

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1863.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

The report of the Committee on the Grand Lodge Property, as presented to Grand Lodge, certainly did not give any indication as to the opinions of the Committee regarding the respective positions of the portion of the property to be devoted to the purposes of the Craft, and the Tavern.

We have, therefore, looked for it in the instructions to Architects, where we find an opinion expressed that "it is considered very desirable, but not imperative, that the portion westward of the great hall (including the great hall itself) should be applied exclusively for the purposes of Masonry," leaving, of course, the tavern in its present position, to be enlarged to the east by that portion of the property at present occupied by the Grand Secretary's offices.

We are not in a position to decide upon the grounds, or evidence, which led the Committee to this decision, but we may be allowed to express our regret at it, inasmuch as we cannot forego our opinion that the Masonic portion of the building should be in the centre—making with the Tavern to the west, and the hotel to the east, or whatever purposes that portion may hereafter be applied—one grand whole of which the hall and Masonic buildings should compose the principal feature, and the Tavern and other buildings be subsidiary as wings.

The Committee have not, however, absolutely determined, but have only suggested, such should be the position of the Masonic portion of the building, leaving it to the architects to propose another arrangement should they think desirable—and when the plans are received (though the opinions of the Committee will receive due weight) the final decision of the appropriation of the property must rest with Grand Lodge itself.

The Committee, in their instructions to architects, say that:—

The façade representing Freemasons' Hall, is to be of a plain and handsome character, and is to be built of Portland stone; the length is to extend to the east wall of the present great hall, and will be in extent about 89 feet, presuming that the Masonic offices are placed to the west side, or about 88 feet if it should be considered more desirable to erect the Masonic portion on the east side of the property. The remaining portion of the frontage, about 43 or 44 feet in length, is to be of a distinct and plainer character, and may be built of brick, with stone dressings.

We agree that the façade should be plain and handsome—but we trust whatever may be the decision as to the position of the Grand Lodge buildings, the whole range may be made to harmonise as much as possible.

It is proposed that wherever any portion of the

present buildings can be conveniently appropriated, they are to be retained so as to form part of the new buildings, and thereby tend to economy in the arrangements, a most desirable point to be kept in mind, and which will meet with the approbation of every member of the Craft.

The Committee state that the object in view in seeking designs—

Is to provide a suitable temple or hall for Freemasonry, which is to include the requisite accommodation for the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master and Executive Officers, and for private lodges and the Craft. It is to be adjoining, and to have convenient access to, a tavern; but in all other respects the two buildings are to be entirely separate and distinct from each other. It is intended that the tavern shall be so constructed as to afford the greatest possible facility for carrying on a first-class business.

The Committee expressly notify to competing architects that elegance and simplicity, rather than elaborate ornament in the general character of the designs, and economy in the entire cost of the buildings, will materially influence the selection.

That the objects set forth are those required by the Craft, and to consider the best means of carrying out which the Committee was appointed, there can be no doubt; and we trust that in preparing their designs the architects who are about to compete will bear that object steadily in view, so that we may have something worthy of the Craft—honorable to the successful architect—and within the reach of those means which we may fairly expend upon the property, without too much burthening posterity to meet the outlay involved in the alteration; and here we would observe that one objection we have to placing the Grand Lodge buildings to the west, and the Tavern to the east of the Grand Hall, is the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of extending the Grand Lodge buildings hereafter, should the necessities of the Craft require it; whilst by placing them in the centre we shall have ample scope to increase them to almost any extent which may be required.

The following are set forth by the Committee as the "Masonic requirements," though the size of the rooms, &c., are stated to be only "given as data of about the accommodation required, and are in nowise compulsory for adoption."

Library, 33 × 25.

Coffee room, 32 × 19.

Grand Secretary's Office, 23 × 16.

Ditto private Office, 18 × 13.

Clerk's Office, 23 × 16.

Fire-proof muniment room, (which may be in the basement), 16 × 16.

Waiting room, 26 × 15.

Large Committee room, 44 × 25.

Three Offices for Charities, 14 × 12 each.

(It is suggested that the above should be upon the ground floor, that the library and coffee room should be near each other, and it is essential that the remainder of the offices should be so placed as to possess convenient access to each other, and to the committee room.)

The present Great Hall, 92 × 38.

Two Lodge rooms, 44 × 25.

Two ditto 33 × 25.

One ante-room to each lodge room, having (where prac-

ticable) a small private room attached to each, but this small private room is not to be a passage room leading to the lodge room.

Robing room for the Grand Master, 23 × 16, with washing and water closet, belonging thereto.

Robing room for Grand Officers, 30 × 20.

Two or three small rooms to be used as committee rooms if the space allows.

Grand Tyler's apartments (which may be in the basement) consisting of five rooms.

Principal staircase leading to the different rooms.

Back staircase.

Water closets, lavatories, urinals, &c.

A suitable approach to be made to the present great hall (and gallery in the hall) which will be used for Masonic purposes only, and although the whole of this part of the ground is to be appropriated to Freemasonry, and separated from the tavern, yet good internal access is to be contrived from this portion of the building. The basement to be used for Grand Tyler's rooms, servant's apartments, and for rooms to receive the furniture belonging to lodges, &c.

Arrangements must also be contrived for the future formation of a kitchen, private cellars and domestic offices under this part of the building, should it be found desirable hereafter to provide them.

The three-pair floors to be used for bedrooms, of which four or five will be required.

With the requirements for Masonic purposes we have nothing to complain of, excepting that we think that, in addition to the Lodge Rooms, there should be at least two Chapter Rooms, separate and distinct; and we must also be allowed to express our regret that the Knight Templar, and other degrees restricted to Masons, have, by the treatment they have received from the Grand Secretary, been driven from our property to build a rival hall, with other appurtenances, which cannot fail hereafter to prove injurious to the property of the Craft. As regards the dimensions of the rooms given, we are assured they cannot be adhered to in the space in which the architects have to work; but that is a professional question, which we do not at present propose to discuss.

As respects the Tavern and its requirements, the Committee say:—

The present tavern, together with the portion eastward of the tavern (now used as offices and on which the temple now stands), in all about 85 feet in length, with the exception of the façade and such rooms as may be appropriated in the front to Masonic purposes, is to be occupied by additions and alterations to the tavern, and to be separated from the Masonic portion, agreeably to the requirements in the following list:—

Entrance hall and staircase.

New banqueting hall capable of dining 450 to 500 persons, with gallery for 150 spectators.

1 Dining-room for 130 persons.

1 Ditto 100 ditto.

2 Ditto 50 ditto each.

2 Ditto 20 ditto each.

There would be no objection to the rooms known as the Sussex, the Glee-room, the Dining-room, and the Cambridge, being retained as dining-rooms in the future Tavern, or to the present Clarence with the passage to the east of it, being used as a Coffee-room hereafter, which Coffee-room is intended for the exclusive use of Freemasons.

If space permits it, the addition of two or three smaller rooms will be an advantage.

Each of the above dining-rooms to have an appropriate ante-room, and the great Banqueting-room to have an appropriate vestibule.

Urinals, water closets, lavatories, lifts, &c., &c.

The three-pair floor and attics, if necessary, to be converted into bed-rooms for tenant or Manager, and servants.

The basement to have the usual domestic offices suitable to the requirements of a large tavern, due regard being paid to the separation of the male and female servants' apartments, and the plans must embrace a large servants' hall, and sufficiency of dressing-rooms for the waiters.

The requirements for the Tavern are no doubt, on the whole, judicious; but we would suggest that what the Tavern required was not so much a larger hall as a second hall—certainly larger than the present—so that two large parties might be accommodated at once, and we do not see any peculiar reason for keeping the present hall wholly for Masonry, if it can be made available alike for general and Masonic purposes without detriment; and again, we believe that a better hall may be obtained to the west than to the east of the present, leaving us ample space to secure good accommodation for all Masonic requirements.

We have heard it stated, and indeed we have received communications to the effect that the laying down the dimensions of rooms, &c., would seem to point out that the Committee have a plan in the background, which will be brought forward against competing architects when their plans are received—and moreover, that the plan has been prepared by Bro. Daukes. We are sure that the Committee are too high-minded and too good Masons to lend themselves to such a scheme, and that had it been proposed to Bro. Daukes, he would not only have spurned it at once, as an insult to his social and professional standing, but would have felt himself compelled to tender the resignation of his office to the Most Worshipful Grand Master. It is most painful to think that Freemasons, who prided themselves upon their charity, appear to be unable to enter upon the discussion of any measure affecting the welfare of the Craft without attributing motives to those who disagree with them, which in their capacity as citizens of the world they would be ashamed to entertain.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

SIR JOHN MOORE.

In reference to the query in last Saturday's MAGAZINE, "Where was Sir John Moore made a Mason?" I give you a copy of minute taken from the minute book of the Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge. "At the Saracen's Head Inn, 30th November, 1798, in presence of Bro. James Dunlop, R.W.M., and a respectable meeting of the brethren, John Moore, of the 15th Regiment, was initiated into the secret mysteries of Masonry, and admitted a member of this lodge, and paid the regular dues." He was then a Lieutenant in the 15th. This lodge never held of the Grand Lodge of Scotland; originally it was named the "Paisley Kilwinning," but on account of its being composed of the noblemen and gentlemen connected with the county, they, in 1755, applied for and received a new charter from Mother Kilwinning, under the title of the "Renfrew County Kilwinning," bearing No. 11 on her roll. William, Earl of Dundonald, appears to have been initiated in this

lodge in 1751, and also William, Lord Blantyre, in 1773; the latter presented a very valuable set of jewels to the lodge, which are now in possession of the present Renfrew County Kilwinning, No. 370 on the registry of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.—T. D. FAIRLEY.

GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE.

"V.M." inquires "Where was Sir John Moore made?" This illustrious hero and brother was made in Paisley, under the charter of the Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge (No. 11), the old minute-book of which bears the following entry:—"At the Saracen's Head Inn, 30th November, 1798, in presence of Bro. James Dunlop, R.W.M., and a respectable meeting of the brethren, Bro. John Moore of the 15th regiment was initiated into the secret mysteries of Masonry, and admitted a member of this lodge, and paid the usual dues." The same book contains a list of members of the lodge admitted from November, 1750, to April, 1805, and the name of Bro. Moore is therein entered as "Lieutenant John Moore, 15th regiment of Foot." Sir John's Mother Lodge, after lying dormant for a great many years, was resuscitated in 1855; but, being unable to comply with certain requirements of Grand Lodge in the case of dormant lodges applying to be restored, the petitioners failed in obtaining for the lodge its original number, and it now stands No. 370 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.—D. M. L.

DOCTOR DESAGULIERS.

In *Once a Week*, p. 643, is an account of the old Charlton Hunt, with extracts from the weighing book. In it is the name of Dr. Disaguillers, (Desaguliers). It is desirable to have the date and particulars of this entry, as they may serve to trace his connexion with the Duke of Richmond. It is very likely that the names of other G.O's. will be found in the same company, affording some further elucidation of a portion of authentic Masonic history but little studied. The date of Dr. Desaguliers' entry seems to be 1736-8. I am glad the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE Notes and Queries have supplied some facts as to the seventeenth century in answer to my questions.—HYDE CLARKE, D.P.G.M. Turkey.

THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

We reprint the following article from our contemporary "Notes and Queries," believing that it will be of interest to a large number of our readers:—

In the *United Service Magazine* for February, 1863 (pp. 191-204), there is an article on the Order of the Knights Hospitaliers. It is meagre in detail; and, from the general tone of its statements, it leaves much to be inferred by the reader. It would be well that there should be no doubt on the subject; and in the hope, therefore, that my doubts may be solved in a satisfactory manner, I shall be obliged to any correspondent of "N. & Q." who will kindly answer the questions I shall put in this communication.

At p. 203, of the *United Service Magazine*, I read:—"The Head of the Order is now (1863) represented by a Lieutenant-Master at Rome."

This is conclusive, and requires no explanation. The Lieutenant-Master is the head of the Order.

Further on, I read:—"The languages of) "Italy and Germany exist under the Pope as Grand Prior only."

How can this be? Is the Pope a Grand Prior of the Order? If so, where and what is his Priory? And if he be a Grand Prior of the Order, he is subject to the authority of the Lieutenant-Master; who, as we have learned above, is head of the Order? I seek for further explanation.

Now for the "Languages." I have before me a copy of the Statutes of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and in Section XIX., No. 25, I read that—"In our Order the Nations are called Languages." *Ergo*, a nation is synonymous with language, *i. e.* the "English nation" is designated by the "English language."

I have also before me a copy of the continuation of the *History* of the Order of Pozzo; and on searching for any particulars relating to the English Knights I read, under the date 1598, that "the English Language was considered to be extinct, because it had lost its property" (Pozzo, *Historia di Malta*, vol. i. p. 401).

It seems that, owing to the severity of the penal laws, many English and Irish Catholics were obliged to leave the countries of their birth, and to take refuge in foreign lands. Some of these unfortunate gentlemen sought to be admitted into the Order; but they could not be received on account of an old rule, that no one belonging to a nation which had not "limits" in the Order (*i. e.* was possessed of priories, bailiwicks, and commanderies) could be admitted. And for this reason the language of England was considered as extinct, since it had no longer any property. Hence it is evident, from the above statement of Pozzo, that property is essential to the existence of a "Language." For this reason, therefore, the three French Languages (France, Provence, and Auvergne,) ceased to exist, when their property was confiscated by decree of the Constituent Assembly on Sept. 19, 1792: when it was enacted, "that the Order of Malta should cease to exist within the limits of France" (see Porter's *History of the Order*, vol. ii. p. 432, *et seq.*) This is an undoubted fact; for I read, in Sutherland's *History of the Order*, that—

"In 1814, the French Knights, taking heart at the humiliation of their arch-enemy Napoleon, assembled at Paris in a General Chapter under the Presidency of the Prince Camille de Rohan, Grand Prior of Aquitaine, for the election of a permanent Capitulary Commission. The Government being declared concentrated in this Commission, it was empowered to regulate all political, civil, and financial affairs connected with the Order; and under its direction a formal but fruitless application was made to the Congress of Vienna for a grant of some sovereign independency in lieu of that of which the Order had been so wrongously despoiled." [The italics are mine.]—Sutherland, *History of Malta*, vol. ii. p. 327.

The Statutes make no mention of a Capitulary Commission; therefore, the formation of this Capitular Commission fully proves that, at the date of its establishment, the three French Languages did not exist; otherwise the Commission would never have been formed.

It appears, from the Statutes, that the Grand Master, or the Lieutenant-Master and the Council, form the supreme authority of the Order, and constitute the government of the Order.

I now ask, By whose authority was this Capitulary Commission elected? This is an important point, on which I wish to be fully informed.

Sutherland, it will be observed, says, that this Capitulary Commission was composed of the French Knights; and that, under its direction, the application was made to the Congress of Vienna. On referring to this document, which is entitled—"Mémoire présentée par les Ministres Plenipotentiaires de l'Ordre Souverain de St. Jean de Jerusalem au Congrès Général à Vienne,—I find it states, that the government of the Order is in the hands of the Lieutenant of the Mastership and S. Council. It is dated Vienna, September 20, 1814; and is signed by the Plenipotentiaires of the Order—"Le Bailli Miari, le Commandeur Berlinghieri." Who accredited these Plenipotentiaires? Certainly not the French Capitular Commission, for the Master and Council alone have the power to accredit envoys and plenipotentiaires. It is, therefore, evident that Sutherland is in error; and it is advisable to test the accuracy of his statement, "that the government (or supreme authority of the Order) was declared concentrated in this Commission." For this purpose I refer to the *Official Reclamation* of this very Commission, printed in 1816; and in it I read:—

" . . . on verra enfin que cet Ordre, quoique ses membres soient momentanément épars dans les états de la Chrétienté, n'est pas moins un Ordre entier, dont le moindre signal peut

assembler les moindres essains, un Ordre dont le Lieutenant du Magistère et le Sacré Conseil résident en Sicile, qui a des Ambassadeurs et des ministres plenipotentiaires dans la plupart des cours de l'Europe, et dont les envoyés ont paru en dernier lieu au Congrès de Vienne."—*Réclamation*, p. 22.

Here there is a positive evidence of the existence of a supreme authority of the Order, and that the Capitular Commission did not claim to have the government of the Order concentrated in itself.

I now come to another reclamation on the part of the Capitular Commission to the Congress of Verona. It was evidently not sanctioned by the supreme authority of the Order, and I cite it only as additional evidence on the part of the Capitular Commission of the existence of a supreme authority. It begins by stating, in reference to the "pretendue convention du 13 Juin, 1798" (the surrender of the Island of Malta), that the Grand Master and S. Council alone possess or constitute the supreme power of the Order:—

" Ni le Sacré Conseil, ni le Grand Maître, seuls dépositaires du pouvoir suprême ne participeront à cet acte d'iniquité. Nulle puissance légitime ne sanctionna par son assentiment la dispersion de l'Ordre. Loin de là presque tous Souverains de l'Europe se prononcèrent en sa faveur Enfin la Sicile accueillit les vénérables débris de la plus mémorable association qui ait jamais été formée, et Catane devint l'asyle où le Gouvernement de l'Ordre s'est perpétué jusqu'à ce jour; il attend, dans une inaction forcée, &c.

(Dated Verona, 6 December, 1822, and signed)

"En l'absence des Chefs de l'Ordre,

"Le Comte ACHILLE DE JOUFFROY forcé des pouvoirs," &c.

These quotations, from official documents, issued by the French Capitular Commission, afford positive evidence that there did exist a supreme authority of the Order, and which was acknowledged by the said Capitular Commission. And from these documents, therefore, I learn that down to, and actually in, 1822, there existed a Lieutenant of the Mastership and Council, whose authority the Capitular Commission obeyed, and with whom it was in constant communication; for the Count de St. Ange, in his *Code des Ordres de Chevalerie du Royaume* (printed at Paris in 1819), says:—

"The numerous and important services which this Commission has rendered, and is daily rendering, to the langues of France and to the Order in General, have merited the esteem and gratitude, not only of all the members, but also of the Lieutenant of the Mastership and S. Council, who have constantly approved of its proceedings."

Thus, from its own evidence, the Commission of Paris existed down to 1822; and was in constant communication with the Lieutenant of the Mastership and S. Council, who approved of its proceedings. And the continued existence of the commission proves that to this date (1822) the French Languages had not been revived.

I now endeavour to learn something of the Languages of Aragon and of Castile. According to the *Book of Knighthood*, edited by Sir Bernard Burke (Ulster), it appears that—

"After the Peace of Amiens, in 1802, the Portuguese and Spanish languages (Aragon and Castile) separated from the Order, and formed a college of their own under the supreme authority of their respective monarchs, who in consequence exercised essential influence in all matters connected with nominations, benefices, &c.; the Grand Mastership being thus, in effect, though not by right, vested in the Crown."—(P. 296.)

By a royal decree, dated Aranjuez, April 17, 1802, Charles IV. declared himself Grand Master of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in Spain:—

"Vengo en incorporar, y incorporé perpetuamente à mi Real Corona las Lenguas y Assembles de Espana de la precitado Orden Militar de San Juan de Jerusalem declarandome Gran-Maestro de la misma en mis dominios, para invigila sobre su bien gobierno y direccion en la parte externa; dejando lo concerniente al regimen espiritual y religioso a la Autoridad de la Iglesia y del Santo Pontifical, que no ha desoprobado esta providencia."

And by a Papal Brief issued in 1819, Ferdinand VII. was recognised as "Grand Master of the Order of St. John in Spain," into which Order the two Languages of Aragon and Castile were now merged; and the Royal Spanish Order of St. John was now entirely separated from, and had no longer any connexion with the sovereign Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

On the other hand, it appears that the language of Germany remained intact, and never lost any of its commanderies and revenues, which are very large; and also that the language of Italy was much in the same condition. Therefore, according to the principle laid down by Pozzo and based upon the Statutes, these two languages exist in all their integrity, and not "under the Pope as Grand Prior only," as the writer in the *United Service Magazine* has stated. Now, according to the Statutes, sec. v. (of the Treasury), certain revenues or tithes, called "responsions," have to be paid into the Treasury of the Order by the different Commanders.

Who receives these "responsions?" There must be a common treasury of the Order somewhere. I presume at Rome, where the head of Order lives.

From the foregoing data, I learn that a supreme governing authority of the Order existed, and was recognised as such down to the year 1822, and that the head of the Order resides now (1863) in Rome. Consequently a supreme head of the Order must have continued to exist between 1822 and 1863.

I also learn that the languages of Italy and of Germany are the only two of the eight which exist as "Languages," as they are still in possession of their revenues and estates; and, moreover, that in 1802 and definitely in 1819, the languages of Aragon and Castile had ceased to exist, and to have any connexion with the Order, being converted into the Royal Spanish Order of St. John, and under the Grand Mastership of the Kings of Spain.

Referring again to the article in the *United Service Magazine*, I find the following statement:—

"The three French Languages during the Bourbon dynasty, however, reasserted their rights, and under their guidance, with the full concurrence of Aragon and Castile, being a majority (sic) of the languages, reorganised the venerable English language as it now stands. This important step was taken in 1826." (P. 303.)

From this paragraph it would appear that the "language of England" has been revived, and the names of some of the "officers" are given.

To this asserted fact I now proceed to apply the test of the aforesaid data.

1. The languages of Aragon and Castile had definitely ceased to belong to the Order in 1819, and still continue in the same state. How, therefore, can they be adduced as taking part, seven years later, in the affairs of an Order to which they do not belong?

2. The French languages did not exist in 1822. Had they recovered their property, and thereby become revived again, between that date and 1826? If so, the Capitulatory Commission would have ceased to exist, *ipso facto*.

3. Why is no mention made of the two languages of Germany and Italy, the only two languages actually in existence at the period. Were they ever consulted?

4. Why is no mention made in the transactions of the Lieutenant Master and the Council, in whom the supreme power and government of the Order are vested? This is a vital omission; for by the Statutes, sec. ix. (of the Master) No. 11, it appears that the languages cannot assemble without the leave of the Master, and of the Master alone, for the Council is not even named. Did they give their consent, or were they ever consulted? These questions need some lucid reply.

Is the English language—which we are informed was revived in 1826—the real English language, and a branch of the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of

Jerusalem? If so, it *must* be in communication with and subject to the authority of the Master and Council, equally with the languages of Germany and of Italy.

On referring to the *History* of the Order, lately published by Major Porter, R.E., in the hope of obtaining some light on the subject, I find the following remarkable passage:—

"In the years 1826 and 1827, three several instruments of convention were signed in Paris by the languages of France, with the consent of those of Spain and Portugal, authorising a reorganisation of the venerable language of England. In pursuance of this Convention on the 29th January, 1831, a Chapter of the Knights then forming the English language was held, at which an *envoy extraordinary* was present from the *Continental languages*, on which occasion the late *Sir Robert Peat* was elected *Grand Prior of England*, and the language regularly reorganised. On the 24th February, proceedings were taken before Sir Thomas Denman, Chief Justice of England, when the Grand Prior *formally revised the corporation of the English language under the royal letters patent* of King Philip and Queen Mary, and took the oath 'de fidelis administratione.'"—*History of the Knights of Malta*, ii. pp. 336-337. (The italics are mine.)

Here Major Porter deliberately states that Sir Robert Peat formerly *revised the Corporation of the English language* under the royal letters patent of King Philip and Queen Mary. The revival of a lapsed Corporation in the mode described is an impossibility in English law; and it is to be regretted, therefore, that Major Porter should have made the assertion of such an impossible fact. And on referring to the charter of Philip and Mary, which is given at page 479, I discover that the *English language was never incorporated at all*. It simply makes a corporate body of the Prior, as Prior of the Hospital—of the Turcopolier, as commander or preceptor of Sliebeck and Halston, and of several other Knights as holding commanderies, they being *Commanders virtute officii*. The charter also provides for a *perpetual succession*; and as, on the accession of Elizabeth, the restored Priory and Commanderies were again confiscated, it lapsed by the act of parliament, which prevented the existence of the Priory and commanders necessary to secure the perpetual succession of priors and commanders required to keep the charter in force.

In "N. and Q." (3rd S. iii. 76) Mr. John Woodward says that—

"The English language is an acknowledged branch of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which has existed for more than seven centuries, and been settled in the Holy Land, in Rhodes, and in Malta."

If the English language is acknowledged by the head of the Order, all is well; otherwise it cannot be the language of England, or a branch of the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John. Who appointed the Grand Prior? For by the Statutes, sec. xiii. (of the Elections), No. 3, the election of the Priors is in the hands of the Master and Council. And who admits, or how are admitted the candidates who seek for reception? For no one but the Master can admit into the Order, according to the Statutes (sec. ii. (of the Reception), Nos. 19 and 21. And, again: Who receives and what becomes of the very considerable fees required by the statutes of candidates on their admission? See sec. v. (of the Common Treasury, No. 15.

These and many other questions suggest themselves, and I wish to be enlightened on these points, for I confess that there is a mystery, a haze about the transactions of 1826 and subsequent years, which it would be well to solve and to clear up; and nobody who tests the statements in the *United Service Magazine* and the other works quoted, by the official collateral evidence which I have adduced, can fail to come to the same conclusion. Indeed, Major Porter only makes matters worse, for he openly avows that

grave doubts exist as to the legitimacy of this revived branch

of the English language. The authorities in supreme governance over the Order at Rome deny its validity, and refuse to recognise it as an integral branch of the venerable Order of St. John."—*History of Malta*, ii., p. 338.

Of course the "Grand Prior" can have no doubt on the subject; and I shall be much obliged if he or any other correspondent of "N. and Q." will clear away my doubt, and reply fully and distinctly to the queries I have propounded. I make them publicly, and I ask for replies equally public, otherwise the conclusion will be obvious.

METROPOLITAN DISFIGUREMENTS.

At last, when the greater part of the mischief is effected and become irremediable, the Legislature and municipal authorities, who exercise control over our streets, are awakening to the inconvenience and danger of the *laissez-faire* policy which they have hitherto observed towards railways. With the proverbial unreadiness and dilatoriness of the Anglo-Saxon, they wait to shut the door until the steed is stolen, and then they unite to bewail the evil. Under an extraordinary delusion, whenever the well-being and convenience of the public are injuriously affected by the operations of speculators, people are induced to submit to it as the penalty they pay for the privilege of self-government. They are told that if they want large, handsome thoroughfares, like the new streets and boulevards of Paris, they must bow their necks to an imperial and bureaucratic rule, and surrender their individual freedom; but, if they desire to preserve the right to self-government and their municipal liberties, they must put up with the architectural disfigurement of their capital and the conversion of their streets into so many stagnant air reservoirs, by the erection of hideous railway viaducts. This transparent absurdity has been repeated so often that people have at last given credit to it, although the slightest reflection would have convinced them that there was no law which made freedom and personal discomfort go together. On the contrary, according to the natural order of things, in a free, self-governed community, the comfort of the public, since it is that of the ruling majority, should be pre-eminently cared for.

In the early history of railways they were treated by the Legislature in a spirit of the bitterest hostility. They were looked on as things to be restrained and kept down. A midland town, like Northampton, was allowed to divert a main through-line from its true course, and the opposition of a peer was sufficient to defeat the best and most requisite scheme, if it happened to touch his land. Objections the most frivolous were held valid. Hence noble landowners were enabled to extort from railway companies enormous prices for land, which were in reality bribes to silence their opposition in the Upper House. There is a tradition of the Eastern Counties having purchased permission to pass under an outer portion of Lord Petre's park for £100,000. When railway companies were found so lavish of shareholders' money, the great territorial lords relaxed their opposition, and became gradually patrons and promoters of railways, until they passed from one extreme to another; while in the House of Commons the railway interest, by force of arguments whose character may be easily surmised, soon grew dominant. The result has been that, unless a scheme was opposed by an existing railway, it passed both branches of the Legislature, almost as a matter of course, provided it complied with standing orders; and thus we have seen thirty-six railway companies incorporated, formally recognised by Parliament as works of public utility, and yet compelled to abandon their projects. Now, had the necessity for them really existed which Parliament admitted, it is not feasible to suppose that they would have been abandoned. Capital is too eager to find employment, too keen-scented after profit, to allow a good investment to fail for lack of financial success.

The constitution of the Board of Trade, and its mode of conducting inquiries in secret, and hearing parties interested, have deprived it of all credit and influence with Parliament, no less than with the general public; while it has had the misfortune to provoke a permanent spirit of hostility against it, among nearly all the old companies. Yet an advising and controlling body of some kind or other, is desirable, to protect public interests, to guard the pockets of the unwary, and to combine isolated schemes to their mutual advantage, and with a view to afford the maximum of accommodation at the minimum of cost.

It has been calculated that, if at the beginning, a regular system of railway communication had been devised, we should now possess, twofold the amount of accommodation, at half the cost of the present redundant and competing network; a glance at the railway map will show lines running almost parallel, and competing for the scanty traffic of the same district. In France we see the advantage of following a totally different system, and treating the question as a whole from the outset. There the lines were laid down as parts of one plan, to satisfy the traffic requirements of the whole empire. True, there were occasional departures to satisfy the greed of capitalists, who could operate on the Bourse in political crises, or to corrupt constituencies, as in the case of the line from Paris to Calais. Nevertheless, the wisdom of the French railway policy is established beyond all doubt. Thus, whilst shares in our railways are, in the great majority of instances, at a discount, and the highest premium of a main line is 24 per cent., in France there are three main lines, whose shares are at 156, 135, and 125 per cent. premium respectively. Possessing cheaper fuel, cheaper engines, and cheaper rails, better organization of labour, and larger traffic, English railways ought to yield more profit than French ones, notwithstanding the extravagance of promoters in preliminary expenses; instead of which, they hardly average a dividend of 2½ per cent.

One would have thought that the bitter experience acquired since 1846 would have taught the community the folly of immoderate competition, which has depreciated railway property to upwards of 180 millions sterling at the present day. Nothing of the kind; so far from experience teaching wisdom, never were fools, since the days of Solomon, more faithful to their folly. If they themselves only suffered, there would be no cause for interference; but, unfortunately, they inflict injury upon society at large, and ought, therefore, to be put under control. In the case of the metropolis, the evil has reached to such a head that the Legislature has been compelled by public opinion to take the matter up in both Houses.

There are some thirty schemes for constructing railway extensions into the metropolis, stimulated by the success of the Metropolitan Railway. Those who know anything of London, especially in the suburbs, will be convinced that not a tithe of them is needed. Indeed, when those which are in the course of execution are completed, there will be more than are wanted or than can possibly prove remunerative. For instance, continental traffic through Dover and Folkestone, and Newhaven, has, or shortly will have, five termini in a distance of 2½ miles as the crow flies. There are, moreover, stations on these lines within the metropolitan area, which must assuredly provide ample accommodation. Now, what difference can it make to a traveller from the Continent, whether he alight in Cannon-street or Blackfriars? The railways from the north and west have a terminus in Farringdon-street, and will soon have two others—one in Smithfield and the other in Finsbury Pavement; besides which they are to be connected with the southern railways, by the hideous disfigurement of a viaduct across Ludgate-hill. The Great Eastern Railway is promoting a scheme for appropriating Finsbury Circus as a site for a new station, which is very properly resisted, for it crosses the North London line, and would run parallel to an extension of the North London that is to have a terminus within 200 yards of the one which the Great Eastern is to obtain by building on the Circus. A map with the lines existing, authorised and projected, laid down, will convince the most sceptical or the most sanguine that the thing is overdone, is not requisite, and cannot pay. We have the authority of Mr. Heyward, the City engineer, for saying that, if common sense and an equitable understanding between the companies had influenced the laying down the present lines, a station might have been provided within half a mile of every man's dwelling. What more is required it is difficult to say, unless Londoners are to be treated as too sluggish or too debilitated to walk for six or seven minutes.

It is high time to have determined what is to be done with London; to have it ascertained if people will be permitted to dwell and carry on business within the metropolis, or if it is to be converted into a mere day encampment and grand central station for all British railways. The architectural appearance of the capital is already so disfigured as to become hideous in parts; and what it will be ten years hence, if railways are suffered to proceed as hitherto, can be better imagined than described. The money expended on improvements and embellishments is wasted, and our public monuments rendered totally ineffective. London-bridge has its southern approach completely

spoiled; and St. Mary Overies—the relic of an age in which men were not so brutalized as to be insensible to beauty in art, and were not such money-grubbers as to make the accumulation of riches the sole object of their lives—is shut out from view by the railway works. . . . Mr. Disraeli suggested we should burn an architect if we desired good works. It might, perhaps, tend to prevent the destruction of architectural monuments, if Parliament were to compel the authors of disfigurements to the metropolis to affix tablets of infamy in conspicuous positions on their works, which would record their names and doings; or if it were to oblige them to contribute their busts to a Temple of Shame.

Railway concoctors do not for a moment allow it to be suspected that they are aware London is a place of habitation, and that if the architectural character of the capital may be sacrificed to utility, or rather to speculation, the health and convenience of the inhabitants have paramount claims to consideration. It is of all things essential to maintain free circulation of currents of air in the streets in order to preserve public health and attain a satisfactory sanitary standard. But, with numerous railway viaducts crossing our thoroughfares, it is impossible to do so, for they convert them into mere *culs de sac*, wherein the air stagnates and becomes vitiated. In many parts of the southern and north-western districts there are areas enclosed by railways and thereby converted into so many cells as it were. It is unfortunately impossible to remedy this sad state of things, which must in the end injuriously affect public health; but we can prevent the mischief from extending. With this view the Metropolitan Board of Works is to be allowed to appear before Committees; but we are inclined to believe that the Board possesses far greater powers than is supposed, and that it can veto the erection of bridges over streets with the area placed under its jurisdiction. In our second volume, pp. 743, 766, and 776, it was reported that the Law Clerk to the Board showed that bridges could not be constructed by private individuals over public thoroughfares, without the consent of the Board, which, in accordance with this showing, prohibited the erection of an iron bridge between two warehouses over Thomas-street, St. George's-in-the-East, and of a timber one at Rotherhithe. If the Board could exercise, in virtue of the Act of Parliament, such control over individuals, we cannot see that it is so powerless in the presence of railway companies as it seems to have fancied it is. At all events, it should have raised the question, which, whatever might have been the decision in the law courts, would have secured for it a status before parliamentary committees on every bill for the extension of railways into the metropolis. This status has just been conceded; and if the Board will do its duty fearlessly and honestly to its constituents, further injury to public health and disfigurement of the metropolis may be effectually prevented.—*Building News*.

SENSATION INCIDENT IN FREEMASONRY.

The late gallant Commander J. A. P., R.N., when employed on the coast of Africa in the suppression of the slave trade, rendered important services to his country by his daring and successful capture of slavers. On one occasion off the dreaded Bight of Benin (where it is said, in reference to the fearful mortality from fever which prevails there, "a hundred come out where a thousand go in"), H.M.S. *W*—*h* have to and lowered two boats, each containing fifteen seamen and marines, for the purpose of boarding a suspicious looking barque-rigged vessel, then under full sail, and steering directly out of the Bight. Commander P., then a lieutenant, had charge of the two boats—they neared the dark sides of the rakish craft and hailed her captain to heave to, but were answered with a shower of musketry bullets, which wounded three of the crew of each boat—the wind lulled almost immediately into a calm (another remarkable scientific mystery of these climes, perhaps the concussion or report of the firearms having something to do with it). Amid the unwelcome salutation the stern clear voice of the lieutenant was heard "board her, boys, starboard and port" (which means one boat to each side) the crews bent to their oars, and ere they reached the sides a broadside from the slaver commander passed harmlessly over their heads—and cutlass in hand, with a dash and spontaneous British

cheer, both boats' crews at the same moment were clambering either side of the fated craft; the struggle was sharp and severe—Lieut. P. had two pistol balls through the collar of his coat each side of the neck, and his face blackened by powder; he gained the deck, and was in the act of cutting down the captain, an American, when he made the M.M. sign of distress, and cried out "I am your prisoner." Lieut. P., being a brother of the mystic tie, sheathed his sword and spared his victim; then taking possession of the slaver, with five hundred slaves on board, permitted the reckless American to keep his sword and have as much liberty as he liked. The prize was taken to Sierra Leone and condemned—the captain was tried for his life in making armed resistance, and by the energetic appeal of Lieut. P. in conjunction with others of the Masonic fraternity, turned the sentence of death passed upon the inhuman fellow into one of a term of imprisonment, thus in a two-fold manner saving the life of a fellow-creature, and illustrating in a noble manner the glorious principles of our Order when thoroughly acted upon.—*Lt. E. W. Pritchard (R.W.M. 102), Incidents and Anecdotes of Freemasonry.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

FREEMASONS' COMPETITION.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I do not profess to be a stickler for the strict recognition of official claims, especially when they are likely to be prejudicial to an exceptional and particular object, but I certainly was startled at the paragraph in the *Builder* of last week, accompanied by a letter of the chairman of the Permanent Building Committee, announcing that in the resolutions passed by Grand Lodge, conferring powers on that Committee, authority was given to supersede the G. Supt. of Works, in his official capacity as set forth in the *Book of Constitutions*, or I certainly never should have voted for such an unmasonic and invidious proceeding, nor do I for one moment believe that it was ever contemplated that a gentleman of high repute in his profession, such as our G. Supt. of Works, should be placed in a position not only derogatory to his official dignity, but positively reflecting on his professional capabilities. I for one always felt that the Grand Lodge had a guarantee for the success of our proposed Masonic building, in the suggestions and guidance of an architect of his ability, for without meaning anything disrespectful to the Building Committee, I should imagine that they themselves do not pretend to be judges of an architectural design in all its integrity, neither can I expect that solely and unadvised (which they say they have been) that they should have escaped falling into error; indeed their instructions for competition prove how very desirable it would have been for them to have called in professional aid, and this is incontrovertably proved by the suggestions which they have sent out, in which, if adopted, there will be found, amongst other mistakes, the startling one of the existence of a main party wall, actually in the very centre of the proposed new building, leaving a blank in the middle of the front elevation where the most uninitiated in architectural design would naturally suppose the principal entrance should be. Without therefore having the resolution to refer to, I most certainly cannot understand the interpretation given to it, and published by the Chairman of the Committee in your number of last week.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
A MEMBER OF GRAND LODGE.

Oxford, March 16, 1863.

[The proper time for the G. Supt. of Works to advise the Committee will, in our opinion, be when the various designs are received.—Ed.]

DR. KNIPE, &c.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I must ask to be permitted to reply shortly in your present number, to the very long letter of Bro. Matthew Cooke in the last Magazine.

1st. As to the more personal matter introduced at the close of his letter, page 210, it is quite true that early last year, or in the year before, I visited the Globe Lodge, of which he is the Secretary, and asked him among other conversation, some questions concerning a document which has been called the Charter of Cologne. Not very long before this, Bro. Matthew Cooke had edited a most interesting work, *The History and Articles of Masonry*, and I naturally looked to him as somewhat of an authority on the subject in which I was then myself working, Masonic Archæology.

A brother of my own lodge had shown to me a copy of this so called charter, which he had picked up, I believe, in Denmark, and which professed to have amongst others, the great name of Philip Melancthon attached to it. Having considerable doubts myself as to its genuineness and authenticity, I not unnaturally took the opportunity of asking Bro. Matthew Cooke, whom I then met for the first time, if he knew anything confirmatory of the Charter.

As I understood him to reply at the time, there was a copy of it in MS. in the British Museum with the seals attached.

I left London the next day, and had no further opportunity of searching myself in the British Museum for this confirmatory proof, but so impressed was I with this supposed evidence, that when the brother who had originally shown me the document was about to visit London, I strongly recommended him to call on an official at the British Museum, and, using my name, request his help in the search.

I gave him at the same time the authority of Bro. Matthew Cooke, for the existence of such a document, which authority I subsequently certainly gave to the official himself, and so the matter rested. Bro. Matthew Cooke has, however, himself quite lately assured me, a day or two after he penned his letter of the 9th, that I must have entirely misunderstood him; that he never said anything about a MS. in the British Museum, or about seals attached, but that he did allude to a printed copy in the British Museum, with the signatures attached.

How I could have made such a mistake I cannot pretend to explain, as a printed book with copied signatures, would have been to me less than satisfactory evidence—but after Bro. Matthew Cooke's recent statement to me, and his remarks in the Magazine, I can only express my belief that I misunderstood his meaning and misinterpreted his words, while I assure him of my sincere regret for any error of mine, though most unintentional, which has given him the slightest annoyance.

2nd. With regard to Aubrey. I fully admit, from the authorities Bro. Matthew Cooke has adduced, one of which I have myself recently perused in the British Museum, that Aubrey at any rate was not the author of the preface to the *History of Berkshire*.

I will not now go into the reasons which led me at one time to think it more than probable that Aubrey wrote that preface, since till a few days back, I had not had a convenient opportunity of perusing Wood's *Athena*, or the catalogue of the Ashmolean MSS., which seems to be decisive on the subject.

3rd. In respect of my reference to Dr. Knipe's letter, the simple explanation of the whole matter is, that I gave in Notes and Queries, by a most unintentional mistake, a wrong reference altogether.

Bro. Matthew Cooke has made so much of a little matter that I must, in self defence, enter into a full explanation of the circumstances under which the error on my part took place.

I had jotted down hastily, a year or more ago, a reference to Ashmole's *History of Berkshire*, and also to

Dr. Knipe's letter, with the intention, no doubt, of further consideration.

My memorandum was actually in these words, "Ashmole, life of, see *History of Berkshire*, E. Curll, 1719."

Lower down on the same page, but, unfortunately, without a line of separation to point to a different reference, I had, and have still, this further note.

"Page 165. Knipe's letter to the publisher of Ashmole's life."

When I answered Bro. Hyde Clark's query, in Notes and Queries, I looked to my old notes to see what I had there about Dr. Knipe, as I remembered having lighted upon his name, and was led by this note, in itself inaccurate and careless, to give that mistaken reference to the *History of Berkshire*, which Bro. Matthew Cooke has dilated upon in the last number. I enter into these details to show how simple, and yet how unintentional, has been the error on my part; and that at any rate, say what you will about too hurried notes, I, myself, gave to anyone the means and opportunity of finding out, immediately, an unintentional error.

I found out my own mistake last Tuesday, in the British Museum, when examining the *History of Berkshire* again, and Ashmole's life and diary, in order to trace out, if possible, a little further, Dr. Thomas Knipe.

Not having all my references with me, I was, for some time, fearful that I should not be able again to stumble on the object of my search, but devoting Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to the task, I was able to recover even more than I had temporarily lost. I venture, therefore, to give you to-day the result of my long search, the more so, as Bro. Matthew Cooke has openly declined to do so, except partially, and as it may interest some Masonic student.

Under the name "Ashmole" in the *Biographia Britannica*, vol. i., first edition, 1748, page 274, note E, there is a long communication to the publisher, purporting to be this very letter of Dr. Knipe. The same letter is to be found in the second edition of the *Biographia Britannica*, 1778, under the name of "Ashmole," and the same note E. In the *Pocket Companion and History of Freemasons*, London, 1759, page 90, the same quotation is to be found. Krause, in his valuable German work, published at Dresden, in 1819, page 281, gives the whole extract, from the *Biographia Britannica*, in English. A reference to the same letter may also be found in more than one of Dr. Oliver's works.

I am convinced by the re-perusal of the letter, especially in the original quotation, both of its genuineness and authenticity, and hope to follow up one or two clues there given, when time permits, so as to find out, perhaps, Dr. Knipe's authorities and Ashmole's evidences.

I pass by to-day all other remarks of Bro. Matthew Cooke, to many of which I might fairly take exception—as, if there is one thing which Masonry ought to teach us, it is this, especially in Masonic inquiry and Masonic research, that nothing is so hateful as personality, and nothing in the world so entirely beneath the notice of every true and intelligent Mason.

Thanking you for your continued courtesy,

I am, yours fraternally,

A. F. A. WOODFORD.

Swillington, Leeds, March 16, 1863.

ANTIQUITY OF MASONIC DEGREES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As "Delta," in your last number, expresses fraternally his regret for an observation I justly complained of, I shall not say another word on so purely a personal matter.

With respect to the subject of our controversy, it will still, I fear, stand good of us both:—

"A man convinced against his will,
Is of the same opinion still."

Delta and Ebor must then continue to agree to differ, as there is no likelihood of approximation or agreement between them.

In his last letter, Delta distinctly records his deliberate opinion that "our practices are only a modification of the ancient Johnnite Templar ceremonies of York, and were those first practised here by the crusaders or modified only by them." Now as the Order of the Temple was instituted, according to the best authorities, in 1119, under the auspices of the Knights Geoffrey of St. Omer, and Hugh de Pagen or Paganis, with the approbation of King Baldwin II, and the patriarch Raymond or Guarimond, we have an assertion of "Delta's" here, that Masonry owes even its origin to the Knights Templar.

But when one comes carefully to analyze this remarkable statement, one cannot fail of being struck with its peculiar character and language. For the mention of the Crusaders carries us back at once to 1095, before the Templars were in existence.

Are we to understand that the Crusaders of that epoch, or the Crusaders of a later epoch, only "modified" existing "Johnnite Templar ceremonies of York?" Or what are we to suppose the sentence means?

Again, "The Johnnite Templar ceremonies," a novel expression, would seem to imply that "Delta" links Templary on to its precursor, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, founded in 1099, as also the origin and preserver of Masonry.

But if there is one thing clear in the history of those two knightly Orders, it is this: that they were not only entirely different in their origin and organisation, but oftentimes entirely opposed, sometimes bitterly hostile to each other.

If, then, "Delta" wishes us to believe to day that our present ceremonies are but the result of Templar practices, derived from the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and modified by the Crusaders, I suppose on their return, like Ivanhoe from the Holy Land, he is but sacrificing the very substance of Masonic reality and verity for the vain shadow of an hopeless and untenable speculation. Is it not the more reasonable, the more probable, the more historical, the more common sense supposition, that the Knightly Orders, availing themselves of the secrecy and organisation of the operative Masonic guilds, adapted that secrecy and organisation, and even the Masonic ceremonies, to their own particular purposes?

As against, then, this theory of Templar origin and preservation of speculative Masonry, I will only set the words of Dr. Oliver, which, *mutatis mutandis*, may be applied to this Templar theory as well as to the theory of the Rosicrucian origin and preservation of Masonry, held equally, I know, by some. At page 158 of a *Mirror for Johnnite Masons*, ed. 1848, occur these words:—"Mr. Soane is bold enough to assert that the Freemasons never belonged to the working guilds."

Dr. Oliver goes on to speak of the "difficulties which surround Mr. Soane's theory," and then adds that there were then "many Rosicrucians who were not Masons, and many Masons who were unacquainted with the Rosicrucian Cabala, whence will follow that Masonry at that period was not considered a branch of the Rosy Cross." I would apply this forcible argument to "Delta's" Templar theory.

I cannot accede to "Delta's" declaration, "that the speculative Masons are not, and never have been, governed by the operative constitutions," in the sense, at least, he seeks to attach to the statement.

No one ever said that our speculative constitutions were altogether word for word the same with the operative constitutions, but what I contend for is, that if any one at this present hour will compare carefully the old operative constitutions with our present speculative constitutions, he will rise from the task impressed with the conviction of the exact identity between the operative and the speculative constitutions, and that the latter are

but the result and modification of the former. When "Delta" says that the Grand Lodge of 1717 never believed such a thing, I would ask him his authority for such a statement, and as far as Dr. Anderson is concerned, what he meant to say was, clearly not as "Delta" would fain make us believe, that he considered operative and speculative Masonry entirely and essentially distinct, but that the speculative brethren, the able monk and abbot architects of those days directed the operative guilds, or sodalities, or lodges; of this many examples might be given.

One word more as to the derivation of Maçon. Great as are the acknowledged talents, and high the authority of our distinguished Bro. Leeson, I fear that his derivation of Maçon from the Coptic, will hardly pass muster with the learned in that interesting science. Indeed the derivation of Maçon is so distinct and so simple from the use of *maçon* and *maçonner*, according to Roquefort, early in the 12th century, that it is a waste of time to go about seeking some far fetched and unlikely derivation. If any one can point out an older use of the word, the matter will deserve reconsideration, but until that be established, I must uphold the direct derivation of Maçon from the Norman-French, and thence from the Latin.

With regard to the extract to which "Delta" especially refers me, I have not the volume by me, so do not know, under what circumstances, or by whom this address was delivered. I, however, subscribe to it, *ex animo* in all its length, even to that portion which "Delta," I presume, has had put into italics.

I would just remind "Delta" that in 1726, even according to his own argument, the admission of working Masons had become the exception, as speculative Masonry, by that time, was completely paramount. But so far from seeing anything in that extract unfavourable to my views, I find it in on the contrary an able corroboration of all that I have sought to express.

Let me conclude this letter with another quotation from Dr. Oliver, a note at the 155th page of his 17th edition, 1861, of Preston. "Many good Masons, on reading the above revelations, have jumped at the conclusion that the Craft had hitherto been restricted to Operative Masons only."

But this conjecture is scarcely correct, for although the institution, at its origin, was, undoubtedly, operative, yet scientific men, unconnected with building, were occasionally introduced, as witness Ashmole, Mainwaring, and their company, in 1646.

Leaving, then, the controversy here, as we have both fairly said our say, I beg to subscribe myself alike to "Delta" and yourself.

Dear Sir and Brother, fraternally yours,
March 16th, 1863. EBOR.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—To the letter under the above heading, in your impression of the 7th inst., I had prepared an elaborate reply, which I have cancelled, feeling that the most satisfactory answer was rendered on Wednesday last by the magnificent success attending our Anniversary Festival.

The remarks personal to myself I leave unnoticed, with the simple wish that your correspondent who, by his signature, would lead us to believe that he understands practical benevolence, may be speedily brought to a comprehension of that "Charity which thinketh no evil."

One or two points, however, in this spiteful effusion of a "Life Governor of both Charities" (both which, out of three?) demand attention.

I am confident that there is not one single friend of this Institution (your correspondent only excepted, perhaps,) who does not still, and who will not continue to entertain the liveliest feelings of gratitude to the noble Provincial Grand Master and the brethren of Warwick-

shire for their splendid exertions in connection with the Festival last year, emulated as they have been by the brethren of West Yorkshire this year. With me, the enjoyment of present benefits never obliterates the sense of past favours. If it be otherwise with your correspondent, I neither admire nor understand the constitution of such a mind.

Novelty has no charms for "A Life Governor of both Charities," and innovations alarms him, especially in the shape of a lady undertaking the duties of a Stewardship and manifesting a charming earnestness in the work of doing good, the result of which was shown on Wednesday, in Mrs. Alfred Lamb's list of donations amounting to upwards of £200.

"The parenthetical Captain Lamb" is the husband of this lady who has thus won honour for herself and set an example which, I trust, may be imitated by many of our fair sisters, and like a good Mason and gallant gentleman, as he is, shared in his wife's labours and discharged those duties incident to the office she had undertaken from the performance of which she was debarred by her sex.

The Board of Stewards evinced their appreciation of Mrs. Lamb's efforts by enrolling her name amongst their Vice-Presidents, and by allotting to her the place of honour in the gallery at the Festival.

I shall not here attempt to justify the division of the list of subscribers, or of the names of the brethren officiating as Stewards, under the respective heads of London and the various provinces; it has met with general approval.

Energy and activity apparently find no favour with "A Life Governor, &c.," who seems rather to uphold the *laissez faire* system (terribly out of place, to my mind, in an express age like the present), entertaining a dread of "well-meaning but over zealous officials." In the sublime book terminating the canon of the sacred volume, once doubtless commended under peculiar circumstances to your correspondent as the rule and guide of his faith, I find a record of the denunciation to the Angel of the Church of Laodicea of the sin of "lukewarmness." In another part of the same volume I read "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
F. BINCKES, Secretary, Royal Masonic
Institution for Boys.

16a Great Queen-street, March 16th, 1863.

P.S.—Doubts having been expressed as to the correctness of the amount announced at the festival on the 11th inst., I have myself carefully checked every list, and am happy to inform the friends of the Institution, through your columns, that the exact sum is £4511 8s. 6d., and that I know of additions to be made to their lists amounting to about £35.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your weekly periodical has now attained a position so well recognised among members of the Craft, and so extensively circulated wherever lodges are to be found, that it affords the best medium for offering suggestions on any points affecting the interests of the whole body of Freemasons in England. Under this impression I venture to make a few remarks in reference to the Boys' School which may be worth consideration, in full confidence that they will find their way to the proper quarters and will receive any attention they may deserve. The report you have given in your last number of the annual festival of this important Institution is, no doubt, being read with great satisfaction by all the lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, inasmuch as it bears testimony of more enlarged support, points to well founded hopes of more extended usefulness, records a satisfactory state of efficiency, and concludes with favourable reports

from the Committee as to the general management, as well as on the progress of the pupils from the Rev. C. J. Dyer, M.A., late one of H.M.'s Diocesan Inspectors of Schools. The latter is the especial point on which I desire now to make a few observations, in great hope of thereby conferring a benefit on another important Institution equally with our own more immediate association. The word *late* informs me that the examination is not one of an official character, but is made rather for the satisfaction of the supporters and governors of the schools, than with a view to any ulterior direct advantage to be derived from it by the boys themselves, beyond that stimulus which must necessarily arise from wholesome emulation and the bestowal of suitable prizes on the most meritorious. Within the last few years a great movement has been taking place in the same direction in two parallel lines; the one line marked by efforts to raise the status of the teacher and to secure his competency; the other, to prove the value and extent of the instruction given, by a system of examinations conducted by authorised bodies, and to make this available for the advantage of those, who, being brought under its influence, are successful in proving their capabilities, by giving certificates, which will, in future life, serve as passports to situations of honour and trust, thereby opening prospects of a bright career to many who would otherwise possess no such credentials, and be able to entertain no such hopes. I presume that under present arrangements, in our schools, merit is entirely relative, and that the standard is by no means fixed. The plan which I propose would do away with this difficulty, inasmuch as each boy examined is tested by a certain scale, irrespective of what may be the condition of his companions, and is certificated accordingly. There appears to be no good reason why the youths in the Freemasons' School, should not reap the advantage of these opportunities, and why the Craft should not embrace the occasion to show to the outer world what is being done for the orphans of those who have belonged to it. There are now three Institutions which have adopted an organization with the objects to which allusion has been made, viz., the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and the Royal College of Preceptors in London, which latter, some years ago, took the initiative in measures for the examination of the pupils in schools, in addition to that of teachers.

I confess that from various causes my sympathy is given to the latter body, which, being under Royal charter, is fully authorised to carry out this as well as the other portions of the views with which it was established. The services of its examiners may perhaps be called into requisition for the Freemasons' Schools, more appropriately than those of the examiners appointed by the Universities because its head quarters are in London, and, therefore they are more accessible and may be obtained with greater facility. That the powers and competency of this Institution are fully recognised in professional circles, may be shown by the following extract from the published report presented to the general meeting of the College of Preceptors by the Council, on January 10th, 1863.

"In connexion with the pupils' examination, the Council has to report that a memorial has recently been presented to the Judges, who are empowered by the act of Parliament to regulate the examination of young men preparing to enter the legal profession, praying them to recognize the first-class certificates of the College, as exempting the holders from the necessity of passing the preliminary general examination held by the Incorporated Law Society, and the Council sees little reason to doubt that a favourable answer to this memorial will shortly be received."

"Note—Since the date of the meeting, this anticipation has been realized, the Judges having unanimously acceded to the prayer of the memorial. As a similar recognition has already been obtained from the General Medical Council, the holders of the College first-class certificates are now exempted from the necessity for passing the preliminary general examinations held by the various Medical Corporations of the United Kingdom, as well as that under the control of the Judges."

"The College examiners concluded an examination in general knowledge for the Royal College of Surgeons, which took place on the 17th and 18th of December, and at which upwards of 100 candidates presented themselves. This was the second examination of the kind in the year 1862, and it is anticipated that a still larger number of candidates will be examined during the present year."

"The Council has lately received an application from the Board of Managers of the London Orphan Asylum, the object of which is to ascertain whether the Council would be willing to undertake the examination of the large and important schools belonging to that institution; and it is probable that this responsible duty will be undertaken by the college examiners. The Council cannot but regard this as an additional proof of the growing confidence of the general public administration of the College, and of the increasing value attached to its system of examinations."

Nothing can better mark the existing confidence in the Royal College of Preceptors, than the measures adopted in reference to it by the Royal College of Surgeons, and by those who regulate admission to the legal profession. It may be well to observe, that the certificates alluded to in this extract are those ordinarily awarded by the College to such as have passed satisfactorily among the pupils in public or private schools, which have called in the aid of the College examiners, and that these documents may be quite as useful for other purposes, in bearing evidence of a certain amount of merit, of a kind specified in them, on the part of those by whom they are obtained. The course adopted by the managers of the London Orphan Asylum establishes a precedent for the adoption of the same measure by the Directors of the Freemasons' Schools, and may be confidently recommended, as likely to secure greater efficiency, to give our orphan pupils a definite object to aim at in their studies, and still further promote their future welfare on the termination of their education when thrown on their own resources; to call public attention to the work accomplished in our schools; and at the same time to extend the sphere of usefulness and the influence of the College of Preceptors. If you think my suggestion worth anything, you may, perhaps, enlarge upon it when opportunity offers, and to enable you to do this more fully, I enclose a copy of a series of articles I have just put in circulation upon the whole question, with special reference to the College. For further information I refer you and your readers to its Secretary, John Robson, Esq., B.A., who may be found at the Institution, 42, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, London.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

HENRY HOPKINS, P.M., No. 51,
Jersey, March 14th, 1863. P. Prov. G.S.W., &c.

FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE COMPANY.

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

SIR AND BROTHER.—Masonic increase and amelioration would, in my judgment, suffer much delay and injury by the discontinuance of your publication. The Craft in the metropolis ought to know what is done by the brethren in the provinces, and the Craft in the provinces what is done by the brethren in the metropolis. This at present, is effected almost entirely by THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. Besides, it is only by this Journal that the Masons of England became acquainted with the proceedings of Masons of other countries. Take for instance France and Germany: there are probably not half-a-dozen English Masons to whom the *Monde Maçonnique* or *Die Bauhütte* is sent.

I heartily wish success to the contemplated Company. You may insert my name in the list of Patrons, if you think it can in any way be useful.

Yours fraternally,
CHARLES PURTON COOPER, Q.C. L.L.D.
P. Prov. G.M for Kent.

Chateau Frampas, 10th March, 1863.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

At the meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence, on Wednesday last, Bro. John Savage, P.G.D., in the chair, thirteen petitioners were relieved with various sums, amounting to £150 10s., and one recommended to Grand Lodge for £30.

Wednesday next is a public night of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, when the first degree will be worked.

The new Canonbury Chapter is to be opened in a few days, the paraphernalia and furniture, prepared by Comp. Wm. Platt, being most chaste and elegant.

METROPOLITAN.

PICNIC LODGE (No. 202).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday last, the chair being occupied by Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., in the unavoidable absence, through severe indisposition, of the W.M., Bro. Morris, and the P.M.'s present being engaged in other duties. Bros. Dennison and Lowe were raised to the third degree, Bros. Lovejoy and Cowland passed to the second degree, and Mr. Walker, of St. Paul's Cathedral, duly initiated into the Order, the ceremonies being most admirably performed. The brethren, after the close of business, adjourned to a very elegant dinner, Bro. Warren, the Senior P.M., presiding, when the toasts were given and responded to sharp and brief. The enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the musical exertions of Bros. Distin, Slater, Weeks, and Walker. The visitors present were Bros. Yates, No. 23; Clarke, No. 745; and Horne, of No. 81, Bristol.

ST. MARK'S LODGE (No. 1159).—The brethren of this lodge met for the dispatch of business on Tuesday, March 17th, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, Bro. F. J. Lilley, W.M., presiding. There were four initiations, namely, Mr. Frederick Doulton, M.P. for Lambeth, Dr. Roberts, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Pond. The ceremony of installation then took place, Bro. F. J. Lilley, the W.M., having been elected a second time to fill the chair. The ceremony was performed by Bro. J. Thomas, P.M., in a highly efficient manner. Thirty-two brethren then sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Wm. Davis. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Batley, P.M. 745; J. Messent, P.M. 281; Clarke, P.M. 1136; Nunn, P.M. 85; Webb, P.M. 745; and Herring, J.W. 536. Cloth being removed, grace was sung. The usual Masonic toasts were given. The health of the initiates was given. Bro. Doulton replied that he had long wished to become a Mason, not out of curiosity, but from observing the kind feeling exhibited by Masons to each other, not seen in the popular world. It would be impossible to remember all that he had heard, but one golden rule seemed to be taught, "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you." He should endeavour to meet the brethren as often as he possibly could. Bros. Watson and Roberts also replied. The health of the W.M., Bro. Lilly, was given and responded to, followed by that of the rest of the officers. The following are the officers for the present year:—Bros. J. Smith, S.W.; Harrison, J.W.; Count Delamore, S.D.; Anderson, J.D.; Dudgeon, I.G. Some excellent singing by Bros. Johnson, Messent, Watson, and Herring, added to the pleasures of the evening.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GARSTON.—Lodge of Harmony (No. 267).—A lodge of emergency was held at the Wellington Hotel, on March 12, for the purpose of initiating Mr. John Dodd, who was proceeding to sea. He was proposed at the last regular meeting. The ballot being unanimous, he was initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the W.M., Bro. James Hamer. Bro. Marsh explained the working tools. Bro. Leedham delivered the charge. The lodge was closed in due form.

MIDDLESEX.

UXBRIDGE.—Royal Union Lodge. (No. 536).—The installation meeting of this flourishing lodge took place at the Chequers Inn, on Monday, 16th inst. Lodge was opened at 3 p.m. Present, Bros. Carter, W.M.; Cobham, J.W.; Levinson, Treas.; Coombes, S.D.; Herring, J.D.; Watson, Steward; Newall and Weedon, P.M.'s; Codner, Gaball, Line, Hicks, Williams, Elliott, Chegwidden, Headly, Butler, Mills, Crawley, Claisen, Exall, and others. Visitors, Bros. Rackshaw, P.M. 9; Runting, P.M., 1051; Carter, P.M., 165; Caulfield, J.W., 165; Stuart, W.M., 209; Blackburn, P.M., 169. The minutes of the previous lodge having been conflated, Mr. Felseuthal was initiated into the mysteries of the order, Bro. Newall, P.M., performing the ceremony in his usual able style. Bro. Watson then, in an impressive manner, proceeded to the installation of Bro. Cobham into the chair of K.S., ably assisted by a Board of Installed Masters, numbering about a dozen. This ceremony completed, the brethren below the chair were re-admitted, and saluted the W.M. in the several degrees. The W.M. then proceeded to invest his officers in the following order, at the same time dilating upon the duties of each:—Bro. Carter, I.P.M.; Coombes, S.W.; Herring, J.W.; Levinson, Treas., (reinvested); Gawthrop, Sec.; Chegwidden S.D.; Williams, J.D.; Gaball, I.G.; Hicks, Collecting Steward; Elliott, Dir. of Cers.; Watson, Wine Steward; Newall, Organist; and Weedon, Tyler. The newly invested W.M., assisted by his officers, then initiated Messrs. Coombes, Jordan, and Wurzfild, in a manner which augurs well for the prosperity of the lodge during his year of office. Several brethren having been balloted for, and the election proving unanimous in their favour, the lodge was called off to refreshment. Grace was beautifully sung by Bros. Carter, Newall, Herring, and Crawley. The cloth having been cleared the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," observing that among her Majesty's subjects none were more loyal than the Masons, and he considered it unnecessary to dilate upon her many virtues. This having been heartily responded to, the W.M. said the next toast was always received with enthusiasm at any meeting of Masons. In eulogistic terms he then gave "The M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zeland," followed by that of "The Dep. Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers."—Bro. NEWALL then rose, and remarked that as the W.M. had entrusted him with his gavel, the brethren could easily conceive what use he intended to make of the privilege, which would be to give what might be termed the toast of the evening, viz., "The Health of the W.M." Of Bro. Cobham he could say with safety that he was the "right man in the right place." The manner in which he had already commenced his duties gave the brethren an earnest of what they might expect, and he trusted that the W.M. would, at the termination of his year of office, feel the satisfaction of having performed his duties in a manner reflecting credit upon himself, as well as upon the lodge. Bro. Newall concluded with hearty good wishes to the W.M., hoping that the Royal Union Lodge would prosper under his guidance, considering it unnecessary to dilate upon the merits of their W.M., which were so well known and appreciated by the brethren.—The W.M. thanked the brethren for the cordial manner in which they had drunk his health. He rose intending to make a very sentimental speech, but, as humour seemed to be the order of the evening, sentiment would be rather out of place. He had endeavoured, as a subordinate officer, to perform his duties to the best of his ability—to give in fact, thirty-six inches to the yard—but since the brethren had done him the honour to place him in his present exalted position, he felt determined that nothing should be wanting on his part,—that he would try to give them thirty-seven inches to the yard.—The W.M. had to propose a toast which was always well received in the Royal Union Lodge, that of "The Initiates." He had that evening the pleasure of seeing four brethren at his right, and hoped that what those brethren had seen and heard would impress them with a favourable opinion of the Order into which they had just been admitted.—Bros. Coombs, Wurzfild, Jordan and Felseuthal, severally responded, each thanking the brethren, for having admitted them, into their society, and for the hearty manner in which their healths had been drunk, and hoped to prove useful members of the Order.—The W.M. said if there was one toast which the brethren, were proud to respond to more than another, it was that of "the Visitors". The Royal Union Lodge, was generally favoured with a goodly number of visitors, but seldom did they have the honour to entertain such an array of distinguished brethren, consisting as they did of the W.M.'s, P.M.'s, and Officers of some of the best London Lodges. He

therefore had great pleasure in asking the brethren to heartily respond to the toast, which being done—Bro. STUART, felt agreeably astonished, and delighted at the able working, perfect unanimity and good feeling which seemed to exist in the Royal Union Lodge. The brethren of the London Lodges, were in the habit of laying the flattering unction to their souls that their working was the perfection of Masonry, but he felt bound to speak in praise of the excellent manner in which the work had been conducted. He had to congratulate the W.M., upon his selection of officers, and to thank the brethren for the excellent manner in which himself and his brother visitors had been entertained, and the excellent fare that had been set before them. He had frequently been taunted because he did not get fat, but he felt convinced that if he became a constant visitor to 536, he should very soon overcome that difficulty. On behalf of himself and the other visitors he thanked the brethren, and wished to the Royal Union Lodge increased prosperity, and to the W.M. a pleasant and successful year of office.—The W.M. then proposed “The Health of the Installing Master, Bro. Watson,” a brother too well known to them to require any eulogy on his part. He could not in that place expatiate upon the manner in which he had performed the ceremony of installation; suffice to say, that at the conclusion he had been more than ever impressed with the importance of the office he now held.—Bro. WATSON always had great pleasure in installing the Master of a lodge. It gave him the same gratification that was felt by a W.M. in initiating members into the Order. He assured the Royal Union Lodge that he felt great pleasure in attending their meetings, and should be ready at all times to render every assistance in his power to forward the welfare of the lodge.—The W.M. then proposed the toast of “The Health of the Past Masters.” They were very few—but very select. He then placed on the breast of Bro. Carter a handsome P.M.’s jewel. If Bro. Carter had not been so prominent in the work as he might have been, the members of the lodge were all well aware it was from no fault of his own; but whatever shortcomings he had exhibited in that respect, he had fully made up in the zeal he had exhibited for the welfare of the lodge. He, therefore, had great pleasure, in the name of the brethren, in placing the jewel on his breast, wishing him long life and happiness, and that he might always have a good coat upon which to wear it. The following inscription on the jewel was then read:—“Presented by the members of the Royal Union Lodge (No. 536), to Bro. Carter, P.M., in recognition of the zeal displayed by him in the conduct of the affairs of the lodge during the year ending March, 1863.”—Bro. NEWALL responded on behalf of himself and Bro. Carter. He referred to the hitherto poor attendance of the P.M.’s of the lodge. He could not account for their absence; every endeavour had been made to induce their attendance but in vain. He felt he must dissect the speech of the W.M., who spoke of only two P.M.s being present, as if he had a large stock in store. Bro. Newall during his year of office had not been able to keep such a stock in hand. In that year, Bro. Weedon, meeting after meeting was the only P.M. of the lodge present. And now, himself and Bro. Carter, stood before them as the ghosts of a long line of P.M.s. Ghosts as they were, their substance would always be with them, and they would endeavour to make that substance as substantial as possible.—Bro. CARTER briefly thanked the brethren for the honour they had done him in presenting him with a jewel, and assured them that his efforts to increase the prosperity of the lodge would not cease with his year of office. He sincerely thanked the brethren for the indulgence shown him, and especially Bro. Newall, P.M., and others, who had done so much to help him. Without their assistance he felt sure he could never have got through the duties.—The W.M. in proposing the toast of “The Officers of the Lodge,” referred to the untimely death of Bro. Claisen, in feeling terms, having been reminded thereof by the fact that himself and his officers had advanced a step by the death of that much respected and deeply lamented brother who, if spared, would at that moment have occupied the chair in which he sat. It might be a stereotyped phrase to remark that a W.M. could not perform his duties in a satisfactory manner without the cordial support of his officers. He trusted that the selection he had made would ensure good working, and would meet with the approbation of the brethren. They had certainly made a good beginning, and he looked forward to a pleasant year of office.—Bro. COOMBS, S.W., had resolved to devote all the time he could bestow to acquire efficiency in the discharge of his duties, so that when it came to his lot to occupy the chair he might not cause the reputation of the

lodge to suffer. He was, he might say, a young Mason, and he felt proud at having so speedily reached the honourable position he now occupied. He would, therefore, endeavour to perform his duties with credit to himself and benefit to the lodge.—Bro. HERRING, J.W., was also a young Mason, and it was his intention to work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to qualify himself to perform the duties of his present office, so that the brethren might deem him worthy of further advancement.—Bros. CIEGWIDEN and WILLIAMS, J.D. and S.D., thanked the brethren, and promised to use every exertion to perform their duties in a proper manner.—Bro. GABALL, I.G., thanked the W.M. for having promoted him and the brethren for the way they had responded to the toast of the officers. Though placed in what might be termed a humble position, he felt the importance of doing what little he had to do properly. His friend on the left (Bro. Herring) had promised to work to all the days of the week, but he would try to take the shine out of him by working on Sundays as well. He believed it to be the proper ambition of every good Mason to aspire to the important position of W.M., and as such he hoped to some day attain that honourable rank.—Bro. LEVINSON, Treas., was much indebted to the W.M. for the encomiums passed upon him, which he felt he had not deserved. He had performed his duty to the best of his ability, and promised the brethren he would take the greatest care of their funds and try to keep them out of debt. He had spent many pleasant evenings with them, and he could say that in the Royal Union Lodge, the union element was carried out in the highest degree. The Lodge, whilst enjoying themselves, did not forget the charities. Bro. Newall had served the Stewardship of all three of the Masonic Institutions. On the last occasion he had represented 536 at the Festival of the Benevolent Institution. The lodge was greatly indebted to Bro. Newall, who had done so much to promote the welfare of the lodge and the happiness of the members. He concluded by assuring the brethren that as often as business would permit he would be amongst them and endeavour faithfully discharge the duties of his office.—Bro. HICKS, Collecting Steward, had been appointed to what he considered an important office. He should use his best endeavours to collect the dues of the lodge, and assured the brethren that if they got in arrears he would look them up.—Bro. GAWTHORP, Sec., was happy to meet the members in lodge. From the first time he had the happiness to attend the meetings of Royal Union Lodge, he found that they were of a truly fraternal nature, and that Masonry as there practised, was something more than the mere name. Bro. Gawthorp then, in an elegant address expatiated upon the beauties of Masonry, and the duties of Masons towards one another and the outer world. In conclusion he stated that on being requested to act as Secretary he found two difficulties in his way. The first was that his avocations might prevent a strict attention to the duties of his office; this had been overcome by a brother having intimated that he might receive some assistance if he needed it. The other difficulty he met with on perusing the bye-laws, where he found that the Secretary was excused from paying his subscription. Upon these terms he could not consent to accept the office, and stated his intention to continue to pay his annual subscription the same as any other member. It was suggested to Bro. Gawthorp that he could do so, and that he should sign as Hon. Sec., whereupon Bro. Gawthorp expressed his willingness to undertake the duties, stating that if at any time he found he could not devote sufficient time to the duties of his office, he should request the W. Master to appoint some other brother in his stead. The Press having been proposed and responded to by Bro. Mills, the W.M. said the last, though not the least toast, was that of the worthy host, Bro. Line. The visitors had mentioned the gratification they had felt at the working of the lodge. They had had the opportunity of witnessing the working of the first degree only. But their gratification must have been equally great at the manner in which Bro. Line had worked, the “fourth degree,” for this he might term the banquet, which Bro. Line had put on the table in a manner conducive to his own reputation as a caterer, and to the comfort of the brethren.—Bro. LINE felt great pleasure in entertaining the brethren of Royal Union Lodge, and should always do his best to give them satisfaction and make them comfortable. He thanked the brethren for drinking his health. The Tylers toast brought this happy meeting to a close. The evening’s enjoyment was much enhanced by the vocal exertions of Bros. Carter, Herring, Newall (who gave an excellent extempore song, referring to all the officers of the lodge in a

humorous manner), Exall, Hicks, Gaball, Wurzfield and others. The lodge closed at 10:30. The London brethren, who mustered strongly, chartered omnibuses to West Drayton to catch the Great Western train for London, there being no accommodation from Uxbridge after about 9 o'clock.

NORWICH.

NORWICH.—*Perseverance Lodge* (No. 258).—This flourishing lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday last, under the excellent presidency of its lately elected W.M., Bro. R. Thorns, who has already initiated his eldest son Robert Thorns, Jun., Mr. T. Christie, Mr. Henry Tillet and Mr. Walker Harcourt. There were also several propositions on the books. The pleasure of the evening was greatly enhanced by the arrival of the magnificent portrait of the much respected and highly esteemed Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, which has lately been subscribed for by the Province, and admirably painted by O'Neil.

SUSSEX.

WHITEHAVEN.—*Lewis Lodge* (No. 1174).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall on March 16th. In the absence of the W.M., the chair was taken by Bro. Davies, P.M., as W.M., and opened the lodge, assisted by Bro. Fisher, S.W.; Bro. Slade, J.W., and the rest of the Officers of the lodge. Visitor, Bro. C. J. Banister, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. West Lancashire, &c. The minutes were read over and confirmed. Bro. Groon wishing to take the second degree, he was examined, and, it being satisfactory to the lodge, was passed to the degree of F.C. by the acting W.M., in his usual impressive manner, also explaining the working tools. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation into the mysteries of the Order. Masonry in this town is greatly on the increase, and is extending its influence to the neighbouring towns. Workington and Cokermonth are about to follow, and apply for warrants to the Grand Lodge. This is a step in the right direction, and must be gratifying to the new Provincial Grand Master and his worthy Deputy, Bro. Dr. Greaves, who is untiring in his zeal for the Order.

IRELAND.

NORTH MUNSTER.
PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Monday, March 9, the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Munster assembled in Limerick to commemorate the election of their newly elected Prov. G.M., Bro. Henry Westroppe, Green Park, Limerick, to a congratulatory dinner on his elevation to his present high position amongst the "brethren of the mystic tie" in this province, in the room of the late W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Michael Furnell, J.P., D.L., resigned. The dinner took place in the large room of the Athenæum, and was served up in that excellent style for which Bro. John Goggin is so justly celebrated.

Bros. Gubbins, D. Prov. G.M., 131; P.M. Sterling, 73, Prov. G.S.W.; Godfrey Massy, 202, Prov. G.J.W.; James Pain, 13, Prov. G.S.D.; P. M. Peacocke, 73, Prov. G.J.D.; Barrington, 13, Prov. G. Sec., and the following brethren:—Col. Dickson, M.P., M. Furnell, Bennett, Eaton, Lloyd, Furnell, Hunt, Brownrigg, Dartnell, Enright, Mayne, Mason, 13; James Spaight, Harris, Manning, Turner, Fitzgerald, Gilbertson, Smith, Walker, M'Kenzie, Harrison, Moore, Horrell, Hampton, Peatie, Thomas Glover, Brunton, M'Quaid, Vanesbeck, Wilson, Boyd, Bigley, Deering, Smythe, O'Donoghue, Bouchier, William Glover, Bolton, Bourke, Bassett, John Wallace, 73; E. Evans, and Bernal, 202.

When the cloth was drawn, Bros. Cree, Fitzgerald, Peacocke, and O'Donoghue, sang *Non Nobis Domine* in splendid style.

The GRAND MASTER—Gentlemen, I call for bumpers because I am going to give you the health of Her most gracious Majesty, our good and noble Queen Victoria. (Cheers.) And I do not think that there is a single individual in her wide spread dominions, who values both honour and virtue, that does not appreciate her virtues as a Queen, as a wife, and as the best of mothers. (Hear, hear.) And I trust that the grief which she has suffered for the loss of her good and princely husband will soon be assuaged, and that she will once more resume that position in the presence of her subjects, which she is so justly fitted to adorn. (Hear, hear.)

The PROV. GRAND MASTER—Brethren, the next toast which I

I have to propose to you is "The health of the Prince of Wales and Royal Family." (Hear, hear.) When I received notice that this dinner would be held to-day, I confess that I was surprised that it would not be held on to-morrow, because we would then have an indisputable right to toast the health of a lady in conjunction with that of his royal highness. (Hear.) A lady who will fill the highest position in these kingdoms, next to our beloved Queen, but as we can foresee from the progress which events are making, what will happen within a very short time indeed, I will propose to you, in union with the Prince of Wales, "The Health of the Princess of Wales," for that lady will be the Princess of Wales before 12 o'clock to-morrow. (Hear, hear.) I therefore slightly alter my list of toasts and will add to it by giving the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family. (Hear, hear.)

This toast was received with all the honours.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER then gave "The Army and Navy," and characterised them as the great defenders of the United Kingdom, and the upholders of the dignity, the power, and the prosperity of Britain in every quarter of the globe. (Hear, hear.) There was one grand quality also in the British army that had not been much spoken about, and it was that great quality—humanity—for the British soldier always defended the foe whom he but a few moments before struck down in mortal combat, and that was one of the great distinguishing characteristics of the British army. (Applause.) But this principle was also found in Masonry, which exercised in its own way. (Hear, hear.) That cup which the brethren saw on the table before him was no small mark or illustration of what he urged on the score of humanity. That cup was awarded to the captain of a privateer who took an enemy's ship and released the prisoners and crew. The captain who performed this noble and generous and humane act was a Mason; and that cup had been awarded him as a small token of gratitude from those whom he set at liberty; but he could not now be found, and so the cup remains as a memento of his bravery and disinterested humanity. (Hear, hear.) The Grand Master then concluded by giving the "Army and Navy," coupling with them their gallant friend and brother Colonel Dickson. (Cheers.)

Bro. Col. DICKSON, M.P., said he had great pleasure in returning thanks on behalf of those two important branches of the public service, and also in bearing testimony to the truthfulness of the sentiments expressed in their regard by the R.W. the G.M., who had given an instance of the extent to which the spirit of Masonry carries out the grand principle of humanity—(hear, hear.)—and he (the gallant Colonel) might be permitted to mention another point in which the army of Great Britain, which springs from the people, carry out that principle of humanity. The British army is not the creature of fiction, it springs from the people, its interests are amongst the people, and it never draws the sword except in the cause of justice and of right. (Hear, hear.) This the army had always done, and he was sure that it would always continue to do so. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

The PROV. G. MASTER then said—two of those toasts which I have given may be considered Royal ones, namely, the Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales; therefore the next toasts which I will propose to you will not be Royal, but noble ones, and will be given by me in honour of men who have always upheld the dignity, the purity, and the honour of our body. (Hear, hear.) In respect to one of them, the G.M. of Scotland, I never met him; with regard to the G.M. of England, I do not personally know him, but I know a brother who knows him, and I am told by that brother, that a more courteous or a kinder man could not be met with. (Applause.) And with respect to our own G.M., I can only say that I am sure there is not a man in Ireland who is not aware of his kind hearted and truly genuine qualities. (Hear, hear.) He is a munificent patron of all that is good amongst men, and above all he is kind to every brother who makes application to him. (Hear, hear.) And I need say that in every Masonic meeting you will find his name mentioned with love and deep regard. (Hear, hear, and applause.) I will now, brethren, give you the health of three Grand Masters, the Earl of Zetland, the Duke of Athol, and the Duke of Leinster.

This toast was received with all the honours, loud applause, and three times three.

The PROV. G. MASTER again rose and said: Brethren, amongst the names which I placed before you in the toasts which I proposed, and to which I am happy to say you have rendered justice by cordially responding to my call. I placed



the name of the G.M. of Ireland, and next to that inestimable personage, I now propose to you the health of a brother whom I have known for 25 years—a brother who possesses those peculiar qualities which render a man estimable in every relation of life. I do not think that the brethren could find a more estimable man to honour than the Duke of Leinster, whose *dictum* I would implicitly receive in preference to that of any man I ever knew, because he has rendered Masonry his study and, therefore do not think that any man could go away from him unanswered upon any topic relating to the Craft, and next to him I place the brother whose health I am now going to propose to you, and which I feel assured you will receive with all that regard which he merits from the brethren. I now give you Brother Fitzhenry Townsend. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. CREE returned thanks for Bro. Townsend, with whom he had long been united as a brother Mason, and a brother at the bar, and he thought he could say without flattery to Brother Townsend that a truer Mason did not exist than that gentleman. (Hear, hear.) And whenever he was invited to his (Mr. Cree's) lodge in Dublin, he reflected credit on the Order. (Hear, hear.) And he was proud to see that he was appreciated here as well as in Dublin. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Cree concluded by returning thanks on the part of Bro. Townsend.

Bro. Colonel DICKSON, *M.P.*, called for a bumper, and then said,—Worshipful Grand Master, I am going to propose a toast which you can't propose yourself, inasmuch as it is your own; and I know, when I announce the health of the Provincial Grand Master, it will be received with all that due regard which his high office exacts from us, and also with that affection and esteem which his conduct as a man and brother Mason entitle him to receive from every one who enjoys the pleasure of his friendship. (Hear, hear.) We recognise in him not only our Grand Master, but a man of many requirements, else he could not attain the position he now holds, and which fact of itself shows that a man must stand well with the brotherhood when he becomes to be Grand Master. (Hear, hear.) There is no way in which we can appreciate Masonry better than when we see loyalty spreading triumphantly through the land, and the onward march of which is illustrated by the reception which that young lady, who is destined, perhaps, to be our future Queen, has received, and is receiving, and in the preparations which are making throughout the empire to celebrate her nuptials on to-morrow (hear, hear); and therefore I do not think there can be a more fitting time to drink the health of one who has been raised to a high degree in Masonry than the present. (Hear, hear.) There are men here to-night who do not know our present Prov. Grand Master; but, when they are acquainted with him, they will see standing before them a good citizen, a good country gentleman, a kind and good landlord, and an estimable man—a truly honest man. (Applause.) I now propose the health of our Prov. Grand Master, and I will add that, as Prov. G. Master, he is entitled to three elevens and three distinct huzzas. (Hear, hear.)

The gallant Colonel's call was fully responded to.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said that he lamented when he reflected that cold and old age would press on every man, but nevertheless he felt that there were moments which give more real pleasure to men than all the ephemeral enjoyments of youth, and these were when a man obtains preferment amongst his fellow-men, not by any merits of his own, but merely as a consequence of the approbation in which they hold him (hear, hear), and he did not think that any circumstance could give him greater pleasure than his present position, because those who placed him in it could not be controlled by any unworthy motive, and in that position he was placed by the unanimous approbation of the brethren. (Hear, hear.) He thanked Lodge 13 and Lodge 73 for the kind feeling which they evinced in his favour, and which enabled his friends in Dublin to place him in the provincial chair of Munster. The other three lodges, which did not send forward any memorial in his favour, but whose wishes were in his behalf, he also thanked, and he promised that, so long as he held the office of Grand Master of the province, he would unite and preserve union amongst the lodges because he knew that in union there was strength. (Applause.) The Prov. G. Master concluded by proposing the health of his predecessor, Bro. Michael Furnell. (Hear, hear, and much applause.)

The toast being duly honoured,

Bro. Captain FURNELL returned thanks on the part of his relative in an appropriate speech.

Bro. STERLING proposed the health of the D. Prov. G.M. of

Munster, and in doing so bore testimony to the zeal of that gentleman in connection with the Masonic Order, and also highly eulogised him as a man of honour and rectitude in every relation of life. All the honours were rendered to the toast.

Bro. G. CHATTEERTON, P. Prov. Grand Master of the Cork district, returned thanks.

Bro. James SPAIGHT said that there was no more recognised principle in what is known of Masonry than to help to bear each other's burdens, and, therefore, he rose to propose the toast which he saw on the paper, and he had very peculiar pleasure in proposing it, because he felt that it would be received with enthusiasm, for the brother whose health he intended to propose was one who possessed and who practised those great ruling principles of Masonry—namely, kindness and brotherly love (Hear, hear.) Under ordinary circumstances, he would hesitate before he would say so much in the gentleman's presence, but when every one around him knew the extent to which those gifts were possessed by Brother Gubbins, he could not hesitate—(Hear, hear.) The brother who had recently addressed them was tripping on the verge of breaking secrets (laughter), and he would not follow the example; but this he would say, that every good man would be a mason, and every good mason must be a good man. (Hear, hear, and applause.) It was his (Bro. Spaight's) privilege to do a good deal of work with Brother Gubbins, and he, consequently, was enabled to say, that a truer heart never beat in the breast of a man, or mason, than did in the bosom of Brother Gubbins. (applause.)

Bro. J. GUBBINS returned thanks, and said, that although he was not known much in the city of Limerick, he hoped before long to be known to all the brethren in it. (Hear, hear.)

The District Lodges, the Visiting Brethren, and the Ladies, were proposed *seriatim*, and duly honoured, after which the guests, having enjoyed an intellectual as well as social evening, separated.

ROYAL ARCH.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

GARSTON.—*Chapter of Harmony* (No. 267).—At a convocation of this chapter, held on Thursday, the 12th inst., by a full assembly of chiefs and companions, Comp. J. C. Banister, P.Z., Prov. G. Dir. of Ceremonies for the Western division of Lancashire, Prov. G.D. for Durham, and Festival Steward for 1862 and 1863, presented to Comp. Pepper, M.E.Z., a Past Principal's jewel, as a mark of respect. The jewel is of an antiquated character, having been the property of the late P.Z., Comp. Samuels, of Liverpool, by whom it was presented to the late lamented P.Z., Comp. Joshua Walmsley, Prov. G. Treas. for West Lancashire, and at whose death it came into the possession of Comp. Banister. Comp. Pepper, in expressing his grateful thanks for their free-will offering, and the kind and very feeling terms in which it was conveyed, replied that he should ever consider and esteem it as the most valuable of all the presentations that had been made to him, from its associations, having been worn on the breasts of those patriarchs in Freemasonry, Comps. Samuels, Walmsley, and Banister, and hoped the mantle of the two former might fall upon himself; and that Comp. Banister might long be spared to wear the honours he had so justly earned, that the various provinces, chapters, and lodges with which he was associated, and by whom he was held in such high esteem, might continue to reap the advantages of his gifted and varied abilities.

LIVERPOOL.—*Mariners' Chapter* (No. 310).—This chapter was opened in the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, on March 13th, by Comps. James Hamer, Z.; Wilcocks, as H.; J. Pepper, J.; Thos. Wylie, P.Z.; C. J. Banister, P.Z., and a full attendance of companions and visitors. The minutes of last meeting being read and confirmed, a candidate was exalted to this supreme degree by the principals, each delivering their proper lectures in a most impressive manner, Comp. P. S. doing his work well. This being the night of election of Principals and officers, Comp. P. Maddox was elected Z.; Pepper, H.; Lanley, J.; T. Marsh, Scribe E.; Koppel, Scribe N.; Taylor, P.S.; James Hamer, Treasurer; the installation will take place May 8th. Several candidates were proposed for exaltation, and business over the chapter was closed. At refreshment the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and done justice to. Bro. Banister proposed the health of the three Principals and P.Z., Comp. Wylie, and prosperity to this flourishing chapter. Comps. Hamer, M.E.Z., and Wylie, P.M.E.Z. returned thanks in excellent speeches, giving all present, particularly the younger com-

panions, good advice. Comp. Pepper in a Masonic speech, proposed the visitors and Comp. Barister, who was at all times ready and willing to lend a hand to help in the good work, drunk with full honours and acclamations, and responded to. Toasts, sentiments, and songs, brought a very happy evening to a close, and the companions separated happy to meet again.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

SCOTLAND.

THE 10TH IN AYRSHIRE.

True to their principles, the Freemasons of the cradle land of Scottish Masonry have, in the late rejoicings in honour of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, mingled perfumes of the sweetest odour with the incense ascending from the censers which the loyalty of the British people had charged. Without waiting a formal invitation to don the badge of the Craft, without even, as every installed R.W.M. knows ought to be the case, obtaining the consent of their Provincial Grand Master, many of the lodges were formed on the 10th, to have by their presence imparted a richly picturesque appearance to the various civic processions which were marshalled to render the day in which the royal nuptials was celebrated, one commemorable in the nation's history. The brethren in Mauchline, Kilmarnock, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, Stevenston, Beith, Maybole, Irvine and Ayr, during the day, perambulated the streets of their respective towns, and in the evening, joining free with the denizens of the the neutral world, enjoyed themselves in many ways, some at the "feast of reason and the flow of soul," others in the "mazes of the giddy dance."

In Ardrossan the public dinner was presided over by Bro. Provost Barn; in Mauchline by Bro. Gavin Hamilton, youngest son of Burns's early patron; in Kilwinning by Bro. J. Meickle, in the one held in Bro. Ross's, King Arms, Ayr. The Croupiers were Dr. Ronald, and W. Pollock, and in that held in Bro. Park's, Prince of Wales Inn, Bro. D. Murray Lyon presided, and was faced by Bro. Sergt.-Major Lockhart, of the Royal Ayr and Wigton Rifles. Having been present at the latter affair, we present an extract from the Chairman's speech. In introducing the toast of the evening he remarked that not since the marriage of her Majesty in 1840 had the people of this country given such unbounded expression to their feelings of joy at the consummation of any event in which the royal family were more immediately interested, than they now did on the occasion of the nuptials of the heir apparent to the throne of these realms; and while such homage paid to the Royal Family could not be otherwise than most grateful to the feelings of our beloved Sovereign, its exhibition was well calculated to engender, in the heart of the despot, longings after the blessings of constitutional government. But it was neither to sing the requiem of despotism, nor to sound the praises of liberty that they had that afternoon assembled round the festive board—it was theirs rather to swell the measure of a nation's rejoicings over an event which might yet affect the destinies of their country; he begged, therefore, to call upon them to fill a bumper in which to quaff the health of the most illustrious of Britain's sons, whose espousal of a fair Danish damsel of royal blood had that day been celebrated within the walls of her Majesty's ancient Castle of Windsor. After adverting to the matrimonial alliances formed in the olden time between the Danes and Britons, and taking a retrospect of the events occurring in the beginning of the present century which led twice to the surrender of the Danish fleet to Britain, when the wooden walls of old England belched forth their thunders with such terrible effect upon Copenhagen as to cause the surrender of that devoted capital into the hands of the mistress of the seas, the Chairman showed how little prospect there was then presented to view of an alliance of the nature which the crowning event of that day had ratified, and remarked that what the force of arms or the skill or intrigue of the most consummate diplomatist could never have produced had been quietly effected through the irresistible influences of those native charms which grace the mind and person of the lovely Danish maiden whom he who is destined to be our future Sovereign now calls by the endearing name of wife. He had no inflated panegyric upon the Royal pair to pronounce; by those who from personal intercourse with them were best qualified to judge as to their worth they were well spoken of—

the Prince for his intelligence and manly bearing, the Princess for her womanly graces and accomplishments; but as the son and daughter of the Queen they were entitled to their highest respect, and it would ill become British subjects to mar by any discordant note that harmony of feeling in regard to the Royal marriage which seemed to animate the whole body of the people, or by their silence to break the vibration of the joyful notes of the nuptial song, as they pass along from island to island, to be taken up by our most distant colonies:—

"Fill high the cup, and let the health go round!
Then shout for joy amain—
Shout till the rafters overhead resound,
For such a day as this we shall not see again!"

But while they thus rejoiced over the union of Albert and Alexandra in the holy bonds of wedlock, let one grand universal orison rise to Heaven, burdened with the wish that these youthful and distinguished persons may in their future career be so guided by the Most High as to realise the nation's hopes, and that when they are summoned to resign their temporal crowns and demit the honours of their exalted rank, they may be enabled to do so in the sure hope through grace of eternal felicity. Pledge, then, in a flowing bumper, continued the Chairman, "The Health of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales."

Other toasts were given, but these need not be farther adverted to: and at an early hour the party broke up, and sallied forth to enjoy a sight of the fireworks and illuminations. The dinner was one of a sumptuous kind, and in all respects characteristic of the profusion and tastefulness with which Bro. Park usually garnishes the banquetting table; and the company were much indebted to Bro. Hamilton Nimmo for the cheerful and ready manner in which he responded to the numerous calls made upon him during the evening, by singing some of his favourite songs. Bro. Sergt. David Wallace rode as jauntily as ever on his "low back'd car," and Bros. H. Livingston and D. Hunter, warbled forth their woodnotes wild in their usually tasteful style.

The dinner party in the Black Bull (Bro. Simonds') was presided over by Bro. G. Gilfillan, that in the Victoria (Bro. Gray's) had for croupier the facetious brother, Rob. Gondie, and the supper in the Tam o' Shanter (Bro. Glass's) was, in the absence of Bro. Donald McDonald, presided over by Bro. Lyon, who, in introducing "The Prince and Princess of Wales," alluded to the dissimilarity of circumstances under which the last two Princesses of Wales had been led to the hymenial altar;—the marriage of the eldest son of George III. with the Princess Caroline was one of expediency, and proved an unhappy union to both parties; that of Victoria's son with the Princess of Denmark was an affair of the heart, the result of mutual attachment, and bade fair to realise the most sanguine wishes for the future happiness of the young couple more immediately interested. Carrick could now boast of a countess in the person of a descendant of those roving sea-kings of the north, who for two hundred years were the scourge of Europe. It was no doubt singular that such an one should wear the coronet which encircled the brow of Marjory, Countess of Carrick; but the youthful Princess to whom it had fallen in right of her husband would not wear it the less gracefully because of her descent from the hardy race of Norsemen who had placed their feet upon the necks of some of the ancient Kings of Britain. After a few other remarks, for which we have not room, the health of the Earl and Countess of Carrick was pledged amid great enthusiasm. Several other toasts were given, and the evening spent in a most hilarious manner. The company having expressed, through the chair, their perfect satisfaction with the arrangements made for their comfort by Mr. and Mrs. Glass, broke up at a seasonable hour.

The Masonic ball in honour of the Royal marriage, held in Ayr, under the auspices of the senior lodge in town, Ayr Kilwinning, No. 124, was numerously attended, and came off very successfully. While the light blue and scarlet of Ayr Kilwinning predominated, a sprinkling of green and gold, scarlet, crimson, and dark blue, visible amongst the insignia worn by the brethren, discovered the presence among the company of craftsmen hailing from Mother Kilwinning, Ayr Operative, Royal Arch, and St. Paul. The arrangements of the committee of management were unique, and the manner in which the Dir. of Cers., Bro. David Bone, aided by Bro. R. Fergusson, discharged the duties of that office, contributed to the comfort and enjoyment of all present. The programme

was a well-selected one; and the usual investiture of the ladies with the insignia of the Order, was gone through immediately; the clock chimed low twelve. The refreshment rooms were under the superintendence of Bro. M'Killop, who had abundance of everything in the shape of wines, fruits, confections, &c., provided for the wants of the company. At cock crow the meeting separated, after a night's hearty enjoyment.

At Troon, on the 9th, the Navigation Lodge, No. 86, in the most spirited manner, held a ball in the Portland Arms Assembly Room, in honour of the Royal marriage. At a little after 7 o'clock, about thirty couples were found to have assembled, and the company formed themselves into order, and were conducted into the ball-room by the Master of Ceremonies, Bro. D. Hutcheson, while the band played the Grand Masonic March. The hall was beautifully decorated with evergreens, lustres, flags, &c., and the brethren being in full Masonic regalia, and many of the ladies wearing the badge of the "Eastern Star," the company had a very gay appearance. At low twelve the brethren clothed their fair partners, and adorned them with the lodge and other jewels; and supper was also at this hour partaken of, Bro. Imrie giving as a toast the "Health of the Prince and his Bride," which was honoured by the brethren giving three times three and "Macduff" such style as to startle those of the fair sex who had never before witnessed that well-known Masonic fire. Dancing was carried on with great spirit till the morning of the bridal day was far advanced, to the inspiring strains of Chamber's quadrille band. There has not, it is said, been such an assembly held in Troon for twenty years.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

We understand that Mdlle. Carlotta Patti (sister of the famous Mdlle. Adelina Patti) will make her first appearance in England in the course of the approaching season.

Mdlle. Patti is performing the round of her characters in Vienna, where her success is described as equal to that which attended her in Paris and London.

MM. Mario and Graziani and Mdlle. Filippi are singing at Barcelona.

It is stated that Mdlle. Piccolomini is about to return to the stage for a few nights.

We (*Galignani*) learn from Constantinople that a very great sensation has been produced in that capital by a new opera, by a native composer, with a success that promises to turn the theatre into a "mine of gold." The title of the piece is *Ladislao*, and the composer has been permitted to dedicate it to the Sultan himself. We should remark that the author's name is Pisano, which sounds strikingly Italian.

Mdlle. Mouravieff, from the Imperial Theatre, St. Petersburg, will shortly make her *début*, in *Giselle*, at the Grand Opera, Paris. Mdlle. Ferraris, who is about to quit Paris, takes her farewell benefit this evening.

In New York, notwithstanding the agitation naturally resulting from the war, the journals state that the Opera and other theatres were never more crowded within memory than during the present season.

It is now certain (says the *Illustrated News*), that Mr. Boucicault has made his arrangements for the erection of his proposed new theatre in the metropolis. The site selected for the purpose is in the Haymarket, on the ground long occupied by the Anglesey Tavern, with the adjoining livery yard and stables. Here it is Mr. Boucicault's intention to carry forward those improvements in regard to theatrical management which he has already explained in his public letters to the journals, and which he has further illustrated by his successful conduct of the Westminster Theatre.

Mr. Ira Aldridge, the African Roscius (says the *Sunday Times*), who has been honoured by patents of nobility in Russia as the Chevalier Ira Aldridge, is at present staying in England, after an absence of twelve months in Russia, where he has received the most flattering recognition in all the principal cities of the empire. Mr. Aldridge has for some time been engaged in familiarising, and, to some extent acclimatising the masterpieces of Shakspeare among the Slaves; and it says no little for his enterprise and industry, as well as for his dramatic ability, that he has not only mastered the Russian language, but has been

able to present Shakspeare with such success as to fill the Imperial Theatre of Moscow, the largest theatre in Europe, not excepting La Scala, at advanced prices, to witness his interpretation of the leading Shaksperian characters.

Mr. Frith at the marriage ceremony (says the *Queen*), is the great artistic event of the week. The best place in the chapel (after the Bridegroom's, of course, for surely no one will deny that his was the best place), was reserved for him—a place near the altar, whence he could drink in with his eyes the whole of the lovely scene, and carry away in his memory that which to an artist must have been a royal feast of colour. Mr. Frith, will, no doubt, produce a very taking picture, which will engrave very well, and be very popular; but his admirers must pardon us for saying that we do not expect a very great picture. Let us hope, however, that he will preserve the likenesses of the individuals, and, if he cannot produce a great composition, at any rate, let us have a recognisable group. Mr. Flaton is stated to have purchased the copyright at a good round sum.

POLYGRAPHIC HALL.

Mr. Henri Drayton opened this Hall last week, with an entertainment entitled, "Federalists and Confederates." There was a full and fashionable attendance, and Mr. Drayton met with a well merited cordial reception. He possesses a commanding and gentlemanly figure; his voice is decidedly good; as a singer he has entire command over it, and as an orator his language is correct and well modulated. These advantages are rarely combined, and as the sketch is not only entertaining but instructive, there cannot be a doubt but the English public will discover and support true genius. We understand Mr. Drayton is an American, and as his subject is upon the present state of affairs in America, his remarks upon this head are all the more interesting, particularly, as they are made with an impartiality and manliness that does credit to the man uttering them. Mr. Drayton accompanies himself upon the piano, in a masterly, feeling, manner, besides which, the whole of the entertainment is illustrated by a panorama, wrought in a most exquisite manner. Upon the whole we consider this the best entertainment of the kind ever produced.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Prince and Princess of Wales returned from Osborne to Windsor Castle on Tuesday, and are now on a visit to the Queen. The Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, with the infant Prince William, have returned home. The Prince and Princess Christian of Denmark—the parents of the Princess of Wales—with their elder children, and their august relatives, the Duke of Holstein-Glucksburg and Prince Frederick of Hesse Cassel, have been nightly *feted* by our great families, and reviews have been held in their honour at Woolwich and Aldershot. They have also been shown over all the great sights of London, including the House of Commons, which they visited on Thursday night. The Princess, of course, peered down upon our renowned representative assembly from the cage which is dignified with the name of the Ladies Gallery; while the Prince, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Holstein-Glucksburg, and His Highness of Hesse Cassel, listened to the debate on the affairs of Greece with deep interest from the Peers' Gallery. On Wednesday they visited the flower show of the Horticultural Society. The Home Secretary has, by Her Majesty's command, addressed a letter to the Lord Mayor expressing her sorrow for the lamentable accidents at the late illuminations, and commanding that an inquiry be made into the circumstances of the survivors, with a view, if need be, of ministering to their wants. The Prince of Wales has also addressed a letter to the Lord Mayor on the

subject. His Royal Highness expresses his deep regret that what was meant for rejoicing should have been turned into an occasion of mourning, and he feels the calamity the more poignantly on account of the warm and enthusiastic welcome with which the Princess and himself were received on their passage through the City. The Prince further adds his anxiety to do all that may lie in his power to relieve the sufferings of those who lost their relatives on that unfortunate occasion, and with that view requests that information as to the condition of those families may be communicated to him. A Court of Common Council has been held, at which addresses of congratulation to the Queen and the Prince and the Princess of Wales were unanimously agreed to. It was also agreed that the freedom of the City should be presented to the Prince, contained in a casket of the value of 250 guineas. Further, it was resolved that the Prince and Princess should be invited to dine in the city on the day that his Royal Highness takes up his freedom. In the course of the sitting the Lord Mayor announced that it was his intention to present the corporation with a bust of the Prince; and Mr. Anderton followed up the offer by the announcement that he would present a similar bust of the Princess.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Lords on Thursday, the 12th inst., the proceedings were entirely confined to a debate respecting the Metropolitan railways, which was ultimately adjourned for a fortnight.—On Friday nothing of importance was transacted.—On Monday night, the Union Relief Aid Act Continuance Bill, and the Salmon Exportation Bill were read a second time, while the Malt Duty Bill passed through the final stage.—On Tuesday the bill continuing the Union Relief Aid Act passed through Committee. No other business of importance came before their Lordships.—In the House of Commons on Thursday, the 12th inst., Mr. Hennessy presented three petitions from the City of London, praying that Superintendent Walker and Inspector Whicher might be summoned to the bar of the House, to give information respecting their late "mission" to Warsaw. Sir George Grey placed the House in possession of all the papers bearing on the subject, including the Russian Ambassador's confidential communication, which has been produced at the desire of His Excellency himself. In reply to a question from Mr. Stanley, the President of the Poor Law Board said that boards of guardians might, within certain limits, and under distinctly specified conditions, borrow money for the purpose of assisting poor persons who are desirous to emigrate. Another long debate, originated by Mr. Lindsay took place on the question of iron *versus* wooden ships of war, leading to nothing.—On Friday a conversation took place respecting the crush during the progress of the Princess Alexandra through the City on Saturday last.—Sir Dr. Lacy Evans, recommended the amalgamation of the City and Metropolitan police, while Sir George Grey thought if this could not be accomplished, the Government should, at least, have some control over the arrangements on such occasions as the entry of the Princess of Wales. Lord Alfred Paget, who rode at the side of the carriage of Her Royal Highness, said the City police evidently gave up all hope of being able to maintain anything like order, but a much better state of things was found westward of Temple Bar. The Lord Mayor and Alderman Sidney, as representatives of the Corporation of London, strenuously defended the City authorities—the former entering a strong protest against any opposition to amalgamate the two forces of police. During this discussion, Sir George Grey stated that her Majesty, deeply pained by the loss of life on Tuesday night, had ordered an inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the families of the persons who were killed. The affair between

Mr. Odo Russell and the Pope, was again the subject of discussion. Mr. Layard expressed his entire confidence in the accuracy of Mr. Russell's account of what took place at Rome, with reference to offering His Holiness an asylum. Sir George Bowyer on the other hand, adhered to the French version, that the Pope's remark to the English representative, to the effect that he might be obliged to seek a refuge on British soil, was merely a jocular expression without any serious meaning. The hon. baronet added that, in consequence of the part he had taken in this matter, Mr. Odo Russell occupied "a much less important position in Rome than he had previously filled"—a statement which drew from Mr. Layard the remark that the position of our non-official envoy was "as important as it had ever been."—On Monday, Sir Charles Wood stated, in reply to a question from Captain Jervis, that a Royal Commission would inquire into the complaint of the officers of the old East India Company, that the guarantee given to them as to pay and promotion when the Queen's and the local services were amalgamated, has since been broken, to their serious disadvantage.—Mr. Baillie Cochrane moved an address for further correspondence relating to the affairs of Greece. The hon. gentleman charged Lord Russell with insincerity in the course he had taken with respect to the filling up of the vacant throne. The noble Earl, he said, had led the Greeks to believe that the offer to Prince Alfred would be favourably entertained by England, and he had put forward the names of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Dom Ferdinand of Portugal before he gave himself the trouble to inquire whether either of these illustrious personages would consent to wear the crown of Greece.—Mr. Gregory could not agree with Mr. Cochrane's remarks so far as they applied to the case of Prince Alfred, but, on the other hand, he thought the Greeks had been "sold" with reference to the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Dom Ferdinand. The hon. gentleman then criticised the general policy of the Government in the East, and contended that, although perhaps this country was justified in protecting Turkey against the rapacity of the "unbroken power" of the late Czar, it would now, under altered circumstances, be wise to favour the efforts made by the Sultan's Christian subjects to shake off a rule which "has long since hung like a millstone round the neck of some of the fairest provinces in Europe."—After a few words from Mr. M. Milnes, who thought the Greeks ought to be left to elect a King without referring the matter at all to the great Powers, Mr. Layard defended the conduct of his chief, stating that, so far as the Duke of Saxe-Coburg was concerned, there was every reason to believe that His Royal Highness would accept the Crown if elected by the people of Greece.—After some further discussion, Lord Palmerston replied with some warmth to the attacks which had been made upon Lord Russell, and entered upon a general defence of the policy of her Majesty's Government in the East. With regard to the proposed cession of the Ionian Islands, he expressed a hope that the example set by England in this matter would be followed by other Powers in Europe.—Mr. Baillie Cochrane ultimately withdrew his motion.—On Tuesday, Mr. Somes, by a majority of 141 to 52, obtained leave to bring in a bill for the closing of public-houses on Sunday. Sir George Grey expressed his intention of opposing the measure, as it stands, in its future stages; and Mr. Roebuck said that, in the event of its being read a second time, which was very improbable, he should move a clause extending the prohibition to clubs.—Mr. W. E. Forster moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Game Laws. The motion was seconded by Lord Enfield, but opposed by Mr. H. S. Thompson, who moved, as an amendment, that the appointment of a Committee be postponed until further experience shall

have been obtained of the working of the "Prevention of Poaching Act." After some further discussion, in the course of which Sir George Grey supported the proposition of the member for Bradford, the House divided, when the motion was rejected by a majority of 19.—Mr. Roebuck started another discussion, as the right of the Buggs and Buggeys to transform themselves into Howards and Montmorencies, and Sir George Grey and the Solicitor General were at great pains to state the law on the subject, which is to the effect that there is no law to prevent a man altering his name as often as he likes, provided he does not do so for a fraudulent purpose.—On Wednesday, Mr. Ferrand gave notice that on Friday he would ask the Government whether they were willing to give a night immediately after Easter for the discussion of the condition of the distressed operatives in Lancashire.—Mr. Brady moved the second reading of his bill for the prevention of the practice of conveying persons suffering from infectious diseases in street cabs. The measure was opposed, and eventually, after some discussion, the second reading was postponed to the 27th of May.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—An influential meeting of the citizens of London was held on Tuesday at the Guildhall—Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Lawrence in the chair—on behalf of the present struggle in Poland. The attendance was numerous; and the meeting was addressed by the Earl of Harrowby, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Mr. Denman, Mr. Western Wood, Mr. Crawford, and other members of the House of Commons. Resolutions reprobating the conduct of Russia and asserting the right of England to interfere in favour of Poland were unanimously agreed to, and petitions founded on them were ordered to be drawn up and presented to Parliament.—It is stated that the changes in the Northern and Midland Circuits have been finally decided upon: The old designations will be dropped, and the circuits will, it is said, be known in future as those of Lancashire and Yorkshire. The Lancashire Circuit will include Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster, Carlisle, and Appleby; the Yorkshire Circuit, York, Durham, and Newcastle, with Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derby, which will be taken from the Midland. The remaining places on the Midland Circuit will be added to Norfolk.—At the weekly meeting of the Board of works, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Leicester-square presented a memorial urging upon the Board to oppose a measure now before Parliament for turning that square into a retail market.—Mr. Farnall's report exhibits a further decrease in the distress in the cotton districts. For the week ending the 7th inst. the decrease, as compared with the previous week, was 1513. Nine unions, however, have increased their poor, though the balance is more than restored in 16 other places. Mr. Farnall adds that there are now 213,705 persons in receipt of parochial relief, and 226,452 others who are assisted by local committees, making in all 440,157 persons wholly or partially destitute.—The remains of Sir James Outram are to find a fitting resting-place within the walls of Westminster Abbey—the hallowed spot where, some 12 months ago, the illustrious soldier, broken and shattered in health, stood to pay the last office of respect to his departed chief, Lord Canning.—The Cork branch of the "Brotherhood of St. Patrick" turned out again on Tuesday night, and, in pious memory of their patron saint, plunged the city into a state of confusion, smashed a number of windows, and otherwise conducted themselves in such a manner as to render "a bayonet charge" necessary. The Magistrates, with Mr. Maguire, M.P., at their head, appear to have acted with energy; but the ruffians they have to deal with are clearly fellows with a prodigious capacity for outrage and disorder.—Mrs. Jessie Black, wife of Captain

Black, and daughter of a physician, has been brought before the magistrate at Preston, charged with stealing jewellery from Captain Binnett. She was committed for trial.—A foreigner named Antony Randewitz, who has been carrying on business in Paris and at 6, Bread-street, City, was brought up at Guildhall on Wednesday, charged with conspiring with his partner, Benedict Brandels, to defraud creditors. The evidence showed that large quantities of goods had been bought by the firm and sold immediately at much less than their value. The magistrate committed the prisoner for trial.—A painful episode in the so-called "short and simple annals of the poor" is recorded in the report of an inquest on a girl of the name of Smithers, who died from starvation in St. Luke's. The family of which the poor little thing was one were sunk in the depths of poverty, but refused to go into the workhouse. Another death from destitution has also transpired in Shoreditch. Sarah Jarvis, a woman of 67, has died from exhaustion, asthma, and want of the common necessaries of life.—An inquest has been held at Guy's Hospital on the body of Mr. Isaac Walker, who had died in consequence of injuries received by him through falling from a van on the night of the illumination. It was clearly shown that death had been caused in that way, and a verdict of accidental death was returned. Another inquest, which will probably be followed by other proceedings, was held on Saturday evening by the West Middlesex coroner. The object was to ascertain the cause of the death of Ellen Cottar, whose death there is too much reason to fear was at least accelerated by brutal ill-treatment. A verdict of "Death from natural cause," was, however, returned.—A melancholy accident took place at one of the piers at London Bridge on Tuesday morning. A respectably-dressed middle-aged woman, attempting to get on board a steamboat while the vessel was in motion, missed her footing and fell into the river. She sank immediately, and notwithstanding every exertion some time elapsed before the body was recovered. The woman was quite dead.—A fatal boiler explosion occurred on Tuesday at the Victoria Works near Dewsbury. One man was killed, and one if not two others are likely to die.—George Vass, a brutal young fellow, who murdered a married woman under circumstances of fearful atrocity at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the morning of New Year's-day, was executed on Saturday.—A young man, named Simpson,—in a fit of jealousy, it would seem—fired at his sweetheart at Newton Mount, near Burton-upon-Trent, on Friday, and afterwards committed suicide. The young woman received a serious wound under the right ear, and it is feared that she will not recover.—Five men have been sentenced to three months' hard labour each at the Welchpool assizes, for intimidating a number of voters at the election for Montgomeryshire in the month of July last. The prisoners appeared to have been the ringleaders of a regularly organised mob, whose proceedings Mr. Baron Bramwell, in passing sentence, denounced as "the worst of tyrannies."

A dreadful scene has occurred at the Dorchester assizes. A convict, named Preedy, was put upon his trial for the wilful murder of one of the Portland warders. There was no dispute as to the facts of the case, but an attempt was made to prove that the prisoner was not in a sound state of mind. As if to support this plea, Preedy conducted himself like a raving madman in the dock, and at length it was found necessary to manacle and strap him down. Evidence was then given to rebut the case for the defence, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty. When sentence of death was passed upon him, the heavily-ironed convict "bowed very reverentially."—A farmer, near Chelmsford, named Straight, has been tried at Chelmsford on the charge of having discharged a loaded pistol at a policeman.

It appeared that the prisoner had worked himself into a violent passion on account of suspicions he entertained respecting the chastity of his wife, which he now admitted to be quite unfounded. He held out the pistol in a threatening manner, swearing he would shoot both his wife and the policeman, when one of the body struck up his arm, and the pistol went off without hurting any one. The prisoner was acquitted, on the ground that he did not discharge the pistol, but that it went off in the scuffle. He afterwards pleaded guilty to a common assault, and was bound over to keep the peace.—There was a curious scene at the Maidstone Assizes on Wednesday. Robert Alexander Burton, a lad of eighteen, was indicted for the murder of a boy named Houghton, in July last, at Chatham. Houghton, it may be remembered, went to play on the Chatham Lines, and was found shortly afterwards cruelly murdered. Burton gave himself up as the murderer, averring that he wished to be hung. In due course he was committed for trial, and should have been tried at the winter gaol delivery. He, however, declared that he should plead guilty, and on the application of Mr. Ribton, who had been engaged to defend him, his trial was postponed that inquiry might be made into his state of mind. Those inquiries failed in detecting any symptoms of insanity, and when placed at the bar, Burton pleaded guilty. He was asked if he understood the nature of his plea, and declared that he did. Mr. Justice Wightman then urged that it would be much better that the prisoner should plead not guilty, not as denying the crime, but as expressing a wish to be tried. Yielding to these solicitations, the prisoner, whose sole desire was said to be that he might be hanged, withdrew his first plea, and pleaded not guilty. Witnesses were then called and examined, and cross-examined, and it was made clear that the prisoner had committed the crime with which he was charged. Mr. Ribton, in addressing the jury for the defence, did not deny Burton's guilt, but pleaded that when he murdered the boy he was insane. The jury, however, found a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to death. He treated the matter with the greatest coolness, and on leaving the dock said, "Thank you, my lord."

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Langiewicz has been proclaimed Dictator of Poland. The resignation of the Archbishop of Warsaw is confirmed. The Dictator has issued a decree constituting the Civil Government by the nomination of four directors and two secretaries. He has also appointed the insurgent leaders Jezioranski and Waligorski to be generals. If we may believe a Posen correspondent of the *Times*, an agent of the Russian government recently visited the camp of the Dictator Langiewicz for the purpose of proposing that the Poles should lay down their arms, or should at least assent to a short armistice, and that in return the Grand Duke Constantine should urge the Emperor Alexander to grant an amnesty, and to give the kingdom of Poland a constitutional and administrative independence. The Dictator, we are told, declined the proposal; and it is added that the leading citizens of Warsaw, who had been privately requested by the Russian police to petition the Emperor for the Constitution of 1815, refused to sign any memorial of the kind, on the grounds that the Constitution of 1815 would no longer appease the fury of the Poles, and that their personal safety would be endangered if they gave their signatures. The telegram brings news of an important engagement, on the 16th, between the Polish insurgents and the Russian troops at a place within three miles of Kallach, in which the Russians were compelled to retreat. The number of insurgents engaged is stated to have been 3000. On the 17th reinforcements were sent to the Russians from Kallach, but we have not yet heard whether the engagement was renewed. Private letter received in Berlin

from Warsaw assert that the Grand Duke Constantine, acting upon the advice of a council of war, has abandoned his idea of proceeding to any of the theatres of the insurrection. A Warsaw telegram states that large quantities of artillery and provisions have just been discovered to be missing from the Government stores there, and that great embezzlements have taken place.

—The French Senate's Committee, appointed to report on the petitions presented in favour of the Poles, has reported—as everyone knew that it would do—that "the government of the Emperor has done, and will continue to do, all that is just, and possible, and politic in favour of Poland." The Committee has consequently recommended that the petitions should not be referred to the Ministry, but that the Senate should "leave the matter to the decision of the Emperor's wisdom." The diplomatic documents laid before the Senate by the French Government confirm the reports that the English and Austrian Cabinets had refused to remonstrate in concert with the Emperor Napoleon respecting the Russo-Prussian convention, and had taken their own course separately. The *Paris Patrie* says that Lord Russell has despatched a circular note to all the European Governments, requesting them to support at St. Petersburg a despatch on the Polish question sent to the English Ambassador there direct; but the answers given to this request are not yet known, only Prussia is said to have expressed an opinion that the step was full of inconveniences.—The Sultan of Turkey, accompanied by Fuad Pasha, is about to undertake a journey to Egypt, and will be absent from Turkey some forty days.—The National Assembly at Athens has elected a committee to discuss the question of the succession to the throne of Greece with the Minister of the Interior. In Sparta and other places demonstrations in favour of the ex-King Otho have taken place.—The Committee of the Prussian House of Deputies has resolved to recommend that the numbers of the army shall be fixed by a special law, and that the military estimates shall be specially and separately voted. The Government Commissioner declared that such a proposal would not be accepted by the Administration, and would only embitter the conflict between the Crown and the Lower House.—The *Turin Gazette* announces that a conspiracy to establish the Sicilian Government upon Mazzinian principles has been discovered at Palermo, and that several arrests had been made.

AFRICA.—The West African mail steamer brings us the news that Commodore Wilmot had returned to the coast from Abomey, where he had been sent by the British Government for the purpose of persuading the King of Dahomey to cease his slave trading wars, and to abandon his horrible "customs," with their attendant sacrifices of hundreds or even thousands of human beings. The King received Commodore Wilmot with great respect, and made fair promises, which will no doubt be broken, that after the lapse of six months he would endeavour to comply with the English Government's wishes. A horrible mark of honour shown to the Commodore was a public sacrifice. Eight men were selected as victims; but, as an extraordinary distinction to a guest of such high rank, one of them, by the King's order, was flung alive from the platform to the Commodore. The man thus saved from slaughter was brought down to the coast, and is now serving on board the Commodore's ship.

INDIA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.—The intelligence from India is not marked by any exciting topic, everything progressing in a calm and peaceful manner. The Viceroy had left Calcutta on his tour to the Upper Provinces, and had arrived at Benares, where he had held a durbar. Sir C. Trevelyan had fairly entered on his duties, and it is reported that one of his first measures will be the repeal of the income tax.—From

China we hear that all was quiet at Peking, and that Mr. Bruce was still on satisfactory terms with the Government. The expedition for the capture of Nankin, which had been suspended by the dismissal of General Burgevine, was being reconstructed. Captain Holland has now the command of the Ward Corps. The rebels were pretty quiet at Shanghai. The defence of the city was left to the sole charge of the British, all the French naval and military forces having been withdrawn for Saigon, in Cochin China.—In Japan things still remain in an unsatisfactory state. Colonel Neale was informed by the Governor of Foreign Affairs at Yokohama that a band of loonins were seeking an opportunity of massacring foreign representatives. Colonel Neale was remonstrating against this condition of affairs, and taking measures of precaution with the naval and military authorities.

AMERICA.—The steamship *Canada* brings intelligence from New York to the 5th inst. The Federals were continuing their operations against Vicksburg. They are reported to have opened the Yazoo River, and taken six gun boats to Tallahatchie. The waters of the Mississippi were rising rapidly, and, as the levees were broken down, the Federal camp was in jeopardy of being submerged. The Confederates have speedily made good use of their prize the *Queen of the West*, having by its aid captured the Federal steamer *Indianola*. It was feared that they would send the two vessels down the Mississippi and attack the Federal squadron off New Orleans. The Confederate steamer *Nashville* had run aground off Fort Macallister and been destroyed by the Federal iron-clads. The attack on Charleston was still delayed. The Confederates are reported to have laid a network of torpedoes across the entrance to the harbour. General Longstreet is again reported to be at Cumberland Gap, preparing to enter Kentucky. General Rosencranz had made a move forward towards Shelbyville, and a thousand Federal cavalry had driven the Confederates out of the town of Bradyville. The *Florida* had captured the *Jacob Bell*, from China, with something approaching a million's worth of property on board, which had raised the ire of the New York Chamber of Commerce against England. The committee of foreign affairs had reported resolutions to the New York Senate, declaring that any idea of mediation or intervention was inadmissible and unreasonable, and that any further attempt would be regarded as an unfriendly act, from whatever quarter it might come. The Letters of Marque Bill had passed the Senate; also a bill imposing a tax of two per cent. upon bank circulation. Both houses had adjourned, but the President had called an extra Senate for March 4. There was great excitement in the money market on the 5th, and gold had again fallen. The *Alabama* appears to be successfully pursuing her cruise for the destruction of Federal merchantmen. The French ship *Gil Blas*, which has arrived at Havre, has brought two French seamen belonging to the *Olive Jane*, a Federal vessel bound from Bordeaux to New York, which had been burned on the 21st ult., by Captain Semmes, together with a very large ship bound from California to Queenstown. The *Gil Blas* parted from the *Alabama* on the 23rd ult. in latitude 31 deg. N. and longitude 45 deg. W.; and on the same evening the light of a fire was seen from the *Gil Blas*. The master of a Dutch ship, which has arrived at Rotterdam, has likewise reported that he had seen two vessels on fire, and that near one of them was a steamer answering the description of the *Alabama*. One of these two unlucky vessels, from some floating books picked up by the Dutch captain, appeared to be the *Golden Eagle*, of New York. Important news has arrived by the *Jura*. On the 5th instant a terrible defeat of the Federals took place at Springville,

Tennessee. The fight lasted all day. The Federal forces consisted of three regiments of infantry, 500 cavalry, and one battery of artillery. Nearly all the Federal infantry were cut to pieces or captured, but the cavalry and artillery escaped. The excitement in the New York gold market continues, the tendency being still downwards. It was rumoured that the Federal Commander at Baton Rouge had refused to recognise the negro regiments. General Banks had issued orders that negro troops are to be regarded as equals with the white troops. The Charleston journals say that the privateer *Retribution* had sunk a whaler in the Caribbean seas. The whaler previously showed fight, and killed one man on board the *Retribution*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRO. JOHN OLIVER, P.M. 1006, has asked us to publish an appeal to the brethren for relief, on the ground that the Master and Wardens of his lodge have refused to recommend him to the Lodge of Benevolence; but without some more evidence than he has adduced to show that they should do so, we must decline to interfere, the more especially as he acknowledges that "in his absence" many of the brethren of the lodge have been "worthy and glorious friends" to his family. We will endeavour to inform ourselves on the subject and his deserts.

EXCELSIOR.—1. There is no doubt the conduct of the brother was most unmasonic and ungentlemanly, but we do not know of any power in a lodge to exclude a brother for an offence against good manners in his professional capacity. 2. On holding your first meeting, after receiving the warrant of confirmation, cause it to be read, and have a minute thereof entered on the lodge books. Send a copy of the minutes of the meeting to the Grand Secretary. 3. The *Alhimon Rexon* of 1757 is not particularly rare. 4. We are not aware whether many lodges are in possession of minute books extending so far back as 1790. We should think not. 5. We cannot give any fuller account of the connection of Elias Ashmole with the Warrington Lodge, in 1646, than appears in the letter of Bro. Matthew Cooke, published last week.

"ONE WHO HAS BEEN UPON A COMMITTEE" writes us a long letter relative to the Grand Lodge property, which we cannot insert, for many reasons:—1st. He has not given us his name, and anonymous statements are of little value. 2ndly. Nobody doubts either the ability of the Grand Supt. of Works or the high position he holds in his profession; but the appointment is annual, and, "as a breath has made, a breath can destroy," and therefore no G. Supt. of Works can have an inalienable right to the rebuilding of all our premises, if deemed advisable. 3rdly. The *Book of Constitutions* is but the work of our legislature (Grand Lodge), and Grand Lodge has the power of altering, enacting, or repealing laws at its pleasure; and Grand Lodge has itself deliberately sanctioned the appealing to competition for plans for the intended building. 4thly. The Committee was not appointed by the Board of General Purposes, and is not amenable to it, being distinctly appointed by Grand Lodge, with the view of taking powers out of the hands of the Board of General Purposes, and to Grand Lodge alone will revert the right of deciding upon any plans, without reference to the Board of General Purposes. 5thly. Personalities are not likely to promote the arriving at the truth on any question, and to accuse the Committee of resorting to "the usual but shabby dodge," shows that our correspondent does not write with a proper Masonic temper. 6thly and last. "One who has been upon a Committee" states that he writes "in friendship to our excellent Grand Superintendent of Works," and it is because we claim to write in the same spirit that we decline to publish the communication, excepting with the author's name, feeling that injudicious friends do more injury to a cause than the most open enemies.

FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE COMPANY.—P. Z. is quite right. A subscription for twenty-six shares (10s. per share paid) will entitle him to receive free the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE from the formation of the Company, so long as it exists. To receive it free by post will require thirty-four shares.