constitutionally won, and acknowledged by the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland before its incorporation with the Grand Conclave of High Knight Templars of that country.

While the renegades are busy with the multifarious cares attendant upon their new position, Supreme Grand Chapter, without at all recognising them in their capacity of assumed independence, now call upon the ringleaders of the revolt and their supporters to show cause why they should not be expelled the Order, and within a few days will have passed upon the rebels from their authority the highest punishment possible, for any Masonic Grand Body to inflict.

The Supreme Grand Chapter continue to receive assurances of the most cordial support from the remnant members of the few chapters which, by a plurality of votes, have joined the rebel standard. Meetings are being held for the purpose of taking up the relinquished charters, and there is every prospect of peace and concord very speedily being restored to the Order, which has of late been so much disturbed, because of its governing parent's protection of one of the subordinate chapters, against the unparalleled oppression of a few headstrong and injudicious officials connected with the formerly existing Provincial Grand Chapter of the Western province.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LXII.

XI.—JUNO AND JANUARY.

In referring to the ignorance of mankind at the period of which we have been writing, it does not follow that letters were unknown, but rather that, in consequence of the confounding of language, written or engraven words were few, and by a few only comprehended. The Alexandrian library, said to have been destroyed by command of the Caliph Omar, A.D. 640, may have contained works and records of dates far more distant in the universe of letters than any now considered apocryphal on European authority. Indeed, during the long interval from the confusion at Babel to the time of Moses we may reasonably conclude there had been a written language appertaining to the Hebrew; and we may venture to believe that Melchizedek, King of Salem, the priest of the most high God, about B.C. 1970, had his priestly scribes and inscribed tables of ordinances conformable with some roll of secret instruction. There is so great a similarity in the formation of the letters of many different alphabets as to be indicative of one source, and these diversities of syllables and sounds a living witness to the truth of the dispersion of tongues.

Nevertheless, if we strive to acquire information beyond the limits assigned to the commencement of written history we at once pass into the regions of fable and conjecture; and yet, nevertheless, they may rest upon more solid foundation than fancy. The

most ancient and undeniable records of established truth, the Books of Moses, open with the account of the beginning of the world, and were composed upwards of 3300 years since. About 900 to 1000 years later, Confucius, the Chinese Philosopher, and Herodotus, the earliest of the heathen historians, whose works have come down to us, flourished.

The Chinese language can scarcely be said to subsist in an alphabet, its orthography consisting more in the placing of words than the joining of letters, as each symbol more or less comprises a word, or its part as a syllable. Consequently as the numeral 2 signifies certain letters, and the numeral 3 signifies certain other letters when spelt in any language, the Chinese characters are shown to constitute an universal form of communication in the same way as the Arabic figures form an universal table of multiplication.

But ages before the *Lekey-Lyking* or any of the books of Confucius, the *Zend Avesta* had been compiled, and for more than a century beyond the era of Herodotus, the religion of Zoroaster, king of Bactria, who was the first expounder of the doctrine of magic to the Persians, had been dominantly established throughout Western Asia, that is, from the reign of Cyrus, B.C. 559. The Parsees, or as some term them Farsis, from *Fars*, the old name of Persia, still adhere to their ancient system of religion, as followers of Zoroaster.

It is supposed that the Zend and Parsi, have an origin in common with the language of the Brahmins, while the other old dialect, the Pehlvi of the Magi, is more relatively connected with the Chaldaic. The *Alcoranus* or *Alkhoran* was written in Persia, about the commencement of the 7th century. The language is so soft that Mahomet it is said (though more likely for the sake of its cultivation) assured his followers it would be spoken in Paradise. It appears to be a compound of Parsi and Arabic, and, with the exception of four three-pointed letters, its characters are Arabic.

The most eminent Pundits or Brahmins, learned in the laws, and of unblemished reputation, have produced authorities for some of the decrees inserted in the Hindoo code, from documents written "millions of years" before the time of Adam, which, according to our usual reckoning, must have been 5807 years ago, although, perhaps, we ourselves should fix the diluvian epoch at about B.C. 1863 only. In either respect we cannot, therefore, but suspect that the very learned priests of India have substituted, or at least mistaken days for years in their interpretations of numerals, belonging to both a long disused, and unintelligible language. And notwithstanding, we are to conclude that the Hindoos possess dissertations concerning their judicial legislation of more remote date than is to be met with in any other country, proved, beyond doubt, by their having been written in the Sanscrit language, which has not been spoken for many ages throughout Hindostan, still, as the Pundits have always been well acquainted with that language, the proof, beyond doubt, admits of a disquisition. Yet, even so, there is no disputing the evidence of an extremely remote civilisation of Hindostan. Those who have carefully examined the Hindoo code, manifest their surprise at the sustained minuteness and nicety of its details and distinctions on points of philosophical policy, which appear in many instances to have escaped the

attention of European administration. Also it is stated that some of its regulations, which evince the utmost sense of refinement, were arrayed in periods of surpassing antiquity; as, for instance (mainly resting upon what we have said),—"In the Sacred Law Tracts," says Sir William Jones in his *Asiatic Researches* (p. 428, code c. xxi.), "which the Hindoos suppose to have been revealed by Menu some millions of years ago, there is a curious passage on the legal interest of money, and the limited rate of it in different cases, with an exception in regard to adventurers at sea—an exception which the sense of mankind approves, and which commerce absolutely requires, though it was not before the reign of Charles I. that our English jurisprudence fully admitted it in respect to maritime contracts." The compendium on Hindoo adjudication in the *Ajeen Akbery*, devised by Akber VI. and his enlightened vizier Abul Fazel, about A.D. 550, is considered the first general communication of its tendencies towards others of a different religion. It is, however, to the renown, as well as by the authority of Hastings, that the most erudite Brahmins of the provinces under his governorship were assembled at Calcutta, A.D. 1771, subject to his inspection, to compile from their most ancient and reliable authors, sentence by sentence, word for word, a complete code of the Hindoo laws. This truly valuable work so fully explanatory of the customs, manners, and policy of India, occupied the assiduous attention of its learned labourers for upwards of two years entirely to accomplish it. But ancient nations, claiming no boast to one iota of such extravagant antiquity, have passed from states of barbarism into empires of supreme civilisation, and wealth, and power; yet the most magnificent monuments of their commemorated glory are sunk beneath decay and are crumbling into dust; of the seven wonders of the world (structures not only of skill, grace, and beauty, but of enormous strength and size), the pyramids alone remain. Now in India, every part of it, it is said, there are to be found two descriptions of monuments of the highest antiquity, namely, edifices that were consecrated to religion, and fortresses that were erected for the defence and safety of the country. The general name given by Europeans, to the former, is that of Pagodas. In the diversity of their style there is ample evidence of an architecture explanatory of its gradual developement, the suitable progress of the arts and sciences, and the habits and occupations of a people to which, at different periods, it belonged. At first the Pagodas appear to have been imitations of caverns, or mere excavations made in mountains; and which were probably nothing more than aboriginal shelters from night dew, excessive heat, and the inclemencies of the air and seasons. Yet almost in the same breath we are told that the most celebrated, and believed to be the most ancient of any, is the Pagoda, or Hindoo Temple, in the island of Elephanta, a few miles distant from Bombay. This stupendous work of manual dexterity and labour, whose high place lies midway up a lofty mountain, is hewn out of a solid block of work to the extent of nearly one hundred and twenty square feet. Adapted to the support of its roof from the weight of the mountain that towers above, massive, but far from inelegant pillars have been left and cut out of the same rock, at such uniform distances as to present to the spectator a charming appearance of

united beauty, strength, and durability. Statues, in relievø, of gigantic size and singular forms, exemplified by various symbols, mysteriously adorn its interior, and represent, it is supposed, the attributes and actions of the deities and heroes whom they most constantly confided in, and worshipped and admired.

WHAT FREEMASONRY IS.

AN ADDRESS TO A NEWLY INITIATED BROTHER, BY
BRO. H. B. WHITE, W.M. OF THE LODGE OF
LIGHTS (No. 173), WARRINGTON.

The ceremony of your initiation is now at an end; you have had delivered to you the authorised charge, and such parts of the ancient charges as relate to your Masonic conduct in the lodge at home and abroad, and so far all has been carried out in strict accordance with a prescribed formula, that certain invaluable and incomparable landmarks might never be omitted or departed from; but Masonry is so infinite in its application and teachings, that it is wisely left to the discretion of its presiding officers, to add anything by way of illustration or admonition, that may appear advisable, provided, of course, that in all things the ancient landmarks are respected.

My particular object in thus addressing you, is to prevent your leaving the lodge this evening, with any of the mistaken impressions frequently entertained by newly made Masons. I would not have you go away with the idea that you have been fooled, or that any one portion of the recent ceremony is unmeaning or introduced for the mere purpose of mystification. Freemasonry is truly a system of morality veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols, and the most apparently trivial incident, both in your preparation and initiation, has its deep and hidden meaning. It is not reasonable to expect that you should at first sight, penetrate the outer or allegorical symbol, but I trust you will make it your business, as a Mason, to arrive at these hidden meanings. Another and a most fatal delusion I would guard you against, is that of entertaining the idea, that the information imparted to you this evening, has made you a Freemason. After my efforts to impress you with the importance of the ceremony, such a warning from me may create some astonishment in your mind, but what I would imply is, that Masonry is not a mere matter of secret ceremonies, it is something far higher and holier than these. A man may have attained to the highest honours the Craft can bestow, and be perfectly up in all its lore and working and yet be as far from being a Freemason as he was before his initiation, and unfortunately there are too many who may be classed in this category. The rites and ceremonies of Freemasonry, are essential to its existence—they form the outworks whereby its treasures are, as they ought to be, guarded from the unworthy, and, therefore, cannot

under any circumstances be dispensed with; but true Masonry exists in the heart, and is composed of brotherly love, relief and truth, and that heavenly consummation of all virtues, charity, so beautifully explained in the volume of the sacred law, as “bearing all things, hoping all things, believing all things, enduring all things, and thinking no evil,” and it is to the practice of this virtue that your Masonic efforts should ever tend, not only in its common acceptation of pecuniary relief, but as embracing true brotherly love to the full extent inculcated in the sacred writings. Initiation alone, never did, nor never can, make a man a true Mason; it gives the key, but the mere possession of the key does not constitute ownership of the treasure; it sows the seed, but unless the soil be good, and carefully cultivated, fruit will not be produced; it opens the portal, but unless the road be traversed the goal cannot be attained; it lays the foundation, but without labour the superstructure cannot be raised. So this evening we have given you the key, we have sown the seed, opened the portal, and laid the foundation; it is for you, with such assistance, as amongst Masons can always be obtained by seeking for it in the proper quarter, to complete the work, and I sincerely trust that in this you will not be found wanting.

Finally, whilst charging you not to undervalue Freemasonry, I would beg you to remember that it is a human institution, and as such necessarily imperfect, and liable to error; do not be disheartened, (disappointed you naturally will be) if you find some who profess its tenets, but do not act up to its teaching. You will probably frequently hear our noble science ridiculed by the unenlightened world, and stigmatised as a childish mystery, and a pretension to superior excellence, covering only secret revels and excesses. Treat such ridicule with contempt, and answer it only by acting up to your profession. A man who ridicules that of which he cannot, by any possibility, know anything, stultifies himself, and is unworthy of notice. But, alas, you will find unworthy members of the fraternity; some, who abuse its privileges; some, who from their own inherent baseness, are unable to appreciate its beauties, and convert its moments of social relaxation into occasions of debauch; and others, who, from their mental powers being too dense to enable them to penetrate beyond the exterior, consider Freemasonry as mysterious nonsense. If you meet with any such, console yourself with the reflection that there ever have been, and whilst time lasts, ever will be such men in every human institution, and if you are well read in the great light of Masonry, you will call to mind instances where holier ordinances have been similarly profaned and misunderstood, and so you will be led to understand that Freemasonry is not to be blamed for the misdeeds and short-comings of some of its predecessors.

I will not detain you with any further observations, but merely, in conclusion, express a hope that the proceedings of this evening will never be effaced from your memory, and that by your life and actions, you will, in all things, prove to the uninstructed world at large, how ennobling, excellent, and enlightened an institution is that of the Free and Accepted Masons.

THE GEOLOGY OF THE HIGHLANDS, &c.

Sir,—Under the above title an article of mine appeared in your paper of 30th September, 1861, giving an outline of a Neptunian system of geology, differing in many respects from all others. By this theory it is assumed that our globe was gradually condensed from nebular matter; the irregular outline of hills and valleys being the effects of an irregular flow of the ocean at the period that the different geological formations were being deposited; the stratified rocks being deposited in flowing waters (some of them being chemical, others the waste of previous formations), whilst the unstratified, or those rocks that have been erroneously ascribed to submarine volcanic actions, were precipitated in the crystalline form, in spaces of quiet waters, and were brought to a state of rest, by various modes of opposing flows meeting and balancing each other, and the type, or external form of such unstratified rocks are determined by the form under which the opposing flow meet.

As the origin of the unstratified rocks is the cardinal point betwixt the Plutonian geologist and myself, the point that will prove the truth of the system propounded by Dr. Hutton, or the Neptunian system propounded by me, I beg you will be so kind as to permit me, through the medium of your journal, to state more clearly than in my former letter, the origin of the unstratified rocks.

In my former letter I gave examples of four modes by which four distinct types of unstratified rocks were formed; each type differing in structure and external form from the others. On this occasion I will confine myself to two examples that are generally well known, viz., Edinburgh Castle rock and Dumbarton Castle rock, which differ from each other in external form and structure. Let me here premise that the above-named rocks were formed contemporaneously with the carboniferous formations, and that the ocean's level was higher than those formations, the nebular or elementary matter having not yet chemically combined, consequently, the volume of the semi-fluid, and gaseous ocean, was greater than at a subsequent period, the higher parts of the primary regions were alone above the ocean's level, the lower hills being a mass of breakers during this period, from the lateral pressure of the ocean on the west side of the Grampians; side currents were forced east through and the valleys and passes of the Grampians. The currents from the Forth, Venacher, &c., conjoined, flowing eastward, betwixt the Touch hills, on the S.W., and the Ochils on the N.E. of Stirling, carrying down the waste of the highlands, and cutting its way through the westward flow of the ocean. In the conflict betwixt the easterly flow of the current, and the westerly flow of the ocean, in many parts we may presume that the opposing flows balanced each other, and that spaces of water were brought to a state of rest betwixt them, and where the opposing flows balanced each other, the matter in solution was precipitated in the crystalline form, in the whole space of quiet water, and as the spaces of quiet water would have different shapes according to the forms that opposing flows balanced each other; thence the difference in external form of the unstratified rocks. The site of Edinburgh Castle rock, being one of the places where the ocean current, flowing down the track of the valley of the Forth, and the westerly flow of the ocean, balanced each other, and brought a space of water betwixt the flows to a state of rest, in this space of quiet water the unstratified rock of the castle was gradually precipitated in the crystalline form, and thus the crystalline foundation was laid; the sea in its slower westerly flow, deposited the sand against it, drifting easterly from the crystalline rock, whilst the more rapid flow of the current from the west, deposited no sand on the west side, but rushed past the crystalline deposit with redoubled force, preventing the deposition of sand in its track: thence the origin of the north Loch, now Princes-street Gardens, and the Cowgate of Edinburgh. A chemical head indurated the mass, where the sandstone and crystalline rock were

in contact, and electro-chemical action, consequent upon the contact of dissimilar surfaces, changed both to a harder and more brittle condition at the junction than they were at a distance.

I will now briefly give the second example. Contemporaneously with the above, a current flowed west from the primary hills of the South East of Scotland, filling the whole valley of the Clyde; at the same time another current flowed south, by Loch Lomond, filling the whole valley of the Severn, and flowing directly into the side of the superior ocean current of the Clyde. The inevitable consequence of such a conflict was a recoil in the weaker current of the Severn, so as to bring a space of water to a state of rest in the centre of the Severn current, a short distance behind the point of contact, betwixt the opposing currents; further, the shape of the water at rest would likely have a triangular shape, such is the shape of Dumbarton rock. In this space of quiet water Dumbarton rock was precipitated in the crystalline form, the current flowing past on each side of the quiet water, but too rapid to permit the deposition of sand, thence the isolation of Dumbarton rock. Had the Severn current, instead of flowing directly into the side of the Clyde, flowed south-west, so as to enter the Clyde slanting, no such phenomena as Dumbarton rock would have existed.

I do not ask any one to adopt the above views, further than they are warranted by facts, but it is folly to meet them with the opinions of eminent men, whose arguments in favour of the volcanic origin of the above class of rocks, I have examined and found wanting. The only rational way of combating me, is by bringing forward geological facts at variance with the theory I have propounded. For instance, the type of unstratified rocks like the Castle rock of Edinburgh can only be formed in, and beside valleys that have their outlets from primary regions eastward, such as in the valley of the Forth. It is impossible upon my theory such type could be formed in valleys whose outlet from the primary regions is westward, such as in the valley of the Clyde; because, in this instance, the current flowing west, and the ocean flowing west, of course there could be no such conflict between opposing flows, in the valley of the Clyde as in the valley of Forth. Now, if a type can be produced in the valley of the Clyde like the castle rock of Edinburgh, I will at once confess my theory to be unsound, or if a reason can be given why similar types could not be erupted in valleys having a westerly outlet to those that were erupted in valleys having an easterly outlet, let that reason be given. Again, if a type like Dumbarton rock can be shown, excepting where two valleys or two rivers meet, such as in the instance of the Clyde and the Severn, I at once confess my theory to be untenable; further there is a remarkable type of unstratified rock at Drummond Castle, near Crieff, that differs in external form and structure from both the above types. Now it is impossible upon my theory, that a type like that near Crieff, could be formed in either the valleys of the Forth or Clyde, but if my opponents can produce one instance of a similar type in any of the above-named valleys, I at once retire from all geological contests.

JAMES DRUMMOND.

Crieff, February, 1863.

A NIGHT IN THE CATACOMBS OF THE NILE.

No feature in the mental idiosyncrasy of the Egyptians is so striking as their passion for excavating, burrowing, and building under ground. Half the lives of the thoughtful classes of the community, who were so numerous and influential as to impress their peculiarities on the whole nation, was passed in subterraneous apartments, nominally constructed for the reception of the dead, but in reality, for the use of the living, who loved the grim silence and solitude which the company of mummies and the perpetual presence of death insured to the frequenters of the tombs. Accordingly there is scarcely a mountain,

rock, or precipice, on any portion of the Nilotic valley, or of the desert bordering upon it, which does not contain suites, more or less spacious, of sepulchral chambers adorned with sculpture, painted in brilliant and gorgeous colours, abounding with symbolical representations with deep shafts, long corridors, endless flights of steps descending, rounding, branching off into the bowels of the earth, with here and there niches for coffins, carved and decorated divans for the living, and beautiful tables running along the wall on which to arrange the wines, fruits, and viands designed to comfort and exhilarate the worship of Isis and Osiris.

Once while rowing about the waters of Nubrid, we learned that there existed far out in the desert, something which our informants called a ruin, though whether below or above the ground, they were unable to decide. Respecting its exact distance from the river they were equally uncertain, some estimating it at one hour, some at three or more. Arriving shortly after dark at the village which was to form our starting point, we found the whole population asleep, or determined to appear so, with the exception of four young men whom we heard while groping our way through the dusky streets or rather lanes, talking and laughing in a ruinous unlighted building. Our Arab servants, who cherished strong prejudices against all inhabitants of the black countries, argued that they must be murderers or at least brigands, otherwise they could have no motive for sitting together in the dark after all honest people were in their beds. But brigands or no brigands, they would probably consent for money to become our guide, which, when we had knocked and made known our wishes, they cheerfully did. It must be said for wild and Eastern men in general, that they seldom profess knowledge when conscious of ignorance, so that if they undertake to conduct you to any place, you may be tolerably certain they are familiar with the road, though about distances their ideas are often extremely misty. On the present occasion our difficulties were multiplied by the circumstance, that the guides understood not one word of Arabic, while, with the exception of an ignorant river pilot, we were all equally unacquainted with the Noubah language. Scanty and unsatisfactory, therefore, was our inter-communication, but as they affirmed unhesitatingly that they could lead us to the ruins of which we were in search, we bade them move on and followed. Soon the village was left behind, and the desert entered upon—the desert, vast, monotonous, lighted up by the most brilliant moon—its sand hills piled up and modelled by the winds, clothed in some places with tamarisk or the Oriental willow, alternating at intervals with barren rocks rising into peaks, or cloven into vast fissures, through which we wound our way, immersed at times in deep shadow, with the yawning mouths of caverns on either hand. Out attendants, little used to walking over deep sand or rugged rocks, presently became tired, and their weariness, perhaps, induced them to question us as to whether or not we had brought our fire-arms with us, since they apprehended that our guides might possibly have a design upon our lives, as they often whispered together and laughed. Our rifles, our pistols, and even our daggers had been left behind, so that had the Nubians intended mischief, they had an excellent opportunity, but they entertained no such idea, and at length, after a weary march of at least three hours, stopped at the foot of a low mountain, declaring us now to be in presence of the object of which we were in search. As neither column, nor obelisk, nor wall, nor gateway, anywhere appeared, we began to suspect they were really mocking us, and being roused to madness to anger, fiercely demanded what they meant. The men then with their spears pointed to an Egyptian cornice cut in the rock, and all but covered with sand, which, kneeling down, they vigorously removed with their hands, till they laid open a small doorway, through which, being the most eager of the party, I forced my way, and like the Egyptian deity, Agatho-demon, wriggled into a hole.

Once entered, I beheld by my wax taper one of the most astonishing sights I had ever witnessed. Standing on the sand mounds blown in by the winds, my head nearly touched the roof, which was completely instinct with life: myriads of small creatures with sooty wings, open mouths, and glittering bead-like eyes, hung quivering and trembling from the rock, detaching themselves gradually, and darting madly hither and thither in the unaccustomed light. Leaving my companions to work their way through the sand at leisure, I advanced with more than my wonted caution into the cavern. Nor was caution at all unnecessary, for I had not proceeded many yards before a large square mummy pit yawned before me. Into this I threw a stone, and by its frequent bounding and rebounding from side to side, conjectured that the depth of the shaft could not be less than seventy or eighty feet. After warning my friends of the danger, I skirted the pit, and then paused in profound admiration of the grandeur, extent, and magnificence of this subterranean palace, constructed by the lavish industry of the Egyptians, in an out-of-the-way mountain, which they, who quenched their thirst at the Nile, could have seldom had occasion to visit, unless, which is not improbable, all this portion of the wilderness had been rendered fertile by their genius and energy. The tamarisks, the willows and the mimosas, still growing on the hillocks and hollows, testified to the practicability of such a transformation.

After gazing round me for several minutes, I discerned a square opening in the rock, leading to a lower suite of apartments, and after estimating the depth, which seemed to be from fifteen to eighteen feet. I leaned forward with my hands on the sides of the opening, and leaped down, followed by a torrent of bats, all apparently intent upon extinguishing my wax taper, and at length, to my no little annoyance, succeeded. They now considered they had got me all to themselves, and as I stooped to grope about for the candle, I felt them sprawling thick upon the ground, and put my thumb and fingers into their open mouths, while others of the brethren crawled over my head into my bosom, and down the back of my neck, their cold clammy touch making me shiver with disgust. Into these halls and corridors, no light but that of a torch or taper had ever penetrated since the creation. Around me was the true Egyptian darkness,—a darkness which could be felt, since it weighed upon the spirits, and made the eyeballs strain to catch a glimpse of something visible and tangible. I picked up stones and threw them in various directions, and as, however far they went, they struck against no rock or wall, but always fell on the sandy or stony floor, I conjectured that I stood in the midst of a vast hole, the pavement of which might be pierced with mummy pits or other dangerous cavities. Beginning to be alarmed, since I knew not how to advance or retreat, I shouted with all my might to my companions, who, not knowing what course I had taken, had probably turned off into other galleries, never supposing I could have descended into that chasm. Whether they came to my aid or not, there was one circumstance which inspired me with the hope that I might find an exit from that dismal den, this was a slight current of air which now and then breathed upon me. Exploring the floor carefully, now with my feet, and now with my hands, I moved towards the point from which the air came; but, to my dismay, the little refreshing breeze ceased to blow, and then, a few seconds afterwards appeared to come from behind. I now resumed my former practice of throwing stones, and at length found that they struck against a wall, which turned out, however, when I reached it, to be only the face of a large square pillar, designed to support the weight of the superincumbent mountain. On a low projection of this pillar I sat down to consider what was next to be done. If I sat there till morning, the return of day would not improve my condition. The stones which strewed the floors were too soft to afford the least spark of fire by

collision: all the means of striking a light were with my Arab servants, who, I feared, had given me up for lost, and retreated from the catacombs. At this idea, a bewildering terror came over me, and I rose, and straining my voice to its utmost pitch, sent what resembled a loud roar through the cavern. The echoes took it up and carried it right and left, till it became fainter and fainter, and gradually died away in the distance. Visions and phantasms then took possession of my mind. I beheld the slope of a mountain covered with snow, and in a sheltered nook near its base, a house with children, overlooked by a woman, playing on the green sward before it. A baby lay among the roses near a woman's feet, who alternately gazed at it, and at the page of a book, which it was clear she was not reading. Upon this scene I gazed with deep anguish, since it seemed the last glimpse I should ever obtain of these figures. Fancy then carried me higher up the mountain, towards where the avalanches roll and roar: and, as I mounted, one of the most enormous bulk appeared to be loosened from its seat, and to be launched like lightning down the steep declivity I was toilsomely climbing. It struck, it overwhelmed, it stunned me—I lost all sensation. When I escaped from the folds of this hideous vision, I beheld my Arab servants, each with a light in his hands, standing before me, and enquiring how it happened that I had lost myself, and proceeded to so great a distance in the dark.

It was immaterial. We now found ourselves in an immense excavation, whose sides, pillars, and niches were glowing with strange imagery, painted in bright colours, and representing, as we conjectured, the passage of the soul from earth to Hades. Descending from amidst trees and flowers along a dreary path, the spirit dim and shadowy, almost colourless, followed two wolf-headed conductors into the presence of the subterranean king, who was to pronounce judgement upon it, and assign it an abode, blithe and joyous, or portentously dismal according to the tenor of its career on earth. The spirit in question happening to be one of the fortunate soon passed its examination, and was received by two ladies, who led it by the hand into a place abounding with all those delights upon which the ancient Egyptians set especial value. Wine, fruits, flowers, all sorts of delicious viands, choruses of women, dancing in circles, while others of the same sex played upon golden harps, which, from their open mouths, they appeared to be accompanying with their voices. At this reception the spirit seemed to lose the tenuity of its figure, and was plumped out to respectable dimensions, while its face beamed with joy. Here the artist had stopped short, either because his activity had been arrested by death, or wishing to abandon to the imagination the remainder of the scene. In a sculptured niche, close at hand, we discovered a gorgeously painted coffin, with a face of rare beauty delineated on the lid, having long black sleeping eyes, a straight nose, high forehead, and rich pouting lips, resembling those of a Macedonian rather than of an Egyptian woman; for the chin, too, was Greek, that is exquisitely rounded, dimpled and rising over a neck never surely beheld among the genuine nations of the Nilotic Valley. Should we find the mummy within? And if we did would it answer the flattering indications of the exterior? The discovery was soon made that the coffin had never been opened; and so much like one solid block of wood, had time and thick paint rendered it, that it was with no little difficulty we discovered the point of junction, between the lid and the coffin. The want of hammers and chisels would have rendered our discoveries of no avail had not our Nubian guides drawn forth heavy crooked daggers, from beneath their arm pits. One of which I purchased on the spot and still possess, and suggested the possibility of opening the Sarcophagus with them. This we, at length, did. The mummy, properly speaking, was not visible, having been concealed by a thick investiture of swarths and

bandages, enveloping its folds obliquely, while its face was represented by a printed mask of rare beauty; round the throat was a necklace, and on the breast a chain of gold beads, exquisitely formed and chased, of which we robbed the mummy. We were, however, thieves of some conscience, for after having appropriated the necklace and the beads, with a blue porcelain ring, worn probably in life by the deceased lady, we replaced the lid, and restored the coffin to its niche, and left it either to become a prey to the next travellers from Europe, or to remain there in silence and quietness till the great Osirian resurrection.

It so happens that the Egyptians even in their sepulchres, when the mysteries of life and death are strongly mingled, invest their spirits with their attributes which will be spoken of here. In one place the imagination is borne up to the highest level of the sublime; in another, it is dashed suddenly to earth in the most material way. Bodies mutilated in war are piled before barbarian monarchs, decapitated trunks lie prostrate on the floor, while the heads which have been severed from them, are heaped, grim and ghastly, in a corner. Some attempts are occasionally made to suggest an ethnological distribution of the races whose deeds are celebrated on the walls of these tombs; for where painters were real Egyptians, we find groups of red men driving forward other groups of white, yellow, or black men, as captives or slaves. By the white men they are supposed to have designated their Macedonian masters, in which case the tombs are of recent construction, while the yellow men represent Persian or other Asiatics. A strong objection to this theory, however, is formed in the fact, that among the oldest tombs in Thebes, excavated and painted, in all likelihood before the siege of Troy, groups of white men are discovered who may, therefore, be merely to represent white strangers wrecked by storm on the Egyptian coast, and sold as slaves to the princes and grandees of the Thebaid.

When we had sufficiently examined the paintings, we entered a long corridor, which, after ascending and descending for many hundred yards, terminated in a small chamber, in which we noticed a mummy pit filled with large stones to the top. In the wall was a hole about four feet and a half from the ground, which looked into another tomb, for through it we could discern long suites of painted passages and apartments. After much consultation and many tempting proposals made to the Nubian and Arabs, no one would consent to be thrust through that hole into the neighbouring tomb; some pretended fear of ghosts and spirits, others refused to explain the ground of their apprehensions. I then volunteered, and having been raised to a horizontal position, my head and neck were thrust through the opening in the wall, but no efforts of my friends sufficed to propel my shoulders after them. Growing apparently weary of keeping my body straight, they were on the point of breaking my neck, when by a violent effort I forced back my head out of the opening, and dropped among the piles of rubbish. The twinge I then felt in my spine seems to be renewed as I write, as well as the anger with which I reproached my friends and followers of the disregard of my life. Hunger and fatigue now made me think of a retreat; but it was easier to resolve upon it than to make, for so numerous were the passages, corridors, flights of steps, and suites of chambers we had traversed, that no exit for a long time appeared. At length we arrived in the great hall, whose roof rose into the mountain far beyond the reach of the light afforded by our tapers and torches, as well as of the stones which with strong arms we cast upwards in search of it. It was the opinion of some of our party that, in this instance, the Egyptians had taken advantage of an immense natural cavern in forming this dome, which for height and breadth exceeded the largest cathedrals in the world. Under the impulse of keen appetite, the taste for the picturesque, however, became faint, so, in spite of the

great antiquarian attractions, we hurried towards the adit, and soon found ourselves in the keen, sweet, elastic, refreshing air of the desert. Here we enjoyed a spectacle which threw all the labours of the Egyptians completely into the shade. This was the dawn which was just then beginning to spread its skirts over the Eastern sky. We forgot the dangers we had passed, forgot our hunger, forgot everything, and climbed the rocky pinnacle of the nearest hill to witness the most glorious show which nature has to present. Along the line of the horizon, just where the eastern desert comes in contact with the sky, a bright flush, every moment becoming more and more luminous, surged up into the firmament, changing rapidly from white to yellow, from yellow to deep saffron, from saffron to pink, to crimson, to purple, till the whole mighty arch of the orient heaven becoming one blaze of intermingled colours, flashing, glittering, quivering as if all the auroras of the pole had been suddenly thrown together; not a word escaped the lips of any one present. In silent astonishment, bordering possibly on adoration, Arab, Nubian, and European gazed at the precursors of the sun, beautiful beyond description, thrilling, absorbing, overawing, till the last fiery disc, more resplendant than molten gold, and absolutely blinding through its brightness, thrust up its dazzling rim over the edge of the desert, and in a moment the full day shone upon the earth.

The contrast between the interior of the catacomb, smelling of bats, coffins, mummies, decaying gums, cerecloths, and wood crumbling under the influence of time, and the buoyant, elastic, elysian breezes blowing up the valley, and diffusing themselves softly over the waste, could hardly be surpassed. Yet it is worthy of remark, that there are no deleterious miasmata in Egyptian tombs. No one was ever the worse for breathing the atmosphere they contain. I have slept whole weeks in the midst of coffins, all containing corpses, and never experienced the slightest inconvenience, though the air occasionally appears close, and on that account, and that account only, disagreeable.—*Chambers Journal*.

REVIEWS.

MR. BEETON'S PUBLICATIONS.

Beeton's Illuminated Family Bible is rapidly drawing to a conclusion, 18 out of the 24 parts of which it is to consist having been published. It is beautifully got up, well printed, the notes excellent, and in every way worthy of an extensive sale, to repay the publisher for his spirit and outlay.

The *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* is, as usual, full of valuable information, and the patterns of fancy and useful work render it acceptable in every household.

Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information in Science, Art, and Literature is admirably arranged, and certainly the cheapest Encyclopædia ever produced.

Beeton's Book of Home Games is now devoted to chess and draughts, by Captain Crawley, who lays down the rules with great clearness, and gives plenty of admirable illustrations. The work may be relied on, and every chess player should possess it.

But it is for the boys Mr. Beeton appears most to delight to cater, and we accordingly have before us the *Boys' Own Library*, which is at present occupied with the curiosities of savage life, admirably illustrated, and well told. The *Boy's Own Magazine*, our old friend, is enlarged from a twopenny to a sixpenny serial, and improved to an extent far exceeding the increase in price, there being few shilling periodicals that could compete with it. "Cressy and Poitiers; or, the Story of the Black Prince's Page," is well written, and must interest every boy: the "Adventures of Reuben Davidger" is full of excitement. Birds, beasts, and fishes, replete with valuable information, and the other contents of the two numbers before us will well repay an attentive perusal. But having discontinued his twopenny magazine for boys,

Mr. Beeton has determined not to lose any customers by the increased price, so he has also brought out the *Boy's Penny Magazine*. The literary matter and the illustrations, as in all the other publications of this gentleman, are well selected and executed, and we would particularly commend to attention the "Miner and the Pixies."

The Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund Almanack for 1863. By J. W. ANSON.

This is an admirable little almanack, possessing but one fault—it does not say where it is published; but we believe Mr. Anson is to be found in Bow-street. In addition to all the usual matter to be found in almanacks, it contains a large amount of theatrical information relative to first and last appearances, &c., which cannot fail to interest any playgoer, as well as every actor, be he professional or amateur. Moreover, the object for which it is published—charity—should commend it to all, the profits being devoted to the Sick Fund of the profession of which Mr. Anson is the Honorary Secretary. The whole is beautifully printed by our respected Bro. Arliss, of Great Queen-street.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

DR. THOMAS KNIPE.

As the queries concerning Dr. Thomas Knipe have led to the very valuable and most interesting communications of Bro. Matthew Cooke, I wish to suggest one or two other points for his consideration, as well as to invite other contributions on this subject. There can be little doubt, as Bro. Matthew Cooke justly says, that Dr. Thomas Knipe was no myth, but a *vera persona*. The only question is, was he the writer of that letter or portion of a letter which appears in the preface to the *History of Berkshire*? That book was published, if my reference is correct, in 1719, and Dr. Thomas Knipe died in 1711. Everything, I think, leads us to the conclusion, that if that letter be authentic, it was written by Dr. Thomas Knipe, of course in or before 1711. From the peculiar style of the preface and other internal evidence there seems little doubt but that Aubrey, the writer of the *M.S. History of Wiltshire*, quoted by Mr. Halliwell, was also the writer of the preface to the *History of Berkshire*. Is any correspondence known to exist between Knipe and Aubrey, or between Aubrey and Curll? Is there any collection of Curll's correspondence extant?—A. F. A. WOODFORD, Swillington, Leeds.

ERA OF CHIVALRIC TEMPLARY.

In old Northern Templary, there is a narrative of the career of Peter; his smiting off the ear of the servant of the High Priest, denial of Christ, &c. From the former circumstance the era of chivalric knights appears to be derived. I can find no authority for the term "Masonic Knight Templar," which appears to be of southern origin. I am puzzled by the S.G.B. in the old Manchester warrant, contributed by Bro. H. B. White, is it not a misprint for the initials of Simon surnamed Peter?—△.

R. PARSLEY.

Was R. Parsley a brother?—B. M.—[We have no means of knowing. He published two volumes of songs under the title of *Parsley's Fashionable Lyric Companion*, containing the favourite songs of the season (1787) at public places of entertainment, and "a variety of original pieces sung at the several societies, to whom the publisher presumes to dedicate his endeavours." The dedication, signed "R. Parsley," enumerates the "societies," and commences with the Freemasons, thus:—"To the Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, and the Honourable Societies of Anti-Bourbons, Borough Unions, Neptunes, Independent Frierys and Phætons." The Masonic songs are, "The Virtues of Masonry," "When Earth's Foundation," "Ye Sons of fair Science," "Arise, and blow thy Trumpet, Fame," and many others of a like character.]

MASONIC RHYMES.

Parts of the ceremonies in the last century were delivered in very peculiar and original rhymes, of which the following are examples:—

- Q. What do you come here to do?
A. Not to do my own proper will,
But to subdue my passion still;
The rules of Masonry in hand to take,
And daily progress therein make.
- * * * *
- Q. Can you repeat the letter G.?
A. I'll do my endeavour.
In the midst of Solomon's temple there stands a G.
A letter fair for all to read and see,
But few there be that understand
What means that letter G.
- Q. My friend, if you pretend to be
Of this fraternity,
You can forthwith and rightly tell
What means that letter G.
- A. By sciences are brought to light
Bodies of various kind,
Which do appear to perfect sight;
But none but males shall know my mind.
- Q. The right shall—
A. If worshipful—
- Q. Both right and worshipful I am,
To hail you I command
That you do forthwith let me know,
What you thus understand.
- A. By letters four and science five
This G. aright doth stand
In a due art and proportion;
You have your answer, friend!
- Q. My friend, you answer well,
If right and free principles you discover,
I'll change your name from friend
And henceforth call you brother.
- A. The sciences are well compos'd
Of noble structure's verse,
A point, a line, and an outside;
But a solid is the last.
- * * * *
- Q. An Enter'd 'prentice I presume you've been.
A. and I have seen;
A Master Mason I was made most rare,
With diamond ashlar and the square.
- Q. If a Master Mason you would be
You rightly understand the rule of three?
And shall make you free,
So what you want in Masonry
Shall in this lodge be shown to thee.
- A. Good Masonry I understand;
The keys of all lodges are at my command.

—EX. EX.

THE PILLARS OF STONE AND BRICK.

In the first edition of the *Book of Constitutions* it is stated thus:—"For by some vestiges of antiquity we find one of 'em, godly Enoch (who dy'd not, but was translated alive to Heaven), prophesying of the final conflagration at the day of judgment (as St. Jude tells us), and likewise of the general deluge for the punishment of the world; upon which he erected his two large pillars though some ascribe them to Seth), the one of stone and the other of brick, whereon were engraven the liberal sciences, &c.; and that the stone pillar remained in Syria until the days of Vespasian the Emperor." Where does this tradition derive its origin? I have searched the *Book of Enoch* without finding it.—M.A.

THE CONSTITUTIONS TO BE READ BY CANDIDATES BEFORE INITIATION.

When did that good and wholesome rule become abrogated which declared that the *Constitutions* should be read when the Master shall think fit, "and which the new brethren should peruse before they are made?"—EX. EX.

SCOTTISH TEMPLARY.

The contributions of your correspondent "D.M.L." on this subject have been very interesting; would he inform us of the degrees of which their novitiate is supposed to consist. In England and France the whole system included seven degrees; not including the classes of priests and serving brothers.—Δ.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

Both St. John's are recognised in the French Order of the Temple. The investiture of G.M. takes place "in the name of the most holy Masters, our father St. John the Apostle, and St. John the Baptist." The 1705 Statutes, and the system taught at the same time at York, are so similar that it is not unlikely there was some understanding between them. In one case, however, Masonry was the prominent object, in the other it was concealed.—Δ.

HOSPITALER OR MALTESE, AND TEMPLAR BANNERS.

Hospitaller.—"The banner of the order bore a white cross on a red field; and it was solemnly declared that any knight who should abandon it, or otherwise dishonour himself, should be publicly stripped of the sacred symbol and habit of the fraternity."—*Beeton*, also *Vertot*.

Templars.—"Their banner was of cloth of black and white stripes, called beauceant, an old French word for a black and white or piebald horse. This word became their war cry, and ever struck terror into the hearts of the enemy. The banner bore on it the red cross of the Order, and also the pious and humble inscription, '*Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini tua da gloriam.*'"—*Beeton*, &c.

It will be noticed that the war banner was the beauceant, and that our Scottish brethren are therefore wrong in terming the standard bearer the beaucennifer, that term being applicable to the bearer of the vexillum belli only.—Δ.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

ANTIQUITY OF MASONIC DEGREES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Throughout the discussion with "Ebor" I have endeavoured to avoid personalities, and I have never sneered at either Speculative, or Operative Masonry; I flatter myself I have more respect for either than your correspondent, who, if allowed his own way, would very soon, with reasoning men, destroy the whole system. For the information of those, who are gulled by similar writers, I forward the following from Preston, who asserts that the accounts of the period have been compiled with great care, from ancient MSS. and the books of the Operative Lodge of St. Paul's.

"The Earl of Arlington dying this year (1684) the lodges met in communication, and elected Sir Christopher Wren Grand Master, who appointed Gabriel Cibber, and Mr. Edward Strong his Wardens. Both these gentlemen were members of the old Lodge of St. Paul's, with Sir Christopher Wren, and bore a principal share in all the improvements which took place after the fire of London; the latter in particular displayed his abilities in the Cathedral of St. Paul."

Now we all well know that Sir C. Wren, was not made an Accepted Mason until 1691; what then becomes of "Ebor's" boasted agreement between Operative and Accepted Masonry?

Halliwell was not so ignorant of the true theory of Masonry. Else why the quotation, "in his hand he bore that singular abacus."—*Ivanhoe*.

I remain, fraternally yours,

Δ.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

At the Lodge of Benevolence on Wednesday, 18th inst., Capt. Creaton, J.G.D., in the chair, eleven petitioners were relieved with grants amounting to £116; one was recommended to Grand Lodge for £105, and one £50, together £271. [We shall be surprised if the last recommendation is not contested, a better case never having been before the board.]

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the official agenda of business to be transacted in Grand Lodge, on Wednesday next, 4th March, 1863.

1. The regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during the time of public business will be read.
2. The minutes of the quarterly communication, of the 3rd December, 1862, will be read and put for confirmation.
3. The election of M.W. Grand Master.
4. The election of a Grand Treasurer.
5. The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz. :—

Bro. R. C. C., of the Lodge of Loyalty (No. 402)	
Mottram, Cheshire.....	£40
The widow of the late Bro. S. C. H., of the	
Royal Union Lodge (No. 307), Cheltenham	£30
Bro. W. L., of the Lodge of Light (No. 689),	
Birmingham.....	£105
Bro. the Rev. C. A., of the St. George's and	
and Corner Stone Lodge (No. 5), London...	£50
6. The report of the Annual Audit Committee on the Grand	
Lodge Accounts for the year 1862.	

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

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have received and adjudicated on the following cases, referred to them by the Lodge of Benevolence, viz. :—

1. Against the Druids' Lodge of Love and Liberality (No. 859), Redruth, for certifying that a petitioner had subscribed for six years, whereas the quarterages to the Fund of Benevolence on behalf of the brother in question had been paid for only two years. It being proved to the satisfaction of the Board that the statement had been inadvertently made—the certificate having been filled in from memory, there being no means at the time of referring to the Treasurers's account book—and that no money, the property of Grand Lodge, had been retained, they accepted the explanation, but admonished the Master and Officers of the lodge to be more careful in future.

2. Against the Mersey Lodge (No. 701), Birkenhead, for certifying to the petition of a widow that her late husband had been a contributing member of the lodge for the space of three years, whilst quarterages to the Fund of Benevolence had been paid for only one year and one quarter. The lodge in explanation stated that the late brother had paid his subscriptions very irregularly, that the Treasurer had for the last two or three years been too ill to attend to his duties, and that the Secretary having been frequently changed had led to an error in making out the returns. The lodge, with the explanation, forwarded the arrears that were owing on behalf of the brother. The Board, being satisfied that there had been no wilful intention of keeping back money the property of Grand Lodge,

accepted the explanation, but admonished the Master and Officers of the lodge; and directed them for the future to examine their books carefully before attaching any certificate to a petition for relief.

3. Against the Lodge of Loyalty (No. 402), Mottram, for certifying that a brother had been a regular contributing member for the space of thirty-two years, whilst quarterages to the Fund of Benevolence on behalf of that brother had been paid for twenty years only. It appearing to the Board that the error had arisen from relying on the statement of the petitioner instead of examining the books, and that no money, the property of Grand Lodge, had been retained, accepted the explanation, but admonished the Master and Officers of the lodge to be more careful for the future.

4. Against the Prince Edwin's Lodge (No. 150), Bury, Lancashire, for certifying that a petitioner had been a regular subscribing member for the space of forty-one years, whereas the quarterages to the Fund of Benevolence on behalf of the brother had been paid for only thirty-three years and one quarter. It appearing to the Board that the error had arisen from want of due care in examining the lodge books, the brother in question having ceased to be a member for several years and then rejoined, and that no money, the property of Grand Lodge, had been retained, accepted the explanation; but admonished the Master and Officers of the lodge to be more careful for the future.

(Signed) J. LLEWELLYN EVANS, *President*.

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 13th February instant, shewing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £1567 16s. 9d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £343 7s. 5d.; to the Fund of General Purposes £708 0s. 8d.; and there is in the unappropriated account £566 8s. 8d., a portion of which belongs to the Grand Chapter.

The Report of the Committee on Grand Lodge Property, to the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

"The Committee on Grand Lodge Property" beg to report that they have worked together with great cordiality and unanimity, and they think it only right to add that (with one exception, when one of their number was detained in the country by unavoidable business) every member of the committee has been present during the numerous and lengthened meetings which it has been found necessary to hold in order to the due consideration of the very comprehensive and important subjects entrusted to them.

The committee have carefully examined the title-deeds of the various properties of the Society, and the nature of the trusts by which they are held, and are happy to be able to report that in this respect matters are upon a very satisfactory footing.

The committee, being anxious that every brother who has paid attention to the subject should have an opportunity of expressing his views, have invited communications from the Craft generally, have received and carefully considered the suggestions made, and have had long interviews with some of the brethren.

After the most mature deliberation as to the nature and extent of the work required, and of the cost at which the accommodation consistent with the position and dignity of Grand Lodge and the requirements of a first-class tavern can be provided, the committee have come to the conclusion that the only proper course for their adoption is to offer the designs to open competition, and they have, therefore, issued advertisements in the leading papers, inviting designs from Architects, and,

in accordance with a resolution already sanctioned by Grand Lodge, they have offered the following premiums, viz., £150 for the best, £100 for the second, £50 for the third-best design. They have caused a carefully drawn up paper of instructions to be printed for the use of competing architects, which, together with plans of the site and of the present buildings, can be obtained at the office of the Grand Secretary.

The committee have fixed the 1st of May as the day on or before which designs intended for competition must be sent in.

The labours of the committee, so far as they can at present proceed, were brought to a close on the 7th of February; some little delay on the part of the printer in delivering the plans has occurred, and the remainder of the time is not considered too long to enable architects to give the requisite attention to so important a subject.

The committee have every confidence that they will be enabled to submit the whole subject to the consideration and decision of Grand Lodge in June next, and that a decision being come to the works may be commenced forthwith if Grand Lodge shall so direct.

The committee are most unwilling to recommend any further expenditure for the purchase of additional property; but, after deliberate consideration, they are of opinion that the purchase of a very small property, for the purpose of obtaining an access to the back part of a portion of the premises, may be of great ultimate value to the property of the society, and bearing in mind also that some expenditure may be requisite either for the purpose of compensation, or for the purchase of the interest in unexpired leases, and that the delay consequent upon a future application to Grand Lodge for the necessary grant might be prejudicial, beg unanimously to recommend the following resolution for the adoption of Grand Lodge, viz.:—

“That the committee on Grand Lodge Property be authorised to expend, if they shall see fit, a sum not exceeding £700 in the whole, in the purchase of unexpired leases, in compensation, or in the purchase of property for the purpose of obtaining additional access to certain parts of the premises now held by the society.”

(Signed) JOHN HAYERS, *Chairman.*

9. The Report of Bro. R. P. Harding, Auditor of the Grand Lodge Accounts.

METROPOLITAN.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This old red apron lodge held its usual meeting at the Freemason's Tavern, on Thursday, the 19th inst. The members present were Bros. R. M. Smith, W.M.; Gibbons, S.W.; George Smith, J.W.; L. D. Phillips, S.D.; Matthew Cooke, Sec.; W. Watson and T. A. Adams, P.M.'s; A. H. Hewlett, P.M. and Treas.; J. Alley, Plowright, H. Baker, Anthony, Holland, and George States. The business consisted in passing Bros. Anthony and Holland, and in the nomination of a brother to serve the Grand Stewardship from this lodge, *vice* Bro. John Gurton, whose year expires in April, the unanimous choice of the brethren was Bro. George States, who, in succeeding so good a Mason as Bro. John Gurton, is likely to maintain the credit and efficiency of his predecessor and the Globe Lodge.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 87).—The usual monthly meeting of this distinguished lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel, Wellington-street, Southwark (Bro. S. Spencer's), on Tuesday, Feb. 17. This being the first meeting since the installation night, there was more than an average attendance of brethren, who were anxious to witness the working of the new W.M. Bro. Frederick Walters, W.M., assisted by his officers, Bros. Davies, Harris, Levy, Moore, Goody, Davis, and Watkins, opened the lodge, when the W.M., in an able and efficient manner, raised Bros. Ellis, Wills, Watson, and Mackenzie to the sublime degree of M.M., going through the whole of the ceremony, including the lecture on the tracing board. He then, also, in an equally efficient manner, passed Bros.

Hurrell, Duneyear, and Hopton to the degree of F.C. There being no more candidates present, although several initiations were on the business paper, and time running on, it concluded the business of giving the degrees. On Bro. E. H. Patten soliciting for a Steward for the Girls' School, Bro. E. N. Levy, S.W., offered himself to fill that high and honourable position, and was accepted, the W.M. and Treasurer informing him that he might rely on the sum of ten guineas being voted from the lodge funds to head his list, which they had no doubt would be a heavy one. The Treasurer, in a very suitable address, gave a notice of motion to vote ten guineas to the Boys' School, which would then make the usual amounts which the lodge gives annually to the Charities. It is the custom of this lodge, at the beginning of every year, before spending the lodge funds in banquets, to think of the Masonic Charities, thereby studying the first and chief duty of Freemasonry. It would be well if every lodge would set aside some part of its funds to sustain those noble institutions of the order, viz., the Masonic Charities, and not, as is very frequently the case, ignore them altogether. The business ended, the lodge was closed. There being no banquet, the brethren separated, well pleased in knowing they had been able to fulfil their important duties. Visitor, Bro. E. H. Patten.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 164).—The monthly meeting of this most excellent lodge took place at the Greenwich Lecture Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 18. Bro. W. Scott, M.D., W.M., presided, and the business, consisting of raisings, passings, and initiations, was most excellently performed. In fact, Bro. Dr. Scott is now so well known, and his working so faultless, that it is impossible for any person to excel him. The brethren then adjourned to a splendid banquet at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill (Bro. Moore's). There were several visitors.

LODGE OF TEMPERANCE (No. 198).—The members of this lodge met together at the Plough Tavern, Plough Bridge, Rotherhithe, on Thursday, Feb. 19th. The business consisted of one initiation and one passing, which was ably done. Visitors, E. Stahr, J.W. 1173; J. Rosenstock, 1173.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The ordinary monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Friday evening, the 20th inst. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes were read and confirmed. Mr. George Barton Wheeler, a candidate for initiation, was balloted for and unanimously elected, when he was admitted into the Order, the W.M. performing the ceremony in a very impressive manner. Bros. W. Greaves and Thomas Morris, having passed a very creditable examination, were entrusted, and, afterwards, the lodge having been opened in the second degree, admitted to the mysteries and privileges of F.C. Masons, the ceremony being performed with equal effect to the former. The lodge having been closed to the first degree, the Secretary read several applications on behalf of candidates for the two schools, for the votes of the lodge generally, and of the brethren individually. The W.M. stated that both those Charities would be ably represented at the forthcoming Festivals—the Girls' by Bro. Spooner, P.M. and Sec., and the Boys' by Bro. Robinson, P.M. and W.S. He (the W.M.) would leave the whole influence of the lodge in the hands of those worthy brethren. —Bro. Swan, the immediate P.M., proposed that those brethren should have their hands strengthened by an additional vote of five guineas from the funds of the lodge to each of the Charities—the Girls' School and to the Boys'. The proposition being seconded by the Treasurer, Bro. Watts, P.M., it was carried unanimously. Bro. Watts also proposed that the votes of the lodge in the case of the Boys' School should be given to Bro. Percy Banks, whose father was so well known in Masonry, but not more fully known than sincerely respected, but whom calamity had overtaken in an unexpected hour. Bro. Robinson, P.M., as Steward, seconded the proposition, and said he could fully endorse the remarks of Bro. Watts, for he well knew the worth of Bro. Banks, the former lessee of the Tavern under whose roof the brethren were then assembled. The proposition was carried *nem. con.* Bro. Sheen proposed, with respect to the Girls' School, that the votes of the lodge should be given in favour of the child of Bro. Barrett, who was a V.P. of at least two of the Charities, and who had served as Steward for one or other of the Masonic Festivals something like seven-and-twenty times. Bro. Goldsborough, in seconding the proposition, referred in terms of high praise to the Masonic career of Bro. Barrett, and the services he had rendered to the cause of charity. This proposition was also carried *nem. con.* After some other less important business, the lodge was closed in due form, and

the brethren adjourned at half-past eight to the banquet, which, although the number of brethren was greater than had been anticipated, was of that ample, choice, and substantial form by which Messrs. Elkington and Shrewsbury command the support and patronage of the Craft. The P.M.'s of the lodge present were—Bros. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; J. R. Sheen, E. Spooner, Sec.; H. M. Arliss, M.C.; R. Watts, Treas.; J. Robinson, W.S.; T. W. J. Goldsborough, M.D.; J. Dyer, and C. Swan. The cloth having been drawn, the W.M. gave the toast "The Queen and the Craft," making some appropriate remarks upon the event to take place before the next meeting of the lodge, and fraught with so much interest to the Royal family, and, in fact, to the whole nation. "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of the Order," also received a due share of praise from the W.M. for his unabated exertions in promoting the welfare of the Craft, and the prosperity of its charities. "The Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, past and present," was, as is usual in the Jordan Lodge, coupled in particular with the name of the father of the lodge, Bro. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B., who replied in a few brief but appropriate sentences, expressive of the appreciation he felt for the honour done him, and of the great interest he took in the welfare of the Jordan Lodge. Bro. Swan, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., remarked upon the very efficient working the brethren had witnessed in lodge, and spoke in flattering terms of the prospects of Bro. Jeffery's year of office. The ceremonies of the first two degrees had been given with remarkable precision, solemnity, and effect. The W.M. briefly acknowledged the compliment, stating that, from the time of his entering the precincts of Masonry, he had been determined to make himself master of its beautiful ceremonies. He was now repaid by this expression of the approbation of the brethren of his mother lodge, and he trusted that, during his year of office, he should be able to master the only remaining ceremony—that of installation—with the beauty and solemnity of which he had been so fully impressed at their last meeting, and which it had now become the established custom of the outgoing Masters of the Jordan Lodge to perform. The visitors were next welcomed by the W.M., several of whom were strangers to him; but there were some marked exceptions. He would name Bro. F. W. Best, P.M. 1006, who deserved and was sure to be honoured by a hearty welcome wherever he visited. There was Bro. J. T. Nicolls, also, of the well-known lodge No. 25, the Robert Burns; Bros. Arnold and Richard Chandler, both of No. 453; Bro. H. Norman, P.M. 108, whose visit was not the first he had paid to the banks of the Jordan; and there was also Bro. Pottage, of No. 165. Bros. Nicolls and Norman replied respectively on behalf of the visitors, and assured the W.M. that the gratification they had experienced in witnessing the ceremonies that evening was very great. Bro. Norman eulogising in particular the beauty of the explanation of the working tools, as given in this and other lodges, working on what is termed the east-end system. The toast following, was that to Bro. Whealler, the initiate, whom the W.M. had not the pleasure of knowing till that evening; but said there was no fear but a brother would have a hearty welcome among them, who was introduced by brothers who commanded so much esteem in the lodge as Bros. Cate and Gee, as there could be no doubt about his being of the right sort. The brother having responded, expressing his hope that he should be found to be all that was anticipated, that is, of the right sort, the W.M. gave the P.M.'s of the lodge, referring to their varied qualifications, and expressing his gratification that he was supported by so goodly an array of brethren who had passed the honourable position which he then held. He alluded also to the amount of Masonic assistance which the P.M.'s were always ready to render, and touching upon the remarks which fell from Bro. Norman, he said that he had been indebted solely to the kindness of Bro. Swan for instruction in the working tools, the explanation of which he had not acquired in the east end method, till within a short time of his taking office. The junior P.M. having claimed the privilege and responded, the W.M. next gave the officers of the lodge, including Bros. Arliss, M.C., and Robinson, W.S., to the credit of whom too much could not be said, for their energetic exertions in promoting the comfort of the brethren at their numerous board. The S.W., Bro. W. Hammond, responded on behalf of himself and his brother officers more immediately connected with the ceremonies, leaving the two P.M.'s, who as such he must consider as senior officers, to reply for themselves. Bro. Arliss in a witty and facetious speech, thanked the W.M. for the honour done

him, and the brethren for the cordial acknowledgment of his services. Bro. Robinson seizing upon the vein of humour, indulged in by his superior officer, expressed himself to the same effect. The next toast was that of the Masonic Charities, and in giving which the W.M. connected it especially with the names of the two brethren who were to stand as Stewards for the forthcoming festivals, P.M.'s Spooner and Robinson. At the same time he could not help referring to the energetic endeavours of their immediate P.M., the festival for which he had been Steward having taken place in the interim between this and the last meeting, his exertions on that occasion had realized the very creditable, and handsome sum of nearly £80. Bro. Swan thanked the brethren for the support they had given him on the occasion, and especially for the manner in which they had come forward in aid of the funds of the charity, which he had been able to support with such credit to the lodge and pleasure to himself. He had completed his duties with the charities for the aged, he would, therefore now direct attention to a very interesting portion of their charitable machinery, the Girls' School. He had no doubt that Bro. Spooner would be supported to an extent at least equal to that which he had first come into the field to claim.—Bro. Spooner spoke in satisfactory terms of the amount of kind aid rendered or promised him, and said that he need not depend upon neatly turned sentences and eloquent expressions for the support of such a charity as the Girls' School; that there was something more telling than the flow of the most refined eloquence, something that spoke to the senses and the heart, and that was the excellent management of the establishment and the gratitude of its little inmates. He would only say, brethren before you name the sum you will give, visit the school. Bro. Patten's name is a sufficient passport for you.—Bro. Robinson on behalf of the Boys gave a very cheering prospect of the results of the Festival for them, and said that it would form an era in the history of their School, lay the basis of a bright career of success, and retrieve the charity from that cloud which had hitherto enveloped its history and its aims. He had himself already collected a goodly sum, and was still increasing his list. Bro. Watts, the Treasurer of the Jordan Lodge, had just handed him a guinea on his own account, and he would not omit to say that he had simultaneously done the same charitable act for the Girls' School. Before the Tylers' toast, the brethren were reminded that the annual meeting of Bro. Muggeridge's Lodge of Instruction would take place the last Friday in April, at Radley's Hotel, at six o'clock in the evening. The Jordan Lodge would meet again a week before this treat would take place, but the brethren ought to have this timely notice, as the lodge in question is the only one in which formal instruction is given upon the system worked in the Jordan Lodge. The brethren separated soon after eleven, having enjoyed a most pleasant and harmonious meeting, the delights of which had been enhanced by the vocal taste and abilities of Bros. Carvil, J.W., Brabham, S.D., Harris, J.D., Watts, Norman, Sheen, and Spooner, P.M.s, and Bro. Finglass. The Secretary gave the Entered Apprentices' song, with the grace, pathos and good humour which is peculiar to him in the rendering of his composition.

CITY OF LONDON LODGE. No. (1203).—This young but happy lodge held their first meeting after installation, on Monday, February 16th. There were present, Bros. Sisson, W.M.; F. G. Collier, S.W.; S. Osmond, J.W.; W. A. Higgs, S.D.; F. Smithers, J.D.; E. Salisbury, I.G.; and a numerous meeting of the brethren. The lodge was opened in due form, when Bro. A. Griffiths was passed as a F.C., Bro. Metcalf raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and several candidates proposed for ballot next meeting. The business of the evening being over, the lodge was called off to banquet, which was all that could be desired, and appreciated both by members and visitors. On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. said their first duty was to shew their loyalty to their Sovereign by drinking to her health, and the toast presented peculiar claims upon them at that moment, as their Sovereign was now about to add another member to her already happy family, in the person of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Denmark, who would probably become their future Queen, and as loyalty was one of the peculiar characteristics of Freemasonry, he called upon them to drink to the Queen, Prince of Wales, Princess of Denmark, and the Craft. The toast was responded to with enthusiasm. The W.M. said that having drank to the Sovereign of Great Britain, they had now to drink to the Sovereign of their Order, the Earl of Zetland, who was beloved and respected by all its members. (Cheers). He asked them to drink to the noble

Earl, trusting he might long be spared to preside over them, and participate in the deliberations of Grand Lodge. The W.M. next said he believed that good Masters were of little use without good officers, therefore he should propose the health of the D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers. The W.M. then rose, and proposed the health of the P.M.'s, Bros. E. Farthing and J. H. Wynne, which was ably responded to by Bro. Farthing, who proposed the health of the W.M., coupling with it the success of the Masonic Charities, and he really must add the name of Bro. Binckes, for the noble manner in which he had worked for the Boys' School. The toast was drank with great cordiality. The W.M. responded in his usual able manner, and, as he said before, that good Masters were of little use without good officers, he proposed "The Health of the Officers of the City of London Lodge," and returned his heartfelt thanks for their kind support for the past year, as the lodge was left in a condition seldom known in Masoury. Therefore he wished the brethren to rise and drink the health of all the Officers of the City of London Lodge. Bro. Collier, S.W. rose, and said he had to return thanks for himself and brother officers, for the kind manner their names had been introduced and honoured. It was his, as well as his brother officers' extreme pleasure to render the W.M. every assistance that lay in their power. He wished also to call the attention of the visitors to the lodge of instruction, as some of the visiting brethren might not be aware that so good a lodge of instruction as the City of London, was open on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, at eight during the year, and he hoped they would communicate the same to brothers of other lodges. He was proud to say that the much respected Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., was a constant attendant on Tuesdays, and always willing to impart information to the brethren, as a Masonic Instructor. The W.M. then passed round the subscription list for the Boys' School, which was liberally responded to by the brethren, and the lodge also voted a handsome donation. The lodge was then closed in due form, and the proceedings were brought to a happy conclusion, the harmony of the evening being much enhanced by the musical exertions and vocal abilities of Bro. E. Farthing, P.M. 118, and Treasurer of the City of London Lodge.

PYTHAGORIAN LODGE (No. 93).—The installation meeting of this select lodge took place on Monday, February 23rd, at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich (Bro. Moore's). The lodge was opened by Bro. J. C. Peckham, W.M., assisted by Bros. Orchard, Hasler, Penny, Collington, and Vinten. After electing some joining members to the lodge, Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., took the chair. Bro. W. C. Penny, P.M., presented Bro. W. Orchard, S.W. and W.M. elect, to receive the benefit of installation, and when a large board of installed masters, consisting of thirteen, was formed, Bro. H. A. Collington, in a superior manner, installed Bro. W. Orchard into K.S.'s chair. The board of installed masters being closed, and the W.M. duly saluted, he appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers:—Bros. J. C. Peckham, P.M.; J. Hasler, S.W.; F. Ward, J.W.; Potter, P.M., re-elected Treas.; W. C. Penny, P.M., reappointed Sec.; Vinten, S.D.; H. Newton, J.D.; Seaton, I.G. The next business was unanimously voting the immediate P.M. a jewel, on account of the very numerous presents of furniture to the lodge, the two last presents (in use for the first time) being the Secretary's desk and a handsome P.M.'s jewel. The desk is certainly one of the most unique and handsome designs we have ever seen in any lodge room out of London, and reflects the greatest credit on our worthy and esteemed Brd. Peckham, P.M., for his great skill, talent, and judgment in having designed such a useful piece of furniture. We must congratulate Bro. Peckham in having, during his year of office, been able to effect such a beautiful renovation of the lodge furniture, and also, by his urbane, gentlemanly manner, succeeding in procuring the hearty co-operation of the rest of the brethren in carrying out this important change. Every brother in the lodge contributed his mite towards having the furniture renovated and renewed, and now they have the proud satisfaction of knowing that they possess as good a set of furniture as any other lodge out of London. We must also congratulate the lodge in having at last a member of their own body to perform the installation. It is a long time since we saw a member of this lodge perform an installation, and we hope to see this good example speedily followed, and as there is now such a good lodge of instruction held at this lodge, under the able presidency of our learned Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., there is no excuse for any brother remaining in ignorance

of any of the ceremonies. The lodge being closed, the brethren, about twenty in number, sat down to an excellent banquet, replete with every comfort, and prepared in Bro. Moore's well-known excellent style. Amongst a large body of visitors we noticed—Bros. Tattershall, 13; F. Walters, W.M., 87; W. Scott, W.M., 164 and 1173; Ryder, P.M. and Treas., 164; Bolton, P.M., 172 and 198; Tibbais, P.M., 198; F. Dunant, 172; Hodgson, 1173, &c.

DE GREY AND RIPON LODGE (No. 1207).—The brethren of this little lodge held their installation meeting at the Angel Hotel, Ilford, on Monday the 23rd inst. Present.—Bros. Capt. King, W.M.; De Cetto, S.W.; Halton, J.W.; Matthew Cooke, Sec.; Ibbetson, Treas.; Burnett, Pogue, W. Watson, P.M., and Ashmole. Bro. Russell, P.M., 13, was the visitor. The business before the lodge was that of a raising and the installation, all of which was kindly undertaken by Bro. Watson. The new W.M., Bro. De Cetto, was then pleased to invest his officers as follows:—Bros. Halton, S.W.; Glynes, J.W.; Matthew Cooke, reinvested Sec.; Ibbetson, reinvested Treas., and Burnett, S.D. A very elegant little P.M.'s jewel, subscribed for by the members of the lodge, was presented, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Brother Captain Augustus Henry King, founder and first W.M. of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 1207, as a token of the sincere and fraternal esteem of the brethren, and for his ability and courtesy during his year of office. 1862-3." All business having been disposed of, the brethren adjourned to banquet, after which the speeches were short, sharp, and to the point, and the evening was most agreeably spent amidst good humour, good cheer, good songs, good words, and good wishes.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

AYLESBURY.—*Buckingham Lodge (No. 861).*—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, 7th inst., at the White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury, when there were present Bros. John Williams, W.M.; T. Horwood, P.M.; Prov. G. Reg.; Rev. O. J. Grace, P.M., as S.W.; H. A. P. Cooper, J.W.; Rev. J. B. Reade, P.M., Chaplain, P. Prov. G. Reg.; Rev. J. Crane Wharton, P.M., Prov. G. Chap., and other brethren. The lodge was opened in ancient and solemn form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Bro. J. E. McConnel, Dep. Prov. G.M., as a joining member, which appearing unanimous in his favour, he was declared duly elected. The W.M. then informed the brethren that the subject of the founding of a new lodge at Linslade would be brought before them by Bro. Gotto, who attended for that purpose; when that brother fully entered into and explained the probable advantages of a lodge being established in the above-named town, and informed the brethren present that, from the names attached to the petition, and the number of Masons resident in the neighbourhood, he had great hopes of the St. Barnabus ultimately becoming a prosperous lodge. The information was received with applause and hearty good wishes were given to the promoters. It was then unanimously resolved, on the proposition of Bro. W. H. Baker, P.M., seconded by Bro. Rev. J. B. Beale, that the petition for the new lodge should be officially recommended by the W.M. and officers of the lodge in accordance with the constitutions. The W.M. read a communication from the Secretary of the Girls' School, requesting the nomination of a Steward for the Festival, when Bro. T. Horwood, P.M., Prov. G. Reg., kindly volunteered to represent the lodge on that occasion. No other business of importance being brought forward the brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment, and spent a pleasant and agreeable evening.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD.—*Lodge of Industry (No. 56).*—Monday, February 23rd, being the regular monthly meeting, the lodge was opened at the Grey Horse Inn, by the W.M. Bro. R. J. Banning, Prov. G.J.W., assisted by Bro. W. Bryden, P.M. Bro. J. Heaward, S.W., Bro. C. J. Banister, P. Prov. G.S.D. as J.W.; Bro. Emmerson, Sec.; Bro. Michelson, S.D.; P.M.'s, Bros. W. Morrow, A. Clapham, Loades, &c., &c., and a good attendance of members and visitors. Mr. Robt. Wanless was initiated into the mysteries of the order by the W.M. Bro.

Robt. Newland was passed to the degree of F.C., also by the W.M. Both degrees were given with great care and judgment. This being the night to elect the W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. J. Heavord, S.W., was unanimously elected. P.M. Bro. W. Bryden was re-elected Treas. The routine business of the lodge over, it was closed in solemn form. At refreshment, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to, and after spending a very happy evening, the brethren separated. The installation will take place on the fourth Monday in March.

HAMPSHIRE.

SOUTHAMPTON.—*Southampton Lodge* (No. 555).—The installation of W.M. and celebration of St. John's Day, took place on Thursday the 19th inst., when Bro. Wm. Furber was regularly installed by his immediate predecessor, Bro. Wm. Hickman, Prov. G. Sec., and Bros. Peter Langley, and E. T. Howell, were invested as Wardens, after which the brethren dined together, and passed a most delightful evening. Amongst the visitors being Bros. G. P. Perkins, W.M., 152, Fred. Perkins, Mayor of Southampton, P.M. and J.W., 152. The P.M.'s of the lodge present were, Bros. Dr. Clarke, Chas. Bromley, Rankin Stebbing, Geo. Martin, and several from other lodges.

Royal Gloucester Lodge (No. 152).—The members of this lodge have elected and installed Bro. Geo. P. Perkins, as its Master for the ensuing year, and the following officers have been duly invested: Bros. Wm. Hickman, P.M. 555, under Sheriff, S.W.; F. Perkins, P.M. 152, Mayor of Southampton, J.W.; H. Abraham, P.M. 152, Treas. The following are the officers of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony (No. 462), Southampton, now the largest lodge in Hampshire: Bros. J. R. Weston, ex-Sheriff, W.M.; F. W. Brewer, S.W.; Watts, J.W.; Rankin Stebbing, P.M., Treas.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 173).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic rooms, Sankey-street, on Monday evening last. Present:—Bros. H. B. White, W.M.; Capt. Knight, S.W.; John Bowes, J.W. and Sec.; J. S. Macmichael, as S.D.; Charles Pettitt, J.D.; Bather, I.G., and a goodly number of brethren, including Bro. Samuel Gordon, Sec. of St. John's Lodge (No. 189), Castle Douglas, N.B., a visitor. The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes having been read by Bro. Sec., they were unanimously declared as correctly recorded. Mr. George Blackhurst, who was duly elected at the preceding meeting of the lodge, was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry by the W.M. in a most impressive manner. The working tools were presented and explained and the annual charges on Masonic behaviour read by Bro. Bowes, and the charge delivered by Bro. Charles Pettitt. After which the W.M. delivered to the candidate an original and truly interesting address, which met with the warm approbation of every brother present, and will be found in another part of our Magazine. In reply to Bro. Pepper's letter several subscriptions were handed in towards the Hamer Testimonial. The W.M. read a letter from Bro. Yarker, of Manchester, applying, on behalf of the Jerusalem Encampment, for the K. T. Warrant, a copy of which appeared in our last number. The W.M. invited opinions as to what steps should be taken by them, as Masons, to celebrate the wedding day of the Prince of Wales. Bro. Hephherd, the Mayor of the borough, not being present nothing definite was decided upon. The W.M. announced the receipt of a Grand Lodge summons, and list of business to be transacted. Bro. Sec. announced the receipt of a truly fraternal letter from Bro. J. G. Findel, of Leipzig, editor of the *Bauhütte*, requesting a copy of the history of the Lodge of Lights (No. 173), as soon as published, and accompanying the letter was a number of pamphlets of Masonic interest, viz:—*Communications by the Union of German Freemasons. History of St. John's Lodge, at the three Circles, formerly the Perfect Union, at East Streiten*, by Bro. A. G. C. Zinke, Sec. Bro. Dr. Rudolf Seydel's *Word of Reply to the Accusations raised against Freemasonry by the Bp. of Mainz*. A copy of the *Bauhütte*, a German Masonic magazine, for February 14th, 1863, and a prospectus of a *History of Freemasonry* by Bro. Findel. The brethren fully appreciated Bro. Findel's kindness and requested Bro. Sec. to notify the same in the minutes. There being no further business, the lodge was closed in solemn form at 9 o'clock, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 693).—This lodge is progressing favourably. A summons for the next meeting, to be held at the Masonic Hall, Great Dock-street, on Wednesday, March 4, announces five candidates are to be balloted for, four honorary members for election, three brothers to be passed, and five to be raised.

SCOTLAND.

LANARKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

Bro. Sir Archibald Alison, *Bart.*, Prov. G.M. of the Province of Glasgow, has nominated Bro. J. G. Houston, Glasgow, as D. Prov. G.M. of the province, in the room of Bro. Donald Campbell. Bro. Houston is P.M. of Glasgow Kilwinning (No. 4), and is also one of the Grand Stewards in the Grand Lodge of Scotland; his appointment to the D. Prov. G. Mastership of the Glasgow Province will be hailed with satisfaction by the Craft in that and the neighbouring provinces. The nomination of Bro. Houston to this office cannot but be felt by the members of the Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning as complimentary to themselves. Some time ago this ancient lodge was unceremoniously suspended by the Provincial Grand Lodge of the district, which act being resented by the Glasgow Kilwinning, was appealed against to Grand Lodge. The Grand Committee having met on the 3rd of February last year to hear parties in the petition of the Lodge No. 4 against the Provincial Grand Lodge, Bro. Houston appeared to defend his lodge, and Bro. D. Campbell in support of the arbitrary proceedings of his colleagues in Provincial Grand Lodge. The former having been fully heard in support of the petition and memorial, and the latter in reply, the Grand Committee gave the matter the fullest consideration, and were unanimously of opinion that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow had acted precipitately and without adequate cause in suspending the Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning; and therefore recommended Grand Lodge to remove the sentence of suspension passed upon that lodge. Grand Lodge afterwards indorsed the recommendation of Grand Committee, and recalled the sentence of suspension so precipitately and without adequate cause pronounced by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow against the Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning (No. 4). It was thereafter remitted to Grand Committee to inquire into and investigate the constitution and working of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, and to report upon certain irregularities said to exist in that Provincial Grand Lodge, by admitting brethren as members other than the Masters and Wardens of lodges in the province, and the Office Bearers that may be legally appointed by the Provincial Grand Master and elected by the Provincial Grand Lodge. The subsequent investigation of Grand Committee has, we believe, exposed the introduction of a host of brethren into Provincial Grand Lodge in the capacity of Stewards who had neither right nor title to sit as members of it, and led to its reorganisation.

GLASGOW KILWINNING LODGE (No. 4).—The office-bearers and brethren of this lodge held an assembly in their new hall, 170, Buchanan-street, on the evening of Friday, the 20th inst., at which there was a numerous and fashionable attendance. The elegant hall, erected by the lodge, was fully described in *THE MAGAZINE* at the time of its consecration, in the beginning of December last; but as a strong desire was expressed by numerous ladies to see the decorations of the hall, the present assembly was intended to afford them an opportunity of doing so. Among the party assembled we observed Bro. John Binnie, R.W.M.; Mrs. Binnie, Miss Binnie, and party; Bro. J. G. Houston, P.M.; Mrs. Houston, Miss Balderson, and party; W. Johnson, Esq., and Mrs. Johnson; Dr. Mackie, Mrs. Mackie, and Misses Mackie; James McKenzie, Esq., of Glentworth; Alex. J. Stewart, Esq., W.S. Edinburgh, Grand Clerk; Alex. Winton, Esq.; Mrs. Winton, and Miss Winton; A. G. Gilmour, Esq., P.M.; Mrs. Gilmour, and Misses Hutchison; Captain Dunlop and Mrs. Dunlop; Gavin Park, Esq., R.W.M. of St. Mark's Lodge; G. M. Dunlop, Esq., and Mrs. Dunlop; H. M. Sinclair, Esq., D.M.; H. K. Bromhead, Esq., architect, and other office-bearers of No. 4. His Grace the Duke of Athol, G.M.; Sir Arch. Alison, *Bart.*; Sir Alex. P. G. Cumming, *Bart.*; and other distinguished Masons had promised to be present, but were prevented, his Grace

on account of leaving for London, and Sir Arch. Alison by indisposition. Dancing was kept up with great spirit till a late hour in the morning, to the strains of a most efficient band.

ART.—Bro. Matthew Noble has been entrusted with the erection of a colossal statue of the late Earl of Eglington. The statue will be of bronze, twelve feet in height, and the pedestal of Aberdeen granite, partly polished, and at least sixteen feet in height, and is expected to be, indeed, a *chef-d'œuvre* of the eminent sculptor's studio. Bro. Noble is the sculptor of the statue to General Neill, which was inaugurated with Masonic honours by Bro. Sir James Ferguson, *Bart.*, in presence of about eight hundred brethren and several thousand ordinary spectators, in October, 1859. The evening before that event, we had the honour of introducing Mr. Noble as a candidate for admission into the mystic circle, through the portal of a lodge of which we were then an office bearer; and his being considered a case of emergency, the three degrees were conferred upon him the same evening. Visitors to the International Exhibition will remember the fine models of memorial statues of Outram and Cromwell, which Bro. Noble exhibited; and he is, at present, we understand, engaged, by the Queen's commands, upon a statue of the late Prince Consort.

TURKEY.

The Freemason's Ball, in aid of the Lancashire Relief Fund, came off at the Palais de Cristal, Pera, on Friday, the 6th inst., and was a marked success. The Prov. G.M., the R.W. Sir H. Bulwer and Lady Bulwer, arrived about ten o'clock, and were received by the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, under the direction of V.W. Bro. G. Laurie, acting as D. Prov. G.M. in the absence of V.W. Bro. Hyde Clarke. A procession, in Masonic order, having been formed of the three local English lodges, and deputations from the French, German, and Italian lodges established in Pera, his Excellency, wearing the insignia of office, and attended by the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, mounted to the ball-room, the band saluting with the National Anthem as he entered. When the brethren had taken up their respective positions, the Ambassador briefly addressed the company, expressing the gratification he felt at seeing himself surrounded by so many of the "craft," and alluded in general terms to the admirable nature of their principles. Dancing was then resumed, and shortly after one o'clock the company—which exceeded 400—adjourned to the supper room, where Mr. Petala had provided an admirably supplied buffet. Bro. F. Hahnel, as director of the ceremonies, with Bro. Pulman as assistant (both wearing the costume of Red Cross Knights), were most attentive during the evening, and their arrangements appeared to give general satisfaction. The variety of masonic costumes, witnessed for the first time in a Pera ball-room, combined with several naval and military uniforms, produced a very lively, if not even brilliant effect; and it is hoped that the success which has attended the exertions of the committee to bring together so numerous a company will leave a commensurate balance of receipts for the benefit of the charitable object of the evening's festivity.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

ST. JAMES'S UNION CHAPTER (No. 211).—The regular convocation of this chapter met at the Freemason's Tavern, on Tuesday, the 24th inst., when the following Comps. were present:—Woodstock, M.E.Z.; John Gurton, H.; Jackson, J.; Matthew Cooke, E.; J. B. Newall, N.; Simpson, Treas.; and Comps. Sedgwick, Beatty, Klopp, Robinson, Grant-Edwardes, and Frances. The business consisted of the election of principals and officers for the ensuing year, which were all unanimous as follows:—Comps. John Gurton, M.E.Z.; Jackson, H.; Newall, J.; Matthew Cooke, re-elected E.; Sedgwick, N.; Beatty, P. Soj.; Hammett, re-elected Janitor, and Simpson, re-elected, Treasurer. The audit committee were appointed and a past Principal's jewel was voted, unanimously, to Comp. Woodstock, the retiring M.E.Z. The business being concluded the companions adjourned to refreshment, at which they were joined

by the visiting Comps. Binckes and George States. After the cloth had been removed and the usual routine toasts disposed of, Comp. Watson rose and said that was the last occasion they would be presided over by their M.E.Z. He had been one of the original petitioners for the chapter, and was named the third Principal in the charter. Having passed through each of the chairs and attained the highest honours recognised by the Grand Lodge, he might congratulate himself upon a faithful discharge of his duties. Comp. Watson proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z."—Comp. Woodstock, M.E.Z., was thankful for the proposal and reception of the toast. He felt he could not render a very good account of his stewardship, as there had been a great paucity of work, but from the election they had made that night, he knew the chapter must prosper, and wishing every success to his successor, Comp. John Gurton, whose name was enough to ensure it, he hoped long to be associated with Chapter No. 211.—The M.E.Z. acknowledged two Past Principals of the chapter, and one more belonging to it. They were Comps. John Gurton, Stacey, and Watson. Comp. Gurton was their first M.E.Z., founder, and patron, and nobly he had sustained each of those positions. Comp. Stacey, though absent, had done his best for the chapter, and Watson was so well known that it was unnecessary to say much of him, particularly as the M.E.Z. could call him his Masonic father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, and aunt, combined, with all his more distant relationship. They all looked up to their Past Principals as the pillars of the chapter, and long might they continue to be its firm supporters. He concluded by proposing the toast of "The Past Principals." Comp. Gurton would endorse all the good wishes the M.E.Z. had attributed to the Past Principals for the good of the chapter, which, he trusted, would progress more and more. He was somewhat disappointed that they did not muster more that night, but presumed the majority had more important engagements. As they had elected him to be their M.E.Z., he would endeavour to do his duty, and bring as much business as he could, so as to have a prosperous year, and make the chapter go on swimmingly. He was much obliged for their drinking their health, and they might rest assured that each of the Past Principals felt a warm interest in the success of the chapter. The M.E.Z. then proposed "The Health of the 2nd and 3rd Principals," which was responded to in a very capital and humorous manner by Comp. Jackson, but for obvious reasons cannot be here inserted. Comp. Woodstock, M.E.Z., had omitted one toast, but it was never too late to rectify an error. They had been honoured by the presence of two distinguished visitors that evening, Comps. Binckes and George States. They were deeply indebted to them for their company, and gave them the heartiest welcome they could afford. He coupled the name of Comp. George States with the toast. Comp. States was very much obliged for the honour done to the visitors in drinking their healths. Had Comp. Binckes returned he would have done much more justice to their welcome than he could. He had before visited that chapter, and was pleased to see that it still maintained its character as a Union Chapter in which all the Companions were so firmly united. He was glad to see Comp. Gurton's name on the card for the Boy's Festival as contributing five guineas. Like all that that Companion did it was done heartily. He was a man of business, and supported the charities warmly, and, as he had worked up the hill of life, had met with great prosperity as a reward for his honourable, just, and upright dealings. Under his guidance the chapter must prosper, and he (Comp. States), in the name of their visitors, wished it the utmost success. The M.E.Z. then proposed the healths of the P. Soj., his two Assts., and N., which were duly responded to.

SCOTLAND.

DALRY.—The Dalry Royal Arch Chapter, No. 91, recently erected here under warrant granted by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, continues in a most flourishing condition. The total number of those leaving the Early Grand Chapter formerly existing in Dalry, and have joined Chapter No. 91, is ninety-two, and a large number of other brethren are to be exalted under the same charter in the course of a few days. Comp. Steen, the most efficient 1st Principal of the young chapter, and his coadjutors in office, have been most zealous in their efforts to have Capitular Masonry placed upon a more satisfactory footing than could be expected to be attained in the isolation to which irregular chapters are exposed, and in these endeavours they have been nobly supported by the great bulk of the Royal Arch Masons resident in and around Dalry.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE.

MANCHESTER.—*Jerusalem, or Early Grand Encampment of Lancashire.*—A meeting of this ancient encampment was held on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at the Masonic-rooms, Manchester. Present: Sir Knts. John Yarker, jun., 18°, E.C.; B. St. John B. Jule, 30°, Prelate and Past 1st C.; S. P. Leather, 18°, 1st C.; Jas. Lancaster Hine, Treas.; Stephen Smith, 30°, P.E.C. Visitors, Sir Knts. W. H. Wright, 18°, P.E.C., J. H. P. Laresche, Thomas Lonsdale Bold, P.E.C. Comp. John Bolderson, jun., Rose Croix, who had been exalted in the Chapter of Virtue, to qualify him for installation, was introduced and admitted to the chivalric degrees of the Order. Several communications were then read, and a list of members of the encampment sworn before a justice of the peace for the city of Manchester, ordered to be forwarded to the clerk of the peace for the county. Some months ago attention was called to the fact of this encampment having been originally constituted in the old York rite. It may interest W. Bro. H. B. White, of No. 173, to know that all the old encampments had new warrants on the election of Bro. Dunkerley, as Grand Master, in 1791, so that none date beyond that time. The warrant, of which he has so kindly forwarded to THE MAGAZINE a copy, is the original warrant of this Manchester encampment, which was apparently the only one existing in Lancashire at the time when a new constitution was granted. W. Bro. White, will please the members of the Jerusalem much, and render the Order generally a service, if he will trace out the connection formerly existing between old Lodge 173, and the Manchester Encampment. It is considered that according to the old constitution of this encampment that none but Rose Croix Masons are eligible for installation. The Northern steps to this degree having apparently been Sword of Babylon and Heredom, the secrets being even yet delivered by some old members; but as the authority over these degrees has been surrendered to the Supreme Council, the Palatine Chapter of Rose Croix, being established chiefly by members of this encampment, it is doubtful whether any other are legally entitled to receive installation, as Knights of the Chivalric and Masonic Order of the Temple.

[The warrant to which allusion is made is evidently more fitted to be in the archives of the Jerusalem Encampment than in a lodge of the craft, and we shall be glad to hear that it has been surrendered to them.]

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

METROPOLITAN.

INVICTA CHAPTER OF SOVEREIGN PRINCES, ROSE CROIX.—A meeting of this chapter took place at the Freemasons' Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Friday, the 20th inst. Present: Col. Clerk, 23°, as M.W.S.; Rev. Dr. Richards, 18°, Prel.; Carter, 18°, First Gen.; Figg, 30°, Reg.; Dr. Hinxman, 31°, P. Laird, 18°, Treas.; Raphael, Binckes, 18°; Dr. Normandy, 18°; Mulliner, 30°; Rooft, 18°; Gumbleton, 18°; Giubelei, 18°; Hodge, 18°; Martin, 18°; Salting, 18°; Lyons, 18°; and Matthew Cooke, 30°. The business consisted in installing Bros. Giubelei and Salting, and electing the ex-Bro. Gumbleton a joining member. The chapter was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to Bro. De Grey's, the Freemasons' Tavern, to dinner, and the evening was spent in love and harmony.

Obituary.

BRO. GEORGE GENGE.

On Tuesday last, the 24th instant, our well known brother, the vocalist, George Genge, departed this life.

In his youth he was one of the children of the King's Chapels Royal, and, on leaving that school, became a well known public singer, celebrated for a very pure and pretty alto voice. Of late years, however, it became thin in quality, but no one supposed it was through so early a decay in nature as his decease has proved. Still, to the last, he sang delightfully, and his latest effort was made at the installation meeting of the Globe Lodge (No. 23), where, suffering from illness, he yet charmed the brethren by his vocal efforts. Bro. Genge was initiated, we believe, in the Old King's Arms Lodge, and exalted in that chapter. He never took office, but was much attached to the Craft. We regret to hear he died in greatly reduced circumstances, and leaves a widow, in ill health, totally unprovided for.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

It is only as a spectacle that Mr. Edmund Falconer's new drama of *Bonnie Dundee; or, the Gathering of the Clans*, can obtain the patronage of the public. The play itself is one of the weakest an author of unquestionable talent has ever yet produced. That Mr. Falconer is a man of refined taste and genuine ability his previous works abundantly testify. The skill which on many occasions he has displayed in the composition of dialogue, in the portraiture of character, and in the dramatic development of incidents, forbids the idea that the absurdities of the present drama are to be ascribed to want either of capacity or of experience in the dramatist. Remote epochs may not be brought together to suit the pictorial purposes even of Mr. Grieve and Mr. Telbin; distant and irrelative events may not be amalgamated even for so commendable an object as the affording to Mr. Oscar Byrne an opportunity for the exhibition of his "picturesque and characteristic groupings;" nor is it fair to demand of the gods that they should "annihilate both time and space to make two lovers happy." These considerations, however, obvious though they are, have been unaccountably overlooked in the manufacture of *Bonnie Dundee*.

All that can safely be affirmed of it is that its scene is laid mainly in the Scottish Highlands; that its most prominent personages are Grahame of Claverhouse, the fearless Viscount Dundee of "Old Mortality," a certain Alister Macdonald, who is always getting into hot water with every one, and a certain Helen Cameron, who appears to have lost her way (and mind) in the mountains, and to be unable to recover either; that the other characters are for the most part Highland Cavaliers or Lowland Whigs, or fanatical Covenanters—all of whom act, to use a phrase of the day, "on their own hooks," and with little or no regard to dramatic dependency; and that the story, which opens in Argyllshire, closes—why or wherefore it is impossible to conjecture—in the pass of Glencoe, "on the night or morning"—for though the moon is shining, the playbill leaves you to select which time you prefer—of the infamous massacre. Most of the characters endeavour to speak in the Scottish dialect, but as there is only one of them, he whom Mr. J. Graham impersonates, who succeeds in the operation, the general result of the experiment is unsatisfactory, and only tends to make the dialogue more difficult of comprehension.

We now pass to those parts of the performance of which we can speak in terms of unqualified praise. The scenery, by Mr. T. Grieve and Messrs. T. and H. Telbin, is exceedingly beautiful; the costumes, which are from the designs of Logan and McIan's "Scottish Clans," are picturesque and fanciful; the decorations are brilliant and costly; and the whole *mise en scene* is extremely creditable to the good taste and liberality of the manager, under whose superintendence the piece has been produced. The opening scene, showing a road-side pass and the cottage of Alec Campbell in Perthshire, is one of the finest of Mr. T. Grieve's mountain landscapes; and Messrs. Telbin have seldom, if ever, produced a stage-picture more graceful in design or more masterly in execution than that at the close of the play giving a view of the cliffs, cataracts, and mountain fastnesses of Glencoe, as seen by moonlight on a winter night, while the untrodden snow lies thick, trackless, and sparkling upon the hills. The most magnificent scenic display in the drama, however, is that in the second act, representing the multitudinous gathering of the clans, who at daybreak have assembled in a romantic spot, high up in the mountains, to rally around the standard of King James, and to show their fealty and love to "Bonnie Dundee." This splendid scene is not only the grandest in the play, but one of the most brilliant and striking ever exhibited on the London stage. It is full of life, animation, and character, and presents a most exciting and impressive picture of the carousing of the Cameron, the arrival of Dundee, his reception by the chiefs, and the martial approach of the various clans, who, all "plaided and plumed in their tartan array," are seen marching along to the strains of the pibroch, and come swarming through the passes and defiles of the mountains in numbers so prodigious that the stage resembles a camp densely populated with a kilted army ready to do or die. After the unfurling of the royal standard, and a clamorous execution of the ballad and Highland chorus, "Up wi' the bonnets o' Bonnie Dundee," some old Scottish games and pastimes are introduced with excellent effect, and the audience is entertained with a vivid representation of certain feudal customs and ceremonies. The groupings by Mr. Oscar Byrne are highly effective, and the whole spectacle is little, if

at all, inferior to the celebrated "pattern" scene in Mr. Falconer's popular melodrama *The Peep o' Day*. Though there is not much scope for good acting in the present play, some of the performers acquit themselves in a creditable manner; and Mrs. E. Falconer as Janet Campbell, a Scottish lady as true as steel to the good cause; Mrs. Bowers as the erratic Helen, Mr. E. Phelps as Claverhouse, Mr. J. A. Shaw as Davie a "daft" piper; and though last by no means least, Mr. J. Graham, a Cameron, who is ready to go through fire and water for his chief, deserve honourable mention.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA.

The managers of the Royal English Opera produced on Thursday night, the 12th inst., the new work by Mr. Balfe, which was promised by them at the beginning of the season. Mr. Balfe again calls in the aid of Mr. J. V. Bridgeman as his librettist. The better class of literary workmanship evinced by this gentleman in the libretto of the *Puritan's Daughter* was not unnoticed at the time, and a recurrence to the same pen was at least a natural course to pursue. Mr. Bridgeman's manner, however, in the present case is better than his matter. The story of the *Armourer of Nantes*, the name of the new opera, is anything but agreeable. Victor Hugo's play, *Marie Tudor*, is the basis of the plot, the heroine, for some inscrutable reason, being changed into Anne of Brittany, and the other people of the drama clothed with coincident French personalities. Nothing is gained by this that we see, for the later of the two periods of time is scarcely less picturesque than the former.

Fabio, a scheming adventurer, has attained an extraordinary ascendancy over the Duchess Anne of Brittany, and the favours she has heaped upon him have awakened disaffection among the nobles of the court, while his insolence has equally inflamed the people. He has persuaded, by bribery and intimidation, a certain Dame Bertha to give him access to her house, where an orphan, named Marie, resides, and as his designs are simply profligate, the poor girl becomes compromised in the eyes of her lover, Raoul, "the armourer," to whom she has been indebted for her maintenance, and who is about to make her his wife. The suspicions of Raoul have been awakened by a Jew, who has been for many years in captivity, but who comes with proofs that he has carefully treasured up, that Marie is the lost child of the late Count de Brissac, whose estates have been feloniously seized by the unscrupulous Fabio. The Jew, for purposes of his own, intimates to Fabio the secret power he has over him, and Fabio stabs him for his pains, though the documents of Marie's birth and inheritance fall into the hands of Raoul, who embittered by jealousy and insult, enters into a conspiracy with the Baron de Villefranche, the envoy of Louis the Eleventh, and the bearer of proposals of marriage to Anne of Brittany, to demolish the wicked Fabio. In the second act the Duchess has become apprised of the infidelity of Fabio, as regards his clandestine visits to Marie, and burns with a womanly indignation. She, too, engages Raoul in a compact to kill Fabio, and promises, on her ducal oath, to replace the daughter of the Count de Brissac in the estates of which she has been deprived, but is ill prepared to find that the heiress is no less a person than her supposed rival, Marie. To be relieved of the unpalatable obligation she has incurred, she raises an alarm, and proclaims, with sublime audacity, that Raoul has attempted her life, of which there is circumstantial proof in the fact of his having a dagger in his hand—the dagger, however, which belonged to Fabio, and which he had picked up after the murder of the Jew. The act terminates with the infuriate denunciations of the Duchess, and the consignment by her of both Fabio and Raoul to the tender mercies of the headsman, the curtain falling upon a sensational *tableau*, in which that amiable individual appears in the background, while, as the book tells us, "an involuntary shudder runs through all present." Between the second and the third acts the violence of Anne of Brittany has subsided, and she now desires to save the life of Fabio, but the popular feeling is so intensely set upon his destruction, that she knows not how to accomplish her object. Her only chance is to let Raoul go to the scaffold, and, if possible, beguile the mob into the belief that it is Fabio's head which falls into the basket, and not the armourer's. Marie, who is tortured with double agony at her lover's peril, and the bitter imputation under which she labours, affects to assist her in the scheme, and by the connivance of a commisserating gaoler and the French emissary, Fabio passes into the hands of the headsman, the baffled Duchess being only made aware of the defeat of her project by the gun

which announces the fall of the axe, and the simultaneous arrival of Raoul, "to rush," as the libretto instructs us, "into the arms of Marie!"

Mr. Balfe's music is of pretty much the same sort and quality as that which he has been in the habit of producing for the last fifteen or twenty years. The parentage of the *Armourer of Nantes* is unmistakable, and equally so the mint in which the original ideas are worked up for the operatic market, Mr Balfe has always had the million in his eye, and as the million have ever been his best friends, we can hardly expect him to be indifferent to their tastes now. The instrumentation throughout is bright and piquant, and with this the murderous gloom of the story does not interfere. The weightier situations are toned, to a certain extent, with deeper colours, and effects à la Meyerbeer are occasionally aimed at, but Mr. Balfe's heart is hardly there, and it is rather curious that he does not, on this account, cultivate, as he formerly did, a lighter form of libretto. Long experience in the arts of construction and orchestration, have given him powers of speed in writing of which we here see the fruit as heretofore. Certain of the isolated airs will probably be considered choice specimens of the genuine Balfian ditty. Marie's cavatina, "Oh, would that my heart were a swift-pinion'd swallow," notwithstanding a certain lurking dryness, is a meritorious composition; while another song, for the same personage, "There's one who rear'd me," pleases by its artless and touching simplicity. The barcarole, for a barytone voice, "A flower is beauty by fairy hands planted," is one of the best, and will, unquestionably, be one of the most popular of the detached pieces. The cavatina, also for the same voice, "What joy to listen on the sea," is likely, on the score of grace and elegance, to find a wide circle of admirers. The principal tenor is supplied with a pair of ballads, "In the desert waste of life," and "Oh, love, thou'rt like a reed bent low," which hardly rise above the ordinary level; and the gaoler with a bass song, the graphic refrain of which is introduced very happily more than once. One or two of the duets, as well as a quartett near the close of the opera, may also be spoken of with praise as being well planned for the voices; and the quaint outline of the unisonic chorus, "Gaily and swiftly"—done after Verdi—cannot fail, whenever sung, to tell. The last act, like the *Trovatore*, contains a "Miserere," mingled with some good melodramatic effects. The ballet music in the second act is both crisp and sparkling, and forms an exhilarating relief to the ominous "business" in which it occurs. There is no overture.

The entire vocal strength of the establishment is brought to bear upon the representation, Miss Louisa Pyne and Miss Anna Hiles divide the principal soprano music, there being virtually two heroines, namely, Marie and the Duchess, between whom, however, there is nothing in common, for the one is an Alice and the other a Borgia—types which are not of the easiest fulfilment. Miss Louisa Pyne, as a matter of course, executes her share of the work with charming excellence. Her singing of the pretty music which the composer has bestowed upon Marie is a strong element of salvation. More highly-finished vocalism, or a purer class of effect, it would be impossible to have. Upon Miss Anna Hiles duties are thrown which she is quite unfitted to discharge. Utterly destitute of *physique*, both vocal and histrionic, this young lady—at the best but a respectable Bohemian Girl—has to contend with a part which would try the powers of a Grisi or a Titians. Mr. W. H. Harrison is the armourer Raoul, and his vocal abilities, we may be sure, are both plentiful and heavy. Fabio, whose music is unquestionably better than his morals, is represented by Mr. Santley. This capital artist, as usual, sings throughout with the utmost taste and the best dramatic expression, and, like Miss Louisa Pyne, is a mainstay, at once most valuable and essential. Mr. W. H. Weiss, as the envoy of the French king—an odd combination of the diplomatist and the conspirator—sings with his customary intelligence and ability; and Mr. Aynsley Cook gives due importance to the semi-humorous gaoler, who only figures in the last act. Mr. Balfe came in for the lion's share of the public enthusiasm; nor was Mr. Alfred Mellon forgotten—a compliment well deserved, for to his energetic and masterly conducting, the superb efficiency of the orchestral playing was solely to be attributed.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

On Monday a new piece, entitled *The Winning Suit*, by Mr. Lewis Filmore, was produced at this theatre. The chief personage of the story is a certain Spanish princess named Orelia,

who incurs the grave displeasure of her uncle, the King of Castile, by refusing to give her hand in marriage to the King of Arragon, whom she has never seen, and who woos her through the medium of an envoy—a vicarious sort of courtship which does not suit the taste of the high-spirited girl, who has a lofty ideal of what a lover should be. At a critical period of her fortunes, when she is at war with all her family, a masked figure is found lurking in the balcony of her chamber, and vanishes like a phantom on being addressed. This untoward discovery, which she cannot herself account for, aggravates the anger of the King, who, believing her honour to be compromised, sends her to prison, and even threatens to take her life. She escapes from captivity mainly through the instrumentality of a cynical cousin, who is a better fellow than he looks, and makes the best of her way to the village of St. Lucia, where she is reduced to the humiliation of serving as a waitress at an inn. While engaged in this lowly occupation, she attracts the notice of a noble-looking stranger, who is supposed to be a wealthy goldsmith of Saragossa, and who, observing that she is in trouble, offers to conduct her to a neighbouring convent, where she may find a suitable refuge. She trustfully accepts the proffered escort, but on the road is encountered by a detachment of soldiers sent in search of her by the King, who, penitently sensible of the harshness of his former conduct, now longs for the return of the wanderer. Orelia, however, views the question in another light, and, that she may baffle her pursuers, walks into an adjoining church in company with her mysterious protector and there goes through what she intends and believes to be a mock ceremony of marriage with him. The marriage, however, proves to be a valid one, and she finds herself the wife of the goldsmith, whom, however, she soon learns to esteem and even to love, mechanic though he be, for his noble qualities. On her return to Castile, however, a delightful surprise awaits her, for her husband turns out to be no goldsmith after all, but the veritable King of Arragon, who, anxious to be loved for himself alone, has laid this plot to win her. This story, which reminds one of the opera of *The Rose of Castile*, and of the melodrama called the *Muleteer of Toledo*, also recalls to memory the little narrative about one of the Earls of Exeter, which William Hazlitt has told so charmingly. Miss Amy Sedgwick plays the part of the Princess with spirit and vigour. Mr. Marston deserves high praise for the impressive air of manly resolve and native dignity which he imparts to the character of the King. Mrs. Marston, as the irascible but kind-hearted, landlady of a country inn, is exceedingly effective; and Mr. Belmore, in the character of a droll roguish waiter, who delights in playing tricks upon his mother's customers, deserves honourable mention.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

Two new pieces have been produced at this house, and both perfect success. The first is presented in the form of a one-act comedieta, adapted from the French by Mr. Benjamin Webster, jun., and entitled *A Grey Mare*. It is a light and trifling affair, designed to exhibit (with a due regard to liveliness of course, and with a corresponding disregard to truth) the ingenious artifices by which a girl, determined to be married, succeeds in gaining the hand of a man who has no disposition to love, or even to take the slightest notice of her. The scene is laid at the country house of Mr. Joe Marshall (Mr. Toole), a gentleman of an impetuous and dogmatic temperment, who has written a book upon "universal brotherhood," and is ready to quarrel and fight with any one who disputes the peaceful doctrines he has propounded. At this house Mr. Robert Smith (Mr. Billington), a surveyor, engaged in making plans for a projected railway which is to run through the neighbouring property, has been invited to take up his residence, and though staying there for some weeks is so sedulously employed in prosecuting his work as to take no notice either of his irritable host or of his host's youthful and pretty niece, Alice (Miss Marie Wilton). Both, however, are resolved to engage his attention—the one for the sake of winning his admiration for the pamphlet on universal brotherhood, the other for the sake of winning his hand as a husband. The processes by which the two work to accomplish their ends, constitute the whole amusement of the piece, and must be confessed that in the hands of two such accomplished operators as Mr. Toole and Miss Marie Wilton, they were made as diverting as the loudest of Adelphi screamers could desire. The success of the piece must be ascribed entirely to the skill with which it is played. Miss Marie Wilton fills the part of Alice with all her customary vivacity and grace, and is laughably

supported by Mr. Toole, as the irascible uncle, and by Mr. Billington as the slowly awakened lover. The second novelty of the week is what the bill calls "a compliment of the season," under the title of *A Valentine*. It is one of those *appropos* sketches which Messrs. W. Brough and Halliday have for some time been in the habit of producing, and the burden of which is made to rest almost exclusively upon the shoulders of Mr. Toole. It involves no plot, but creates an endless roar of laughter from the preposterous embarrassments and troubles which befall Mr. Toddles (Mr. Toole), the district postmaster of a country town, from the pressure of his social duties on St. Valentine's Day. The piece, which is as extravagant as can well be conceived, is put upon the stage in a capital form, and is well sustained by Mr. Toole, with the valuable aid of Mr. Paul Bedford, Miss Kate Kelly, and Miss A. Seaman. It was received with the loudest demonstrations of delight.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

The 359th representation of *Our American Cousin* took place on Monday evening, on which occasion Mr. Buckstone—ever alive to the exigencies of responsibility and success—seized the opportunity of strengthening the attraction by introducing new scenery, dresses, and decorations. The cast of characters was the same as it has been for some time past, and it is needless to say one word in reference to the merits of the artists, except that they really appeared to derive fresh vigour and zest from the fact that everything about them and around them bore the semblance of renewed vitality. It would be no great compliment to Mr. Sothorn to describe the changes he has effected in his costume, as he depends upon much more weighty considerations for his successful portraiture. The new scenery, by Messrs. O'Connor and Morris, is well worthy the high reputation of those gentlemen, and it may be truly said that Lord Dundreary has a very fair chance of increasing in popularity (if it be possible) through the revivifying adjuncts by which he is now surrounded.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the younger members of the Royal Family continue at Windsor. Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia, accompanied by her youthful son, arrived at Gravesend at twelve o'clock on Tuesday, and immediately proceeded to Windsor. Both her Royal Highness and the boy looked remarkably well. The Princess Alexandra was to leave Copenhagen, en route for England, on Thursday. The Prince of Wales has been on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Spencer at Althorp Park. His Royal Highness held a *levee* at St. James's Palace on Wednesday. It was very numerously attended. A telegram from Malta of the 24th (evening) states that Prince Alfred, who has been suffering from fever, improves daily. His Royal Highness had been just removed from the *St. George* to the Naval Hospital.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS, on Thursday, the 19th inst., Lord Carnarvon, who has devoted much attention to the subject of prison discipline, entered into an elaborate statement as to the increase of crime and the nature of the punishment dealt out to criminals. Comparing the returns of the years 1860 and 1861, the noble earl showed that a large increase had taken place in offences of almost every description, and he attributed this state of things to the leniency with which prisoners were treated in Houses of Correction, and the excellent diet on which they were placed. He contended that our prison discipline was most defective; that the various kinds of punishment had been deprived of all power of striking terror into the breast of the criminal classes; and that, as things now stood, the cell of a gaol was rather a desirable retreat for certain classes of the population. He concluded by expressing a hope that this subject would engage the serious attention of her Majesty's Government.—Lord Granville said the subject had not been neglected by the Government, but there were serious practical difficulties in the way of carrying out an extensive reform such as that suggested by Lord Carnarvon's speech. He recommended that the question should be referred to a Committee, and Lord Carnarvon, thereupon, announced his intention of moving for a committee to-night.—On Friday, Lord Ellenborough, referring to the Polish insurrection, strongly condemned the conduct of the Russian agents. The rebellion had been provoked, and the Poles, who, according to common report, were threatened by the Prussian, as well as the Russian, Government

could now only look to England and France. In former times, they had fought in the interest of France, and he trusted that the French people and army would "now be mindful of that noble brotherhood in arms." While denouncing the course alleged to have been decided upon by the Prussian government, he praised the "most loyal" conduct of Austria in connection with this outbreak; and he could not but believe that the miseries of the present revolt were but the beginning of better times for Poland.—Lord Russell, who declined to produce certain papers asked for by Lord Ellenborough, attributed the insurrection to the unjust and oppressive manner in which the Russian Government, acting, he believed, upon the advice of the Marquis Wielopolski, had enforced the conscription. He agreed with Lord Ellenborough in the tribute he had paid to the strict neutrality of Austria; but with regard to Prussia, although he had received no copies of any engagement between that country and Russia, he was bound to say that in one respect the government of Berlin acted in a manner not entirely neutral, for, while the Czar's troops, when driven into Prussian territory, were not to be disarmed, the insurgents might be pursued by the Russians across the frontier. They knew little at present of the object of the insurrection, and the future course of the Government "must be one of serious deliberation."—On the motion of Lord Carnarvon, a committee was appointed to inquire into the present system of penal discipline.—On Monday no business of importance was transacted. Lord Stratheden, at the request of Lord Russell, postponed his motion for copies of Mr. Mason's communications to Her Majesty's Government with reference to the claim of the Southern Confederacy to be recognised as an independent state.—On Tuesday the Bishop of Bangor's bill authorising the licensing of chapels for the performance of divine service in the English tongue in those parishes in Wales where the Welsh language is commonly used, was read a second time.—In reply to a question from Lord Stratheden, Lord de Grey said the Government were not prepared to enforce that part of the Volunteer Commissioners' report which recommends the delay of brigade and divisional field days until the close of the battalion drill season. It was important to consider the convenience of the various corps, but at the same time he trusted that commanding officers would, as far as possible, act upon the recommendation of the commission. Their lordships adjourned at twenty minutes past six.—In the House of Commons on Thursday, the 19th inst., Lord Palmerston brought forward the Government proposal on the subject of an allowance to the Prince of Wales and his future Consort. The noble lord stated that the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall, with the accumulation so carefully husbanded by the late Prince Consort during the minority of the heir apparent, would amount to about £60,000; and he asked the House to sanction an addition of £40,000 to this from the Consolidated Fund, so as to bring up the income of his Royal Highness to £100,000 a year. In addition to this he proposed an annual grant of £10,000 to the Princess Alexandra; and, in the event of her becoming the widow of the Prince of Wales, to secure her a yearly allowance of £30,000.—Sir H. Willoughby was of opinion that they ought to restrict the grant to the £40,000 asked for the Prince of Wales; but, after a brief discussion, the House sanctioned the resolution introduced by the Premier. The Corrupt Practices Prevention Bill, and the Union Relief Aid Act Continuance Bill were read a second time; Mr. Villiers announcing, with regard to the latter measure, that in deference to the opinions recently expressed by Lord Stanley and Mr. Cobden, the Act would be continued for six instead of twelve months, as originally proposed. He stated also that the period allowed for the repayment of loans by borrowing unions would be extended from seven to fourteen years.—On Friday, Sir George Grey, in reply to a question from Sir John Hay, said that it would be obviously improper on the part of the Government to give any directions as to the mode in which the surplus of the Crimean Fund, the Hartley Colliery Fund, or any other great public subscription, should be applied.—Mr. Chichester Fortescue, in answer to a question from Colonel Wilson Patten, denied that Sir George Grey, the Governor of New Zealand, had either intimated his intention to resign or asked for a larger military force. So far from reinforcements being required in the colony, the prospects of preserving peace with the natives were "stronger than ever."—In reply to Mr. Ewart, Lord Palmerston entered into a somewhat fuller statement than that given in the Upper House by the Foreign Secretary with reference to the convention said to have been concluded by Russia and Prussia, with the view of checking or suppressing the Polish-

insurrection. He had not seen the agreement, but he was informed that it amounted to this—that the Russian troops should be allowed to pursue the insurgents into Prussian territory, and that railway communication should be afforded if needed." He did not, however, believe that the arrangement went to the extent of providing for the employment of Prussian troops to co-operate with those of Russia against the Poles. Sir Lawrence Palk's motion for a Royal Commission to inquire into "the best means of securing a permanent supply of cotton" was opposed by Mr. Milner Gibson, who contended that such an inquiry would prove useless, and that the question of the cotton supply should be left to private enterprise. Sir Lawrence, after this expression of opinion, did not attempt to push the matter further, and the motion was consequently withdrawn.—On Monday, a lively personal altercation took place between Lord Clarence Paget and Lord Robert Montague, with reference to a statement made by the latter the other night. The member for Huntingdonshire accused the Secretary to the Admiralty of having some time ago gone down to Chatham, and, with the view of furthering the prospects of his brother-in-law, as a candidate for the representation of that borough, made magnificent promises as to Chatham becoming the most extensive dockyard in the world. Lord C. Paget denied the whole statement, which was, however, repeated by his accuser; and Sir F. Smith, one of the members for Chatham, while observing that he was always happy to meet Lord Clarence, expressed an earnest hope never to see "his noble friend's" face again among his (Sir Frederick's) constituents. The bill granting annuities to the Prince and future Princess of Wales was read a second time. Sir H. Willoughby, after having gone over the accounts of the Duchy of Cornwall, was perfectly satisfied with the proposal of the Government. Mr. W. Williams still appeared to have a doubt upon his mind as to the accumulations of the revenues of the Duchy, while Mr. Whalley expressed his great concern that the marriage treaty contained no stipulation that the children of the Prince and Princess should be brought up in the faith of the Established Church.—Lord Palmerston gave an explanation, which, it is to be hoped, satisfied the scruples of both hon. gentlemen; and he further assured Mr. Hopwood that the Prince of Wales, like every other member of the Royal family, would have his income saddled with the income-tax. In reply to a question from Mr. Buxton, Lord Palmerston strongly condemned the recent deportation of a Nubian regiment from Egypt for service with the French army in Mexico. He stated that the Emperor of the French simply desired to enlist voluntarily a body of negro troops, but that the late Viceroy, going beyond the proposal of his Majesty, forced the wretched Nubians on board a French frigate before they knew anything of their destination. The "violence and cruelty of the conduct of the Egyptian Government was exactly similar to that committed at Warsaw," and he trusted that the Emperor would do all in his power to repair the wrong.—The navy estimates were then moved by Lord Clarence Paget, who made a lengthened statement as to the present position of the naval force of the country, and after some discussion the estimates were passed.—On Tuesday Mr. Monsell gave notice of his intention to bring in a bill for the registration of marriages in Ireland—a subject to which the Yelverton case has given special interest; while Mr. Hubbard intimated his intention of making another effort to bring about a "re-adjustment of the income tax. In reply to a question from Sir George Bowyer, Mr. Layard stated that some time ago the Italian Government proposed that a treaty should be concluded between Victor Emmanuel and Her Majesty for the extradition of Italian criminals who might seek refuge in Malta. The English Government declined to accede to this proposal, but suggested, instead, a local ordinance for the surrender of certain classes of offenders. He was not aware whether such an ordinance had been passed by the Council at Malta, but he assured the House that the measure proposed had nothing whatever to do with political offenders. Lord Palmerston was unable to inform Mr. Hopwood as to whether any reply had been given by the Federal Government to the French proposal of mediation. Sir John Hay moved a resolution on the subject of naval pay and promotion. The hon. and gallant member pointed out the difference between the pay of admirals and generals, and showed that English naval officers were remunerated on a much lower scale than the officers of the French and American navies. He further urged that it was desirable to adopt, for all ranks in the navy, the principle of retirement by age, and submitted that the number of cadets should be kept within fair limits, so as to improve the chances of promotion.

Lord Palmerston moved, as an amendment, that the subject of the present system of promotion and retirement be referred to a Select Committee. The noble lord objected to naval officers forming themselves into "deliberate assemblies, with the view of forcing upon the Government changes for their own benefit and advantage." Such proceedings would be fatal to proper discipline. Their pay and chances of promotion might not be all that they could desire, but similar complaints might be heard from the members of every other profession. If the proposal of Sir John Hay were agreed to, the army would next have its claims to prefer, and the result would be increased expenditure and increased taxation. After a long discussion, Sir John Hay agreed not to press his resolution to a division, and the amendment of Lord Palmerston was adopted.—Sir George Grey obtained leave to bring in a bill making provision for bills falling due in London on the day of the Princess Alexandra's entry, which it is proposed to observe as a holiday in the metropolis.—Mr. Adderley also introduced a measure for the more effectual suppression of crimes of violence.—The Prince and Princess of Wales Annuities Bill passed through Committee.—The House did not meet on Wednesday, in consequence of the levee.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—From the Registrar's weekly return of the health of the metropolis it appears that the mortality is on the increase. The deaths last week were 1377, which is the highest number that has taken place since the third week in January. The mortality is still, however, 87 below the average of the last ten years, which when corrected by the increase of the population, would amount to 1464. The births during the week were 1938, which is 122 below the average.—According to present arrangements Lord Palmerston will deliver his installation address to the students of Glasgow on the 30th of March, and in the evening his lordship will attend a banquet at the city hall. On the following night the working classes of Glasgow propose to give a "reception" to the veteran statesman.—Among the rumours current with respect to the forthcoming budget, is one to the effect that Mr. Gladstone proposes an equalisation of the duties on chicory and coffee. It is estimated that, by increasing the charge on the former article from 12s. to 28s. per cwt. the public revenue would gain about £70,000 a year.—Some time ago, the Central Executive Relief Committee received from the agents of certain of our colonies, offers to facilitate the emigration of unemployed cotton operatives. The subject was referred to the various local committees, and the result is thus stated in a report read at the meeting of the central body:—"The extent to which these offers have been accepted has appeared to justify the committee in consenting to become the medium of these communications. The committee do not, however, consider themselves at liberty to apply any part of the public contributions placed at their disposal towards the promotion of emigration." In consequence of the complaints which have reached England from Sydney, it has been decided that the whole of the New South Wales grant be merged in the general fund for the relief of physical distress; and that both past and future special appropriations for setting those relieved to work, or sending youths and children to school, be charged to the general fund. Mr. Farnall reports a further decrease in the number of persons receiving relief in the distressed districts, making the total decrease since the 6th of December, 53,617.—The clerks to the Boards of Guardians of Stockport, Northwich, Clitheroe, Garstang, Lancaster, Leigh, Liverpool, Oldham, Prescott, Prestwich, Rochdale, West Derby and Toxteth Park, Warrington, Altrincham, Runcorn, Chorlton, Macclesfield, Great Boughton, Barton-upon-Irwell, and Chorley, held a meeting in Manchester, on Saturday, for the purpose of taking steps to oppose certain of the provisions of Mr. Villiers's bill for the continuance of the Union Relief Aid Act of last session. A very strong opinion was expressed against confining the rate in aid to the counties in which the overburdened unions are situated. It was argued that the present calamity was a national one, and that the area of the rate in aid should, therefore, be widely extended. It was further contended that the borrowing powers of the guardians should be extended; that the repayment of loans should be spread over a period of twenty years; and that the loan commissioners should be authorized to lend the amount required at a low rate of interest. Resolutions embodying these views were passed, and arrangements were made for a deputation to wait upon the President of the Poor Law Board.—Another American "relief ship"—the *Achilles*—has arrived in the Mersey. She brings about 5000 barrels of flour, the gift of the people of Philadelphia to the operatives of the cotton

manufacturing districts.—An important meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has been held. It was the meeting for the society to re-elect its office bearers; and it was anticipated that the case of Dr. Colenso, who, in virtue of his episcopal office, is a vice-president of the society, would come before the meeting. The other bishops having been appointed vice-presidents, it was proposed that the re-election of Bishop Colenso be suspended, in consequence of the publication of his books, which has shaken the confidence of the Church in his soundness. The motion was carried with only two dissentients, one of whom stated to the meeting that he was a relative of the bishop.—At the Court of Common Council last week, a discussion with closed doors took place on some propositions submitted by Mr. Anderton, with reference to the Royal procession and marriage, the most important of which was that the Corporation should make a present to the Princess, in memory of her visit to the City, the cost of which should not exceed £10,000. The discussion lasted for two hours, and it is understood that a division was taken on the motion. In the end, however, the proposition was agreed to. When the Metropolitan Railway was first embodied the corporation of London agreed, by way of encouragement, to take 20,000 shares. They have since sold 18,000 at a profit of £32,000, and they have resolved to dispose of the remainder with all convenient speed, as it was considered to be unwise for the Corporation to mix itself up in commercial speculations. Among other matters, the proposed new street from Blackfriars Bridge to the Mansion House has been under consideration, and strong opposition was expressed to the idea of the Board of Works entering the City at all, as well as to the proposed plan of the new street. The matter was referred to the improvements committee.—There was a large gathering at the Whittington Club, on Wednesday night, to pay a tribute of respect to Mr. George Thompson for his lengthened services in the cause of human freedom. The proceedings assumed the form of a *soirée*, and included the presentation of an eloquent address, in which the public career of Mr. Thompson was reviewed. Lord Teynham occupied the chair, and after speeches by Mr. Wilks and Mr. Bazley, M.P., his lordship presented the address in a few earnest remarks. Mr. Thompson then replied in a speech of considerable length; and after addresses by Mr. Ayrton, M.P., Mr. Sella Martin (who spoke as a representative of the coloured race), Professor Newman, and others, the proceedings terminated. The allusions to Mr. Thompson's labours had reference more especially to the part he has taken in the anti-slavery, free-trade, British India, and Parliamentary Reform movements.—A congress of the Associated Chambers of Commerce have been sitting in London, and several important questions have been under discussion. With reference to commercial treaties, resolutions were passed, calling upon the Government to exercise greater watchfulness in the conclusion of such treaties. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to press upon him the desirability of abolishing the petty import and export charges. The question of belligerent rights at sea underwent a lengthy discussion. A resolution was moved by Mr. Whitewell to the effect that a petition should be presented to Parliament expressing the opinion of the Associated Chambers, that all private property at sea, except contraband of war, should be exempt from capture. An amendment was, however, proposed to refer the subject to the Chambers generally, and it was carried.—Josiah Wedgwood, the renowned English potter, has been worthily honoured by a statue. This memorial, which has been erected at Stoke-upon-Trent, was on Monday unveiled with much pomp—Lord Harrowby acting the principal part in the ceremony.—The two brothers Brooks and the young woman Lake were fully committed for trial by the magistrate at Hammersmith, on Saturday—the men for the murder of the policeman at Acton, and the woman, who was about to be married to one of the brothers, as an accessory after the fact. The prisoners appeared all through to treat the very serious charge brought against them with much levity.—A German, apprehended at Hull on the charge of murdering the woman Halliday, while she was in charge of Kingswood Parsonage-house, near Reigate, has been brought up before the Reigate magistrates, and the prisoner remanded. It may be remembered that the charge against him is, that he had stolen a pocket-book belonging to another German, and that the pocket-book was found in the room where the woman was murdered.—Inquests have been held on the child of Caroline Burns, a girl of 15, who, it was stated, had been seduced under extraordinary

circumstances. The infant was found dead, and apparently murdered. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the girl. On Sophia Turner, a single woman, of 27 years of age, who had been seduced by a person with whom she went to live as housekeeper, the name of the person not being allowed to transpire. She was apparently driven to distraction, and died suddenly from exhaustion, through excitement and disease of lungs. On the body of Mrs. Eliza Smart, a lady who committed suicide by jumping from London Bridge. Temporary insanity had been induced, it is thought, by immoderate grief at the serious illness of her child. On the body of a young woman found drowned in the Regent's Canal, under unusually strange circumstances. It is thought that she must have walked into the water in a fit of somnambulism.—A dreadful colliery accident has occurred in the neighbourhood of of Wednesbury. On Thursday the 19th, three men and a boy were working in the Steers Meadow Pit, when a flood of water poured into the mine. The three men perished, but the boy managed to reach a point in the workings which his hapless companions sought unsuccessfully to gain. He was ultimately rescued after a dismal imprisonment of about 30 hours.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The *Moniteur* of Wednesday published a paragraph in its bulletin, commenting on the continued obstinacy of the struggle in Poland, which it declares to be established by the most authentic accounts. When we remember that nothing is published in the official journal which does not express the views of the French Government, the significance of this announcement will be understood. The French Government in plain words declines to accept the official accounts from Warsaw, which represent, as indeed they have been doing for the past month, the insurrection as all but extinguished. The *Moniteur* also notices the fact that Austrian journals all condemn the policy of Prussia, and dwells with even more emphasis upon the unanimity which prevails among the English press and public on the subject. The French journal does not fail to publish all the authenticated accounts of the savage cruelties practised by Russian troops in the disturbed districts.—The *Constitutionnel* has an article intended to allay the excitement caused by the dread of an immediate European war. The junction of England, France, and Austria is the surest guarantee of peace, says this journal.—The *Patrie* announces that M. Thouvenel has despatched to the French Envoy at Berlin, a note, which is to be communicated to the Prussian Cabinet. This note is said to be couched in the most moderate and friendly language; but, according to the *Patrie*, it "points out that Prussia, by assisting to crush the insurrection in Poland, would be liable to arouse the aspirations of other populations of Polish origin, which might make common cause with the insurgents."—The Prussian Government is reported to be engaged in endeavouring, not very successfully, to negotiate a loan so large, as to convey the idea of a deliberate preparation to meet the expenses of a war. Thus at least, affirms a French journal; but we do not know whether there is any authority for the statement.—It is asserted by the Berlin newspapers, that a body of Prussian troops actually crossed the frontier into the kingdom of Poland, and occupied for some hours a town in Russian territory, because it was reported that a body of insurgents was advancing to seize the place.—A telegram from Berlin states that the police of that city have seized 300 hand-grenades found in the possession of Poles. The latter were arrested, and will be prosecuted. The German inhabitants of Posen have published a declaration, protesting against Prussian intervention in favour of Russia, as prejudicial to the province of Posen.—All the endeavours to upset Marshal O'Donnell appear to have failed, and, it is said, the possibility of a Ministerial crisis at Madrid is no longer spoken of. Marshal Narvaez is endeavouring to form a separate party, but has hitherto met with little support.—Despatches from Constantinople state that the Porte has addressed a circular note to its representatives abroad, calling attention to the unsatisfactory and disturbed condition of the Danubian Principalities.—The "Provisional Government" of Greece has been overturned by a kind of bloodless revolution; and henceforth the country will, it seems, be ruled by a Ministry directly appointed by the National Assembly, until a King shall have assumed the crown.

AMERICA.—The *Australasian* has brought intelligence from New York to the 11th inst. The official report of the Federal Admiral Dupont of the attack by the Confederates on the blockading squadron at Charleston differs in some respects from

the Southern version. According to the former, two Confederate iron-clads suddenly attacked the Federal fleet, captured the *Mercedita*, and seriously damaged the *Keystone State*; but both vessels escaped and were towed to Port Royal. Several other Federal vessels were also damaged, and the Federal casualties amounted to 24 killed and 23 wounded. It is denied that the blockade was ever raised. An immense naval force was before Charleston, but the attack had not commenced. The Federal iron-clad *Montauk* had been foiled in its attack on Fort M'Alister, and relinquished the attempt. The capture of Sabine Pass by the Confederates is confirmed. The Federal Ram *Queen of the West* is reported to have passed the Confederate batteries on the Mississippi without hurt, but doing considerable damage to the enemy. The New York papers say that a successful reconnaissance had been made upon the right wing of the army of the Potomac, but afford no particulars. The enrolment of negroes was giving rise to much discontent and inconvenience. Owing to the arrival of a coloured regiment a very mutinous spirit had been shown by the troops at Ship Island, and an Illinois regiment had been placed under arrest for refusing to fight under the emancipation proclamation. Nevertheless, Mr. Sumner had introduced a bill into the Senate to enrol 300,000 negro soldiers. In Tennessee the Federals had occupied Lebanon, and captured 600 prisoners. The Senate had called for the correspondence with the French Government concerning mediation or other means of ending the war. The New York journals view with favour the French Emperor's proposal. By the *City of Manchester*, the *Hansa*, and the *Bohemian*, we have dates from New York to the evening of the 14th inst. Preparations were energetically continued for the capture of Vicksburg, and by cutting the levels of the Mississippi the country to the rear of that city has been flooded, to such a depth it is hoped as may permit gunboats to attack in that quarter. No attack on Savannah or Charleston had yet been made; General Foster's expedition was disembarking on Helena Island, which is some fifty miles south of Charleston. The dismemberment of the army of the Potomac had commenced, about 35,000 men having been detached from it to proceed to Suffolk in Virginia, under Burnside. The political news is of more importance. Mr. Seward had explicitly denied in a report to the Senate, that he had ever made any communication to the Confederate authorities through the French Minister at Washington, as alleged by the latter in despatches to his government recently published; and he had also refused to listen to any proposition for foreign interference in the affairs of the United States. The Illinois Legislature had passed peace resolutions; the Governor of Pennsylvania had condemned arbitrary arrests; and a resolution was before the New Jersey Legislature to send commissioners to Richmond to know upon what terms amicable relations, under one government, could be restored.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P.M.—There is no means of challenging the appointments of a W.M., even though he should pass over a zealous and attentive Mason. The brethren have the power of redress in their hands hereafter. We cannot insert a letter upon such a subject, especially as that letter imparts unworthy motives to the master of a lodge, whilst the writer withholds his name.

BRO. COOKE AND THE HIGH DEGREES.—In consequence of some evident misinformation having got abroad, as we learn through several letters we have received, we feel it only due to Bro. Matthew Cooke to say that he has never written one word relative to the high degrees in this MAGAZINE to which he has not appended his own name. Bro. Cooke is not the man to fight under an anonyne one day, and his own name the next.

W. J.—The jewel of which a sketch is sent us is that of a D.G.M., or Prov. G.M., under the old constitutions. Surely our correspondent cannot be serious when he asks us what the sun and moon has to do with a Masonic jewel.

CHRONOLOGY.—In Bro. Melville's article, which appeared last week, Cota should have been Creta.

BELISARIUS will be attended to in due time.

ERRATA.—In the letter of "Ebor," at p. 141, third line from the bottom, for "sneer" read "sever"; for Sloane MS. 3228, fo. 137, read 3329 fo. 137; for "mausio" read "mansio"; and p. 142, five lines from the top, for "process" read "proofs."