

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1863.

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

There can be little doubt that the Committee for carrying out the alterations in the Grand Lodge property are now in earnest, and that the works may be expected to be forthwith proceeded with, the building materials of the old houses adjoining the Tavern being advertised for sale, and tenders for the first portion of the new buildings hereafter destined to supersede the present Tavern having been invited from twelve or thirteen of the leading builders of the metropolis; though we should have preferred that the invitation for tenders had been addressed to the whole trade.

During the erection of the new Tavern the business will be conducted as usual; so that, even supposing the building is proceeded with with all possible despatch, we cannot anticipate that the new Masonic buildings can be commenced for twelve or fifteen months yet to come; and it must be fully two years before we can expect to enter upon our new habitation, and feel that Freemasonry possesses in the English metropolis a temple worthy of its name and standing. However, we are glad to see that a commencement of some sort is about to be made, and shall watch with interest the progress of the works, from the pulling down of the first brick of the old tumble-down houses which have so long disgraced our property until the final opening of the new hall, with its attendant library, reading-rooms, and other advantages, which have been so long hoped for, and will, we trust, be now realised within a reasonable time.

FREEMASONRY ILLUSTRATED AND APPLIED.

A SERMON PREACHED IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, UPPERBY, CUMBERLAND, ON SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 1863, BY BRO. REV. W. COCKETT, M.A., PROV. G. CHAP., BEFORE THE BRETHREN OF THE UNION LODGE, CARLISLE (No. 310).

"Thus he showed me; and behold the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, a plumbline. Then said the Lord, behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel; I will not again pass by them any more."—Amos vii., 7, 8.

How faithfully, yet mercifully, God dealt with His ancient people, the descendants of Israel! He corrected them for their sins, and sent amongst them His prophets to warn, to guide, and to cheer them. By these means He strove to allure them from the world, and to lead them to that glorious liberty of the children of God, wherewith Christ makes them free.

At the time when Amos and Hosea wrote, and lived, for they were contemporary prophets, Uzziah reigned over Judah. He appears to have been a good king, and to have inherited a blessing from Israel's God. By his prosperity, however, he became elated, he forgot the Author and Giver of all good, assumed the Priest's office, burnt incense in the Temple, and in consequence forfeited the glorious privileges that he had enjoyed. Moreover, whilst the very censer was in his hand, the leprosy arose in his forehead, and he continued a leper until his death. How appropriate then are the words of our text to the

circumstances of King Uzziah. "The Lord stood upon a wall,"—He came out from amidst the tribe of Judah, He held forth the plumbline, an instrument by which Operative Masons raised perpendiculars; by it He showed that He was about to execute judgment according to the perfect rule of His Law; that He could no longer pass over the iniquities of the Jews or their King; and that He would try them, just as builders or carpenters are accustomed to try and examine all their work, by the square, the line, the level, and the compass.

The Jews appear to have disregarded this instance of divine judgment overtaking their king, as well as the symbolical import of the words of our text, for we find them still persisting in the practice of iniquity. Mark, brethren, the consequences of this. Within a very short time the king himself died of his leprosy,—and at no very distant period, the Jews filled up the measure of their iniquities, their evil purposes culminated, God gave them up, and they were taken away captive to Babylon. Their Temple, all gorgeous without and within, was burnt, and their ill-fated city was trodden down. Not only the Jews, but their vessels also of gold, silver, and brass, great and small, that belonged to the Temple, were taken away, and profaned by the Kings of Babylon, by being placed in the Temple of Belus, and used in drinking to the honour of their gods.

The words of the text, the conduct of the Jews at the period when they were uttered, and subsequently thereto, with the awful punishment that overtook them in consequence thereof, speak to each of us in language clear and intelligible, telling us that the Great Artificer of the Universe still stands forward with the plumbline in His hand, and that with unerring justice He will assuredly test the sincerity of the actions of men, whether such be regarded as members of a social order, formed for conferring and receiving reciprocal aid, and mutual obligations, or as individuals performing the duties allotted them.

Brethren, let us together pray, before we further proceed, in words which as Masons we often use, "That the Almighty and eternal God, the Architect and Ruler of the Universe, at whose creative fiat all things were made, may pour down on this convocation, assembled in His Holy Name, the continual dew of His blessing; that He will impart to each of us speaking lips, hearing ears, and understanding hearts, that all our works begun in order, conducted in peace, and closed in harmony, may promote His glory, and extend the Saviour's kingdom upon earth."

It seems to us surpassing strange, that the Jews at so many periods in their national history, should manifest such repeated instances of ingratitude to their God. He had indeed delivered them from Egyptian bondage, given to them His Law, guided them through the wilderness, preserved them from their enemies round about, supplied all their wants, assigned to them that good land of Canaan, flowing with milk and honey, and had so preserved them by His presence, as to make them at once objects of fear and hatred to the nations by whom they were surrounded. Yet we read of them again, and again, that "they kept not the covenant of their God, and refused to walk in His Law. And forgot His works and His wonders that He had showed them."

In how many instances too, in our own days, do we see similar ingratitude, and equal obstinacy. I do myself regard the circulation of the Bible amongst us, so freely, as one of God's best gifts. Yet how little is that Book prized, studied, and prayed over! We are all very apt to say, and to think, had I lived in the days of old, when God himself tabernacled with His people, and visited them with so many manifestations of His love,—had I witnessed the mighty miracles of our Saviour, and heard the gracious words that fell from His lips,—verily I should have believed,—I should not have manifested the same indifference and hardness of heart, which was so conspicuous amongst the Jewish race. Yet in

truth we have now far greater privileges than the Jews at any time possessed,—they had only the law and the prophets,—the foreshadowing of good things to come,—but we have the testimony of Jesus himself, the great Antitype,—and we can now clearly trace Him out, as “the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.” Brethren, I do myself believe that great and untold benefits have accrued to England, because England has become a “witness and a keeper of Holy Writ.” I am also thoroughly convinced, that God would bless us still more than heretofore, did we all, and each, individually, act up to our high privileges, did we hear, read, and obey God’s word. This is the way to be blessed in ourselves, and to become blessings to others. May that denunciation, in the first of Proverbs, never be exemplified in any of our cases; may it never apply to us either nationally, or individually. “Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded. But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh.”

I do moreover verily believe, that Almighty God has vouchsafed an especial blessing to our most ancient and united Order of Free and Accepted Masons, in consequence of its truly religious character, and its regarding God’s word as the very basis of its purposes. Survey, dear brethren, the landmarks of our ancient and holy Craft, and then mark the goodness of God throughout the long period of its existence, and you will ever find God’s blessing, His divine protection and guidance, most clearly distinguishable, during those periods, wherein God’s word has been most attentively regarded, and its precepts most sedulously obeyed. Study, and carefully notice that immovable basis on which our society rests. Do we not strive to hold the very position on which the Patriarchs of old stood, and from which Joshua, David, and Solomon, instructed Israel of old? They viewing and realising the atonement prospectively, we retrospectively. Masonry has been handed down to us undiminished in its extent, and unimpaired in its usefulness, through all these successive ages, from their days to our own. I ask,—how has it been thus preserved amidst the world’s convulsions and changes? Assuredly by having *its foundation* firmly bedded in the cement of “brotherly love, relief, and truth”—that *foundation* being the great corner stone of man’s salvation, “Christ Jesus and him crucified.” For we must ever remember that it is through the atonement alone found in Christ, and from the gracious influences of His Spirit, that every Christian virtue emanates.

In proof of the scriptural character of our Order I refer you to the Bible on our Pedestal, and to those important uses which every Mason knows are made of it there; to the services and formularies that we use, and to all the symbolical teaching of our Order. I would especially refer you to the body of every lodge, which is constituted “just, perfect, and regular.” When seated there, look upward and you will perceive that the cloudy canopy of Heaven is its most conspicuous ornament,—look around you, and you will see that this is made accessible to us by means of a ladder of many steps, commonly known by the name of Jacob’s ladder. The top of this ladder penetrates through the clouds, into the heaven of heavens, the foot thereof being firmly placed on the Bible,—that rock of ages,—the source from which true Masonry emanates, and which has enabled it to withstand the world’s sophistry and scorn, and given to it a place in every portion of the habitable globe, so that the sun itself is said to be “always at its meridian,” in reference to it.

Our own formulary supplies a proper illustration of the meaning and purposes of this ladder; it says, in reference to the basis on which it rests, “by the doctrines contained in that Holy Book, we are taught to believe in the *wise dispensation* of divine providence, which strengthens our faith, and enables us to ascend the first step,—this is

called the step of faith,—which will naturally create a *hope* of our becoming a partaker in some of its blessed promises,—this is the second step in this ladder; and the third and remaining steps are charity, and the Mason possessed of this virtue may justly expect to arrive at the summit.” Our Society resting thus, its principles upon the volume of God’s revealed will to man, the word of unerring truth, receives *all* the truths which that word contains, and especially that grand leading truth, which runs through almost every page of the Bible, viz.:—Salvation through a crucified Saviour. We may therefore predicate of it what is predicated of the basis on which it rests, “it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Our subject then teaches every one of us, that we are safe individually, and safe collectively, so long as we carefully study and strictly comply with the requirements of God’s holy word; there is peace too, and there is rest, when we are enabled to cast our guilty souls upon the atonement wrought out for us on Calvary, and to look to Jesus only, our Redeemer, as our great Grand Master, who, having led captivity captive, has ascended into heaven, having purchased eternal redemption for us. Dear brethren, this is really the one thing needful for us,—as needful for us now, as it will be in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. Value then your high privileges and opportunities,—put a right estimate on your Bibles, and never let the sneer of the sceptic or the infidel lead away your minds from the right reception of their soul cheering and all important truths. Believe me, every argument that sceptics can adduce against God’s word has been, and still can be answered. The opponents of the Bible would only rob you of your birthright, and leave your needy souls nothing but the husks of this world whereon to feed; thus would you become poor indeed. Would that every Freemason now manifested the spirit, courage, and firm resolve which that great German reformer, Luther, manifested in his day! See him, brethren, at the Diet of Worms: before him were assembled the rank and learning of Christendom, behind him were the emissaries of Rome. When summoned to recant, he made this noble reply,—“I will not recant, unless I am convinced by scripture, and by scripture alone. Here I stand, it is impossible for me to act otherwise. So help me God.”

Let us, moreover, not only keep to the Bible, but to the centre of it—Christ Jesus, *the logos*—from whom all truth emanates, remembering also what that centre is, Masonically considered; “that point within a circle, from which every part of the circumference is equally distant, being also the point from which a Master Mason cannot err.” Would that the members of our Order were all *true* Masons, initiated into its high and spiritual purposes and privileges, as well as into its outward forms; then should we be an Order illustrative of the three grand pillars in our lodges,—the pillars of “*wisdom, strength, and beauty*.” These severally represent those distinguished ornaments of the Craft,—Solomon the Grand Master,—Hiram the King of Tyre,—and Hiram the widow’s son. Then should we possess wisdom to originate, strength to establish, and beauty to adorn; and the great Overseer and Master builder of the Universe, looking down upon us in this happy condition, would say, “in my strength will I establish this mine house to stand firm for ever.”

Many erroneous views are entertained, and have been circulated, in reference to our most ancient Order. Some regard it merely as a benevolent institution, established for the purposes of supporting the sick, the necessitous, the fatherless, and the widow in their afflictions. Others regard it as a convivial society, having signs, tokens, and a peculiarity of dress, only for fancy’s sake, and outward show. Alas! that the conduct, and conversation, of any of the brethren should at any time favour these erroneous suppositions. It is, indeed, a matter of deep regret, if any of the initiated fail to trace out that

symbolical instruction, which, at every succeeding step which they take, is presented to the view. It is a matter of deeper sorrow, if any brother either in his domestic relations, or in his more extended intercourse with the world, present an instance of Freemasonry, as repulsive to that world as it is prejudicial to the Order itself. Yet, should cases like these unhappily prevail, will any one be so unreasonable as to deduce a universal conclusion, condemning the whole from a few particular instances of inconsistency and failure? I trust not. Can any society, or church, of almost universal extent, comprehending within it untold myriads, in every part of the habitable globe, be really perfect in all its parts, and correct in all its members? Man is prone to err; imperfection cleaves to man's best schemes and efforts; and Freemasonry is as liable to the common frailty, and aberrations of some of its members, as any other sect or society of men. Let then the initiated strive to walk more warily, and more in unison with their holy calling, remembering that they are as a city set upon a hill,—and that the world marks all their shortcomings, and failings, and that such are as injurious to themselves as to the society of which they are members. Yet having acted as God would have them, and as His word, and our society direct,—let them meet the world's malignity, falsehood, and sneers, just as the Saviour met them, “by answering them to never a word”—Matt. xxvii. 14. And let the world in judging of us, extend the same meed of charity and forbearance, that it generally gives to other large and public societies.

Permit me kindly to assure the uninitiated that we have secret signs and tokens,—“which, being reciprocally understood, serve to distinguish a Mason by night and by day.” These with us are real matters, and no myths, as some would have you believe. Could a myth, or a nonentity, find its adherents in every clime, and amongst all orders of society, from Kings and Princes, downward to the sons of toil? I ask further, could a myth prevail generation after generation, enlarge its borders, and spread its benign influences, until the very antipodes of the earth acknowledge its refreshing influences, and dwell beneath its shade? Assuredly not. Freemasonry is a real matter, and a real principle. We possess our secrets, which we lock up in the treasure house of our hearts, in all good fidelity, and the true Mason will sooner part with life itself than divulge any of them. Yet let us ever remember, that these serve the real principles on which it is founded, and which it endeavours to carry out, only as the walls of a church are of use to the principles therein taught; they may be the shell, but they are not the kernel; they may foreshadow the substance, but they are not the substance itself; they may be the language used, as by the inhabitants of the frozen regions in the North, so also by those in the balmy climes in the South, but they are neither the sentiment enunciated, nor the power and influence imparted thereby.

I will state to you, in as few words as possible, what I apprehend Freemasonry really to be. It is a benevolent institution; it is a social Order, as has just been stated, yet it is more than these. It is “a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.” It is a grand, well organised society, where brother meets brother, and, as far as human aid and sympathy can reach, where each bears the other's burden, and, if needs be, applies a healing balm to his wounds. It is an institution of virtuous men, united for the noble purposes of spreading “brotherly love, relief, and truth” around them. Nay, more. It is a union of men of kindred purpose, where heart beats to heart, and hand joins to hand, in fervent and sincere embrace; raising each other from the corruption and bondage of this world, to union and communion with all the good and true Masons, who are gone before to receive their reward. This it effects by basing all its principles upon the truths of God's word, and thereby raising its members successively from the darkness and bondage of the tomb to the glorious

light, fellowship, and effulgence of Heaven itself. Did I apprehend Masonry to be anything short of this, or other than this, either in its principles or its purposes, it would find in me neither an adherent nor an advocate.

The great question then for each of us to put to our hearts is this. Do I realise these holy and heavenly purposes by my having become a Free and Accepted Mason? If our consciences give a negative reply to this question, let us turn over a new page in our existence, enter upon a new career, and guide our future footsteps by the light which God's word gives, and which true Masonry so strikingly reflects. On the other hand, if we can return an affirmative answer to the question, then may we unitedly sing in the words of our anthem—

Parent of light! Accept our praise,
Who shed'st on us thy brightest rays,
The light that fills His mind.

By choice selected, Lo! we stand,
By friendship joined a social band,
That love and aid mankind.

CHORUS. { In choral numbers Masons join,
 { To bless and praise this light divine.

The widow's tear, the orphan's cry,
All want, our ready hands supply,
As far as power is given.

The naked clothe, the pris'ner free,
These are thy works sweet charity,
Revealed to us from Heaven.

CHORUS. { In choral numbers Masons join,
 { To bless and praise the light divine.

If we realise these things aright, and by faith lay hold of Jesus as our Saviour, then are we the chosen of God in Christ, His workmen, and we shall give to all their portion in due season, and in due time the great Overseer of the universe will take us to himself, with these words, “well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” If this be so, then have we found the pearl of great price, “the new name,” the secret which was lost at the death of our great Master, and for which every true Mason must perseveringly seek until he find it. The Psalmist tells us in whose bosoms this lost secret rests. “The secret of the Lord, he says, “is with them that fear him, and he will show them his covenant.” And dwelling in this secret place of the Most High we “abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” If this be our happy condition, we can well bear the scoffs of an ungodly world, who are very apt to deny the existence and the reality of what is beyond the province of their own minds, or of which they may be ignorant.

If any one be present who feels that he is not acting up to his high privileges and opportunities, let him apply to himself the admonition of the prophet Amos, and remember that the plumbline, the square, and the compass are sometimes used for purposes the very reverse of those for which they were made. Instead of being used for building and erecting, they are sometimes used for marking out buildings intended for destruction. God forbid, brethren, that this should be the case with any here. Sad indeed would it be for those who are united by ties of sympathy and brotherhood, to be separated in the eternal world, as far as the East is from the West. Let none of us therefore neglect the daily remembrance and use of our obligations and privileges, lest God say of us, “behold I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people, Israel. I will not again pass by them any more.”

Brethren, life will soon be over with every one; let not then either its troubles or its joys so influence us as to cause us to neglect and forfeit our high and spiritual calling. A few more meetings and separations, a few more festive days, or with some perchance a few more swingings to and fro of life's pendulum, and it will all be over so far as this world is concerned—as with the strongest so also with the best. Let us, then, so live now that we may spend a happy eternity together. Let

us so use and appropriate our knowledge and principles that when this flickering, yet eventful scene is over, we may all—all, without one exception—become members of the Grand Lodge above, where the Great Architect of the Universe sits and reigns enshrined in glory.

Finally, brethren, it is one great principle of our Order to maintain, in their fullest splendour, those truly Masonic ornaments, benevolence and charity. As Masons, we have to support our Almshouses for Aged and Decayed Brethren,—we have our large Orphan Girls' School at St. John's Hill,—we have, too, our Orphan Boys' School, for which we are providing new and larger premises for 100 inmates, on a scale of magnificence worthy of the Masonic Order,—we have, too, our General Fund of Benevolence. I need scarcely remind you that the fees of our initiation, which by many are considered heavy, as well as our monthly contributions, after deducting therefrom the expenses of our own lodge, are appropriated to these general purposes, so that nothing is really wasted or thrown away which is paid into our treasury. This day the brethren have kindly consented to contribute, along with my parishioners, towards the funds of Upperby Parish Schools. We do indeed need assistance. If ever a good and efficient school was needed, it is needed here. The necessities of Upperby in this particular are unfortunately proverbial Brethren, "freely ye have received, freely give."

MATTER FOR THE HISTORY OF THE REVIVAL OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Do, pray, let me write a touching little chapter. The "revival of Gothic architecture" had spread throughout the length and breadth of the land. It had infused a spirit of talented imitation, and an enlightened gleaming up of precedent, both in the English and Roman Church, and also amongst the various and diversified denomination of Christendom; and great was the reputation of the architect who could point to this and that work he had "carried out," as being after the famous cathedral at "Chiaro Oscuro," or the beautiful old parish church at Requiescam in Pace, or the much-admired slantindicular chapel built in the eleventh century, at Middlecum-Farthingale. Such was the strength of this "revival" in the Established Church, that in the matter of small towers and spires great was the rise thereof. Nor were other sects backward in imitating the imitation. In the Social Society, for instance, a great stir was made about it. It was hard, at first, to get people out of their conventicle chimney-pot and tubular-truncated notions of chapel building; but at length Dr. Jobbins was "raised up," who, having had the felicity to be an architect's clerk before entering the ministry, took up the advocacy of the subject, and at length brought forth a book in illustration of his views both by pen and pencil; showing, in high contrast, the "usual" chimney-pot style prevalent in their society, and the more appropriate "Gothic style."

Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture undoubtedly owes much to the labours and researches of this (physically) great man. Had Dr. Jobbins lived in the present age, what a source of gratification to him would it have been to witness the results of his strenuous exertions, in the pains that are taken to prop up the hallowed walls, and tie together the falling roofs of those buildings which were the result of his peculiar appreciation and advocacy of the "Gothic style." While paying this tribute to the memory of Dr. Jobbins in connection with the revival of Gothic architecture, it may not be amiss to allude to the means by which so much was done in the Social Society to advance this important movement.

Dr. Jobbins, in conjunction with an eminent architect and F.G.H.A.B.C., who came from Bath (the date of whose return to that city is uncertain), caused many chapels and schools to be built in the "Gothic style." These two gentlemen being collectively and individually somewhat unacquainted with the principles of construction demanded by this "style," or with the principles in the abstract as is supposed,—attention having been much absorbed by the contemplation of the F.G.H.A.B.C.,—the buildings erected occasionally fell down, all but depriving future generations of those monuments of skill and genius and

of those landmarks (which let us be thankful still exist) pointing (the architecture being pointed) towards a haven of architectural triumph.

In spite of obstacles such as these, which had to be overcome by dint of labour and force of genius, the revival spread. A "model" chapel was arrived at on which subsequent erections were to be founded; and this model chapel, even after the tremendous lapse of time that has intervened, still stands in the town of Shockingem, an example to the people of that favoured locality and to the architectural world of what may be achieved in ecclesiastical art when the glorious models of the Middle Ages are copied and adapted; constituting models for future generations to admire and imitate; thus perpetuating the perpetual perpetration from generation to generation. As evidence of the utility of this justly celebrated model, it has been imitated in numerous instances, even to the very patching and propping up which invariably accompany the peculiarity of the style. "This building," says Dr. Jobbins, in his luminous work, "was built after the emulsions of Gargoyles Whatsisname, Esq., F.G.H.A.B.C., architect, of Bath, and received the prize of fifty guineas, as being, in the judgment of the Model Plan Committee, the best design submitted to them for a chapel in the Gothic style." The building is "thoroughly consistent with the period of its style," a consistency upheld by Dr. Jobbins and others, and the more remarkable considering the inconsistency of the consistency. In describing this celebrated building (and for the sake of those who have not had the privilege of seeing it, the doctor's description will answer), the doctor says the "Chaste and pleasing appearance of the angular turrets will not be fully inferred from the engraving." The fact is, that this chaste appearance can only be inferred from a visit to the place; but for those who wish to witness this chastity at its real source, a visit to the little mediæval chapel of Middlecum-Farthingale, from which this feature is copied, will equally answer. "The front is divided," says the doctor, "by bold projecting buttresses;" a boldness, by the way, if criticism may be allowed after the doctor's excellent criticism, strikingly illustrated by the cupola with louvre at the top—(no, not "strikingly," for there is neither clock nor bell nor anything of a striking nature in it); which, not knowing what else to put there, the architect boldly put; and there it remains to this day—lapse of time, as before remarked, notwithstanding. The side windows are taken from the cathedral and church at Magnum Bolus; the flowing, wave-like tracery of the parapet, from Florabella Abbey Church; and the large central window divided into four lights, from the Priory Church of Duplicando-et-Multum-in-Parvo. The interior of this edifice is carried out in a somewhat similar revival spirit. "The roof," Dr. Jobbins informs us, "has been pronounced by the most practical judges to be safe and good," which, in addition to the views of Gargoyles Whatsisname, Esq., F.G.H.A.B.C., is satisfactory.

There is one feature about the internal construction of which Dr. Jobbins appears not to have taken note, and which feature has been thought worthy of being repeated in other structures of the same class,—and seems an idea, the original credit of which is due to Gargoyles Whatsisname, Esq.,—and that is the manner in which the ceiling is "hoved up" (as the mother of Francis Bacon says of the stomach of a dropsical subject) to make way for the large central front window, which otherwise it would have been difficult to work in.

After the erection of this model chapel numerous chapels and schools were built under the superintendence of the F.G.H.A.B.C., or after the "model." Features both of an ornamental and constructional character were imitated and repeated even to the tumbling down, propping up, and tying together; and those that did not tumble quite down still stand as monuments of skill and imitative genius, and of the revival spirit of the period to which this historical sketch alludes. The "bold" gables and buttresses from Cockstraddle Abbey, the chaste crocketed pinnacles and bell-less bell-turrets, from the beautiful little church of Barnaby-Dickens, and the flowing window tracery from Flamblazingford, sprang up and developed themselves like mushrooms.

"HI JACULIS ILLI DEFENDERE SAXIS," in the Builder.

HE who wishes to comprehend the present and understand the future, must take his lesson from the past; for it is there that he finds the roots of the present, and the germs of the future.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THERE'S A WORLD WHERE ALL ARE EQUAL.

The stanzas under this heading, given last week by "T. G. P.," form the 4th, 6th, and 7th verses of "The Level and the Square,"—a song composed some years ago by Bro. Rob. Morris, and set to music by B. F. Leavens. I possess a copy of the music (2-4 time), with pianoforte accompaniment (kindly forwarded to me by Bro. Morris himself). The air is pleasant, and well suited to the words.—D. MURRAY LYON.—[We have received the music from Bro. Stebbing, Bro. Mackinnon, and two or three other sources. We will publish it in an early number.]

ROB. MORRIS'S ALMANACKS.

[We have lately received a parcel containing Bro. Rob. Morris's almanacks for 1860-63, some extracts from which we now place before our readers.]

The Editor to his Readers.

"It is now thirty-one years since the publication of the Masonic Almanacks of Isaiah Thomas, at Worcester, Mass.,—the last work of the kind, it is believed, in this country—was discontinued. The storm of anti-Masonry, which then raged through the land so chilled the zeal, and discouraged the pens of the Craft, that the statistics of their drooping and waning forces were little sought after or valued. Through all this period of thirty-one years, no one has come forward to cast into a cheap and popular form the everyday facts of Freemasonry. Is it not time, then, that a new series of Masonic almanacks should be commenced, and this vast engine of popular usefulness again set in motion?"

"It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the fact, that the Masonic Institution at the present day, and especially in the United States and British Provinces, is riding upon the highest wave of prosperity. Its lodges number 4750; its membership, 200,000. Its gavels ring, its jewels gleam, its good deeds fructify in every town, village, and hamlet in the land. Eclectic in the selection of its materials (soundness in body, mind, and heart being the ancient prerequisites of its membership), rigid in the exercise of its discipline, tender in the nurture of its faithful, it stands forward in the eyes of the community, venerable for age, respectable for members, admirable for the perfection of its doctrines, beautiful in its ritualistic ceremonies. The voice of such an association, in any shape, commands attention. It has spoken from the mouths of lecturers; it has had utterance in books and periodicals—shall not the million-tongued Almanack, that whispers in every family, and hangs by every fireside, and in every workshop, give an echo to its voice!"

"There is a special reason why the influence of almanacks should be courted in the diffusion of Masonic knowledge, viz., that of all the engines employed by our enemies against us in the cruel warfare of 1826 to 1836, none accomplished so much evil as the anti-Masonic almanacks of Giddins and others, which were distributed by waggon-loads through the length and breadth of the country. They were a blight upon the Masonic Order not yet wholly healed; and, as the best counteracting influence to the peculiar evils they disseminated, the same class of instrumentalities is now employed, of which the present almanack is the exponent. Should it prove successful, it will be continued from year to year, with whatever emendations or additions may add to its value."—ROB. MORRIS, Louisville, Ky.

Peace in the Lodge.

"It is all-important to Masonic usefulness that there should be peace in the lodge. And this is not so difficult as some think. Any brother can be courteous, patient, and forbearing in another lodge; what is so natural and easy abroad is equally so at home."

Work for the Common Gavel.

"The statue which enchants the world lies within the block. The statuary's part is but to remove the superfluities. So, within many a mass, encrusted with warts and knobs and unsightly excrescences, lies a noble soul, fit for the highest place of Masonic honour and usefulness. It is but to apply vigorously, but skilfully, first the common gavel, after that the chisel."

Use of the Square and Compass.

"A settler in early days, in the West, marked his cattle with a brand representing the Square and Compass. It was noticed

by his neighbours that, while the Indians made the most serious depredations upon the stock of others, his were never harmed, nor was hide or hoof ever missing. After the war ended, the Indians admitted that their chiefs had instructed them to respect that emblem as holy, wherever they found it."

Aid the Distressed.

"If you see a brother bending under the cross of adversity and disappointment, look not idly on, neither pass by on the other side, but fly to his relief."

Difficulties of Masonic Laws.

"The chief difficulty under which a Masonic juris-consult labours in teaching the correct law and usage in controverted matters lies in this, that heretofore, in this country, every Grand Lodge and almost every lodge and brother has been a law to itself in such things. The labourer in this field must therefore look for opposition in the pride and prejudice, as well as the ignorance of those he would instruct."

The Model W.M.

"The master of a lodge should be a well-read man, very familiar with the Constitution, rules and usages of his Grand Lodge, understand thoroughly the bye-laws of his own lodge, be skilful in the rules that govern ordinary deliberative assemblies, be well read in the Masonic literature of the day, and be personally and intimately acquainted with each member of his own lodge."

Masonry and the Bible.

"Any intelligent man who enters the Masonic Order, after reading its Monitor, and learning the reverence with which the Holy Scriptures are regarded in Masonry, stands committed to a belief in the Divine authenticity of that volume. Should he afterward declare that he never believed it, he must be ranked as ignorant, treacherous, or mendacious."

Against Local Tests.

"Brethren anxious to work the work of Masonry to the honour of our common Lord, should beware of inventing or perpetuating local tests. Nothing weakens the Masonic tie so effectually as for one lodge to practice customs not known to the rest. There are many of these unphilosophic and dangerous tests in vogue."

Of my Own Free Will and Accord.

"No solicitation of any sort can be lawfully used in inducing men to become Masons. The only allurements proper is so to act toward all men, so to reverence God, so to obey the laws of the country and the divine injunctions, and so to honour Masonry, that outsiders may admire the institution which contains such men, and the bond that unites such men, and become earnestly desirous of connecting themselves with such men."

Value of the Bible.

"The Bible may well be prized among Masons and Masons' wives, for it has banished idle worship, abolished infanticide, put down polygamy and divorce, exalted the condition of woman, raised the standard of public morality, created for families a home, and caused benevolent institutions to spring up as with the wand of enchantment. Oh, let the Bible be in the centre of your lodge, honoured, opened, accessible to all!"

Mutilated Candidates.

"The class of men from which Masons are selected is that which is sound in mind and body, and unrebukable in morals, having at least average attainments in education, and sustaining more than an average character for sobriety and virtue. Much in behalf of social and moral reform is justly expected of such men. The practical argument against the reception of maimed and mutilated persons into Masonry is, that such persons can only be learners, and never teachers. Masons are required to be both, and to be teachers of Masonry requires the *mens sana in sano corpore*. The blind, the one-armed, the one-legged, the deaf, the dumb, can never travel as Masons, for no lodge having a proper understanding of the principles of the Order would take a single step toward their examination. The materials proper for the mystic walls on which the Craftsmen labour, are the good and sound, and none other."

Increase of Freemasons.

"Masons have increased faster, much faster than Masonry. The means of instruction are in a very low ratio with the demand and necessity for it."

The Mason's Home.

"Where hearts are warm with kindred fire,
And love beams free from answering eyes,
Bright spirits hover always there,
And *that's* the home the Masons prize.
The Mason's Home! Ah, peaceful home,
The home of love and light and joy :—
How gladly does the Mason come
To share his tender, sweet employ.

"All round the world, by land, by sea,
Where Summers burn or Winters chill,
The exiled Mason turns to thee,
And yearns to share the joys we feel.
The Mason's Home! Ah, happy home,
The home of light and love and joy :—
There's not an hour but I would come
And share this tender, sweet employ.

"A weary task, a dreary round,
Is all benighted man may know,
But here a brighter scene is found,
The brightest scene that's found below,
The Mason's Home! Ah, blissful home,
Glad centre of unmingled joy :—
Long as I live I'll gladly come
And share this tender, sweet employ.

"And when the hour of death shall come,
And darkness seal my closing eye,
May hands fraternal bear me home,
The home where weary Masons lie.
The Mason's Home! Ah, heavenly home,
To faithful hearts eternal joy :—
How blest to find beyond the tomb
The end of all our sweet employ."

Use your Talents Well.

"Whatever may be our situation or rank in life, we shall find, on examination, those in similar situations, who have dignified the Masonic Order, and rendered themselves useful to the Craft."

The Old the Best.

"Of all Masonic decisions and systems of work that conflict wholly or partly with each other, the oldest is the best."

The Standard Guide.

"The nearer our brethren assimilate to the Scriptural standard of right and wrong, the less need will they find for written laws and regulations."

HIRAM, KING OF TYRE.

What is known about the relations between David, Solomon, and Hiram, King of Tyre?—F. A.

[David, King of Israel, through the long wars he had with the Canaanites, had not leisure to employ his own craftsmen, or those he had obtained from his steady friend and ally, King Hiram of Tyre, for almost his whole reign was one continued series of wars, fatigues, and misfortunes. But at length, having taken the city of Jebus, and stronghold of Zion, from his enemies, he set the craft to work repairing and embellishing the walls and public edifices, especially in Zion, where he fixed his residence, as also by him, or in his time, the old Jebus obtained the name of Jerusalem.

David, now worn down with years and infirmities, and drawing near his end, assembled the chiefs of his people, acquainted them with his design to have built a magnificent repository for the ark of God, having made great preparations for it, and laid up immense quantities of rich materials, as also plans and models for the different parts of the structure, with many necessary regulations for its future establishment, but found it was the Divine will that this great work should be accomplished by his son Solomon. He requested them to assist in so laudable a work, and they were not backward to fulfil his request; so that an amazing quantity of gold, silver, copper, and other materials, besides precious stones, marble, porphyry, and other rich materials, were brought to him from all

parts of the kingdom. The king died soon after, in the 70th year of his age, after having reigned seven years in Hebron, over the house of Judah, and thirty-three over all the tribes. Upon the death of David, and the succession of Solomon to the throne, the affection Hiram had ever maintained for the father, prompted him to send a congratulatory embassy to the son, expressing great joy to find the royalty continued in the family. When these ambassadors returned, Solomon embraced the occasion, and wrote a letter to Hiram in the following terms:—

"King Solomon to King Hiram, greeting:—

"Be it known to thee, O King, that my Father David had it a long time in his mind to erect a temple to the Lord, but being perpetually in war, and under a necessity of clearing his hands of his enemies, and making them all his tributaries before he could attend to this great and holy work, he hath left it to me in time of peace, both to begin, and to finish it, according to the directions as well as the prediction of Almighty God. Blessed be his great name for the present tranquillity of my dominions, and by his assistance I shall now dedicate the best improvements of this liberty and leisure to his honour and worship. Wherefore I make it my request, that you will let some of your people go along with some servants of mine to Mount Lebanon, to assist them in cutting down materials towards this building, for the Sidonians understand it much better than we do. As to the workmen's reward or wages, whatever you think reasonable shall be punctually paid them."

Hiram was highly pleased with this letter, and returned the following answer:—

"Nothing could have been more welcome to me, than to understand that the government of your blessed father is devolved, by God's providence, into the hands of so excellent, so wise, and so virtuous a successor. His holy name be praised for it. That which you write for shall be done with all care and goodwill: for I will give order to cut down and export such quantities of the fairest cedars and cypress trees as you shall have occasion for. My people shall bring them to the sea-side for you, and from thence ship them away to what port you please, where they may lie ready for your own men to transport them to Jerusalem. It would be a great obligation, after all this, to allow us such provision of corn in exchange, as may stand with your convenience, for that is the commodity we Islanders want most."

Solomon was highly pleased with this answer of the Tyrian king, and in return for his generous offers, ordered him a yearly present of 20,000 measures of wheat, and 20,000 measures of fine oil for his household, besides the same quantity of barley, wheat, wine and oil, which he engaged to give Hiram's Masons, who were to be employed in the intended work of the Temple. Hiram was to send the cedars, fir, and other woods upon floats to Joppa, there to be delivered to whom Solomon should direct, in order to be carried to Jerusalem. He sent him also a man of his own name, a Tyrian by birth, but of Israelitish descent, who was a second Bezaleel, and honoured by his King with the title of Father; and in 2nd Chron., 2nd and 13th verse, is called Hiram Abiff. This inspired master was, without question, the most cunning, skillful, and curious workman that ever lived, whose abilities were not confined to building only, but extended to all kinds of work, whether in gold, silver, brass, or iron; whether in linen, tapestry, or embroidery; whether considered as an architect, statuary, founder, or designer, separately or together, he equally excelled. From his designs, and under his direction, all the rich and splendid furniture of the Temple, and its several appendages, were begun, carried on, and finished. Solomon appointed him, in his absence, to fill the chair, as Deputy Grand Master, and, in his presence, Senior Grand Warden, master of work, and general overseer of all artists, as well those whom David had formerly procured from Tyre and Sidon, as those Hiram should now send. The Fellow Crafts were ordered to be partitioned

into lodges, of a certain number, with a Master and Wardens in each, to be duly paid, fed, and clothed, and to take care of their succession. Thus a lasting foundation was laid of perfect harmony, love, and friendship. Each knew his peculiar business and duty, and the grand design was vigorously pursued. The alliance between these wise and learned princes ended only with their lives.

Dius, the historian, tell us, that the love of wisdom was the chief inducement to that tenderness of friendship between Hiram and Solomon, that they interchanged difficult, and mysterious questions, and points of art, to be solved according to the true reason and nature of the matter in hand. Menander, of Ephesus, who translated the Tyrian annals, out of the Philistine tongue, into Greek, also relates, that when any of these propositions proved too hard for those wise and learned princes, Abdeymous, or Abdominus, the Tyrian, called in the constitutions Amon, or Hiram Abiff, answered every device that was put to him, 2nd. Chron., 2nd and 14th verse, and even challenged Solomon, though the wisest prince on earth, with the subtlety of the questions he proposed. To carry on this stupendous work with greater ease and speed, Solomon caused all the craftsmen, as well natives as foreigners, to be numbered, and classed as follows, viz.:—1st, Harodin, Princes, Bulers or Provosts, in number 300. 2nd, Menatzchim, overseers and comforters of the people in working, that were expert Master Masons, 3300. 3rd, Ghiblim, Stone-squarers, Polishers and Sculptors, and Ishchotzeb, men of Hewing, and Benai, Setters, Layers or Builders, being able and ingenious fellow-crafts, 80,000. 4th, The Levy out of Israel, appointed to work in Lebanon, one month in three, 10,000 every month. Under the direction of Noble Adoniram, who was the Junior Grand Warden, 30,000. All the Freemasons employed in the work of the Temple, exclusive of the two Grand Wardens, were 113,600. Besides the Ish-sabbal, or men of burthen, the remains of the old Canaanites, amounting to 70,000, who are not numbered among Masons.

Solomon partitioned the Fellow-crafts into certain lodges, with the Master and Warden (according to the tradition of old Masons, who talk much of these things,) in each, that they might receive commands in a regular manner, might take care of their tools and jewels, might be regularly paid every week, and be duly fed and clothed, &c.; and the Fellow-crafts took care of their succession by educating Entered Apprentices. Thus a solid foundation was laid for perfect harmony among the brotherhood, the lodge was strongly cemented with love and friendship, every brother was taught secrecy and prudence, morality and good-fellowship; each knew his peculiar business, and the grand design was vigorously pursued at a prodigious expense. When they were all duly marshalled, Solomon, who had been still adding immense quantities of gold, silver, precious stones, and other rich materials to those which David had laid up before his death, put them into proper hands, to be wrought into an almost infinite variety of ornaments. The vast number of hands employed, and the diligence, skill, and dexterity of the master of work, the overseers and Fellow-crafts, was such, that he was able to level the Foot Stone of this vast structure, in the fourth year of his reign, the third after the death of David, and the 480th after the children of Israel passing the Red Sea. This magnificent work was begun in Mount Moriah, on Monday, the second of the month Zif, which answers to the 21st of our April, being the second month of the Sacred Year, and was carried on with such prodigious speed, that it was finished in all its parts in little more than seven years, which happened on the 8th day of the month Bull, which answers to the 23rd of our October, being the seventh month of the Sacred Year, and the eleventh of King Solomon. What is still more astonishing is, that every piece of it, whether timber, stone, or metal, was brought ready cut, framed, and polished, to

Jerusalem; so that no other tools were wanted or heard, than was necessary to join the several parts together. All the noise of the axe, hammer, and saw, was confined to Lebanon, and the quarries and plains of Zeredathah, that nothing might be heard among the Masons of Zion but harmony and peace.

The Temple of Jehovah being finished, under the auspices of the wise and glorious King of Israel, Solomon, the prince of architecture, and the Grand Master Mason of his day, the fraternity celebrated the Cape-Stone with great joy; but their joy was soon interrupted by the sudden death of their dear and worthy Master, Hiram Abiff. Nor less was the concern of King Solomon, who after some time allowed the craft to vent their sorrow, ordered his obsequies to be performed with great solemnity and decency, and buried him in the Lodge near the Temple, according to the ancient usages among Masons, and long mourned for his loss. The fame of this grand edifice soon prompted the inquisitive of all nations to travel, and spendsome time at Jerusalem, and survey its excellency, as far as was allowed to the Gentiles, and they soon found that the joint skill of all the world came infinitely short of the Israelites, in the wisdom, strength, and beauty of their architecture. When the wise King Solomon was Grand Master of all Masons at Jerusalem, and King Hiram* was Grand Master of Tyre, and inspired Hiram Abiff had been master of the work, when true and complete Masonry was under the immediate care and direction of Heaven, when the noble and the wise thought it their honour to be associates of the ingenious craftsmen in their well formed lodges. And so the Temple of Jehovah, the one true God, became the just wonder of all travellers, by which, as by the most perfect pattern, they resolved to correct that of their own countries upon their return.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONIC CHARITY AND LODGE No. 600.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Having read the correspondence in your MAGAZINE, respecting Lodge Harmony (No. 600), Bradford, and the tables it published in conformity to your request on the 12th September, in answer to a letter from "Investigator," implying a doubt respecting a former condensed report, I must now, seeing that the subject is attempted to be "shelved" by various correspondents, wishing to divert attention from the matter at issue, ask the Masonic public not to allow such an important question to be "burked" by mere verbiage. No one can have read the question put by "Investigator" without feeling that they implied doubts of the truth of those tables; but this implication might at once have been set at rest by the W.M. of the lodge laying before the brethren, through your columns, a straightforward explanation of the tables, showing how the various amounts were disbursed, invested, and applied; this would have been candid and honest, and might have removed the stigmas. The letter of the Treasurer was, to my mind, a cowardly quibble; neither I nor any one of your readers care a jot who asked the questions, but we do care to know if they are answerable. We do care to know if those bouncing tables are true or false; we do care to know if the institutions of the Lodge of Harmony are a reality or a sham; but as to "Investigator,"

* The tradition is, that King Hiram had been Grand Master of all Masons; but when the Temple was finished, Hiram came to survey it before its consecration, and to commune with Solomon about wisdom and art; and finding the Great Architect of the Universe had inspired Solomon above all mortals, Hiram very readily yielded the pre-eminence to Solomon, the beloved of God.

"Fair Play," "Fiat Justitia," or "Veritas," they, as well as myself, may remain *incognito* for what the Masonic world cares.

I will not argue for "Investigator;" he seems to me to know his ground; nor will I bandy words with the other correspondents who have apparently been put forth as scouts; but I call on the W.M. of the Lodge of Harmony to vindicate the character of his lodge, to be true to his obligation, to rightly value his responsibility, and to uphold his rights, or to acknowledge the imposition. In such a case—a truce to charitable forbearance—let us call things by their right names, and when found right or wrong, let us stand by or disown them. If the Lodge of Harmony has such "institutions" as was shown in the tables, and they are established on a firm basis, why not boldly say so? If it distributes sums of money as set forth in those tables, what so easy as to say how this is done. Really it is a simple matter; but if by any quibble it refuses to do this, now it is doubted, let it not wonder that the Masonic world should judge it harshly, or even that some should consign it to the "Friendly Societies." For my own part, I will suspend my judgment a reasonable time to allow of explanation, and I trust others will do the same; but we must insist on having plain and pointed answers to the questions *seriatim*, or we shall have no alternative but to conclude that the allegations set forth are true, and judge the lodge accordingly.

I would seriously advise "Investigator" to maintain his *incognito*, in order to avoid personalities, than which nothing is so much to be deprecated in discussion—it is enough that *you* know the lodge has a fair antagonist. I have not penned this in answer to anyone, but solely to bring the subject back to its starting point, viz., the tables of Lodge No. 600, and the questions of "Investigator." Let us confine ourselves strictly to these till they are solved.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
October 20th, 1863. P.M.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I trust we shall be spared such intemperate letters as appeared in your last impression, from "Fiat Justitia." Surely the brother will blush when he sees it in print, or I would give little for his "charitable forbearance." Such remarks as are contained in his last paragraph are not only in bad taste, but betray a morbid state of mind, or a laxity of morals; and I am glad, for the credit of his lodge, that his name was not appended to such a production.

I have carefully, and I trust impartially, examined the case as regards Lodge No. 600 and "Investigator," and I feel bound to say that the latter is only exercising that fair and generally acknowledged privilege of all writers on public subjects, in public prints, in assuming an *incognito*. Free discussion, a free press, and custom, with daily experience, all allow a latitude, which, I maintain, "Investigator" has not transgressed; but in any case a lodge like No. 600 ought to be in a position to answer all and every question, however or by whomsoever asked, in which the truthfulness and the honour of the is concerned; to lose time by formalities is, in such a lodge case, to lose position, character, and sympathy,—in short, is to subject the lodge to universal opprobrium.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
Moxitor.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The letter of "Fiat Justitia," in your last MAGAZINE, demands notice only from its contradictory character. The writer would lead one to suppose that he was taking up a defence of Lodge No. 600, while his argument seems to be, "when you have a bad case, vilify your opponent;" even a little defence of the lodge would have been far more satisfactory.

He denounces, in unmeasured terms, your former correspondent, "Investigator," for shielding himself behind an *incognito*, and after indulging in gross abuse of this he adopts the very course he condemns, signing himself "Fiat Justitia." A much more congenial term would have been, "Inconsistency." If this writer be not an Israelite, I would recommend him to read a precept about a mote and a beam in the eye, which he appears not to have learnt. Another brother advises the same correspondent, though with far more prudence, to come out in his true colours, to throw off the mask, to exercise fair play, and likewise, to prove *his* inconsistency, signs "Veritas." How very easy it is to advise a course to others we would not willingly adopt ourselves! Were all correspondents required to affix their names to their articles, how few would be in the field; you would, at least, be spared this letter. Now, with respect to the question as regards Lodge 600, whether "Investigator" may indulge these inconsistent brethren or not, is of no consequence to the point. If he does, the whole thing may merge into a personal quarrel, which would be no advantage to any one. This seems to be what Bro. Ward is aiming at. Under any circumstances, the lodge is under a reproach of which it must either clear itself or stand convicted of imposing on you and the brethren by wilful misstatements. When I look at the tables through the unanswered questions of "Investigator," the impression on my mind is very condemnatory to Lodge 600; and although "Fiat Justitia" may beg of us to suspend our judgment to an indefinite period, we shall require strong and convincing proofs of the existence of the "Lodge Charities," and the distribution of the funds; and I am sure I speak the sentiments of the brethren generally, for all whom I have heard on the subject agree that Bro. Ward's letter blinked the question; but surely Bro. Ward is not the whole lodge. It is to be hoped there are some members of that lodge who would demand that such serious charges should either be refuted, or the tables abandoned.

I am, fraternally yours,

BETA.

Oct. 21, 1863.

ON THE CHRISTIANITY OF MASONRY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Allow me to congratulate you on the able and interesting letter, which you printed in your last number, signed "Rosa Crucis," relating to this subject.

It is quite refreshing to see, so important a question so well and yet so temperately handled, and in such a true Masonic spirit. Whoever the writer may be, I, as not agreeing with him, may be permitted to tender to him my sincere thanks for the eloquent communication he has made, and the improving discussion he has begun. I quite go with him in his statement as to the amount of evidence of what may be termed Christianised Masonry before the Union; but I think he underrates the amount of evidence equally forthcoming of a simultaneous Universal Masonic teaching.

The truth is, I believe, that both these systems were working, so to speak, side by side, and were nevertheless in harmonious co-operation and agreement.

It is most certain that, before the Union, you find a considerable amount of what "Rosa Crucis" calls "Christian character" in Masonic treatises, charges, sermons, and orations; but, when you come closely to look into the matter, you find also an equal amount of Universal teaching.

Whatever motives may have induced our zealous and learned brethren, at the last formal revision of our ritual, to keep our working formularies so close within the limits of the Universal system as they undoubtedly have done, there is much, very much to be said on their side of the question.

Let us admit, if you like, that for several hundred years in this country, a Christian character had entirely been given to our ritual and Christian teaching deduced from our symbolism; yet it does not therefore follow, that when in 1715, and later in 1813, formal alterations were made in the then working ceremonies, lectures, and charges, those who were entrusted with the revision should necessarily accept, as of perpetual obligation, this prevailing tendency. For there can be but little question that, at both those periods, Universal Masonry had its votaries, as well as Christian Masonry; and I cannot help feeling that those who did so uphold the broad basis of the Order deserve the gratitude of every thoughtful Mason. Masonry, as it appears to me, is wide enough for both these systems, and those who sympathise with the one, should seek to tolerate the other, since both systems are in fact synchronous, at any rate since 1715. Though I do not deny that a great deal has been written, and a great deal may be still said, upon the Christian symbolism of Freemasonry, yet just as much may be said on Universal symbolism; and, while there is nothing so tempting and so fascinating to the enthusiast as the supposed coincidences and teachings of symbolism, so there is nothing so unsafe or so dangerous in reality and in fact. It has been said you can raise any argument you like from symbolism, and it is not far from the truth. Hence it requires great caution, lest we allow too hastily the supposed evidence, of so much and such admirably adjusted symbolism, in a purely Christian sense, to lead us from the sterner and more unpalatable matter of fact of the Universal system.

One more point I wish to allude to. I see "Rosa Crucis" mentions the lodge at Canterbury, under the Archbishop, as a proof among others, of the purely Christian character of Masonry.

Some time back, I turned my attention to this statement—most important if true. In some of the earlier, and most of the later books, it was stated that this lodge was held at Canterbury, under the patronage of Archbishop Chicheley; the names present were given, and the account was said to be taken from the Register of Wm. Molart.

Mr. Halliwell, in 1842, threw doubts on the statement, and it seemed very difficult to trace such a register, or even such a person. A learned friend of mine at last suggested, that the register alluded to was the register of Wm. Molash, Prior of Canterbury, still existing in Christchurch College Library, Oxford. By the kindness of Mr. Hackman, the sub-librarian, that register was searched, and I give the result in his own words:—

"It contains no account of any lodge of Freemasons being held at Canterbury; but, in the list of the various persons receiving livery of the Priory, in the year 1429, the names of various Masons are given."

Curiously enough among those who received "livery" in 1429, is found the name of Archbishop Chicheley; and though we must, I fear, give up the statement as it appears in our common histories, arising as it does from the hot haste of some over zealous transcribers, we have the distinct evidence of the existence of "La Loygge Lathomorum," in close connection, too, with the monastic body in 1429.

Conceding then, as I do, most unreservedly, the right of others to hold, if they think fit, to the Christian symbolism of Masonry, I must beg respectfully to put in my humble caveat to-day, against a somewhat increasing tendency to narrow the standing ground on which Freemasonry rests, and to claim, as of right and of fact, the compression and limitation of our present universal system.

Yours fraternally,
THIRD DEGREE.

THERE never was any party, faction, sect, or cabal, whatsoever, in which the most ignorant were not the most violent; for a bee is not a busier animal than a blockhead.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

Bro. John Hetherington Welch Rolls is to be installed as Provincial Grand Master of Monmouthshire at the Town Hall, Monmouth, on Tuesday, the 27th inst.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The usual Quarterly Meeting of the Governors of this Institution was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday last, Bro. John Symonds, V.P., in the chair.

The minutes of the last general and special courts having been read and confirmed, resolutions were passed authorising the transfer of £14,000 stock to the account of the Institution, this being necessary in consequence of the death of some of the trustees.

Bro. UDALL read a report upon the remuneration of the collectors, and the uniformity of the duties of the Secretaries of the three Masonic Benevolent Institutions, the further consideration of which was adjourned.

Bro. UDALL then moved the following resolution:—"That the special privileges accorded to ladies presenting purses, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the new school-house on the 5th of August last, be extended to ladies presenting purses of similar amounts at any time up to the completion and opening of the building."

Bro. R. W. STEWART seconded the motion, which was carried.

Bro. UDALL also moved, after rule 31, to insert the following rule:—"They are to receive and examine the petitions of candidates, and to place on the list for election those who appear eligible for admission, with power to reject any petition if they consider the petitioner's case does not come within the class of those intended to be aided by this Institution, notwithstanding the correctness of all the certificates required." He said, at present, no matter in what way a person became a Freemason, the Committee were bound to receive his petition. He maintained that Freemasonry was a luxury, and no man ought to become a Freemason unless he had power to support it. He was decidedly of opinion that they should not educate the children of men who were in the receipt of £100 a year and upwards.

A motion for altering the votes allowed to lodges for their subscriptions was negatived.

A ballot for nine boys, out of 26 candidates for admission to the school, was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—

SUCCESSFUL.

Hanham, W. H.	1034	Mosse, Fred. Edw.	804
Banks, Percy.....	1006	Southall, F. A.	710
Wildman, Harvey W. ...	891	Bird, Henry Gwynne ...	628
Weeks, W. J.	863	Shaddock, G. R. O. H. ...	584
Woodcock, Bottomly ...	814		

UNSUCCESSFUL.

Parkinson, W. H.	449	Berkeley, Alfred.....	55
Bick, Henry	265	Wilson, R. C.	52
Lewis, John	259	Dawson, J. C.	41
Rees, Roland J.	177	Crabtree, R. T.	40
Floyd, Henry W.	125	Jackson, H. J.	8
Danton, H. J.	125	Collingwood, S.	7
Dawson, Wm.	125	Martin, John Ross	2
Hill, J. Stamford	105	Bentley, E. T.	—
Rice, Henry	63		

The successful candidates having been declared, votes of thanks to the scrutineers and chairman closed the proceedings.

METROPOLITAN.

ROYAL ALBERT LODGE (No. 907).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 19th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern. The lodge having been duly opened, a ballot was severally taken for Messrs. Nugent and Standfast, which proving to be in their favour, the latter gentleman, being in attendance, was regularly initiated into the mysteries of the Order. Bros. Chard, Pendygrass, Hallet, and H. J. Lewis were afterwards raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was then called off from labour to refreshment by the J.W., and adjourned to banquet. The cloth having been drawn, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts given, the W.M., in proposing the health of the visitors, alluded to the presence of a brother who held high office in the Grand Orient of France, and expressed a hope that the utmost cordiality might always prevail between the French and English nations. Bro. Jules Neumann, Grand Expert, G.O. of France (the brother referred to), returned thanks very gracefully for the compliment paid him. On the brethren being re-called to labour, Bro. Little, the Secretary, notified to the members the change in the number of the lodge, which had been ordered since the previous meeting. Bro. Farnfield, J.D., directed attention to the forthcoming anniversary of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, on which occasion Bro. Smith, P.G. Purst. and P.M. of the lodge, would represent the Royal Albert, and he trusted that the brethren would liberally support their Steward. After a very happy evening, the brethren separated. The visitors were—Bros. Jules Neumann, G. Expert G.O. of France and Sov. G. Insp. Gen. 33°; C. B. Payne, P.M. No. 27; A. Colston, J.D. No. 228; T. Pryor, No. 177; and G. F. Simpson.

STRAWBERRY HILL LODGE (No. 946).—This lodge held its second meeting at Bro. Bendy's, the Grotto Tavern, Twickenham, on Wednesday, the 14th inst., under Bro. John Gurton, its first W.M.; Bros. Stedwell, S.W.; Collard, J.W.; Platt, Sec., W. Watson, and several other members. The visitors were—Bros. G. States, G. Steward, 23; W. Yates, 23, and Jones. The business before the lodge was the passing of Bros. Bendy and Foresight. The initiation of Messrs. Veal Box, J. P. Brown, and W. Escott, which ceremonies were performed with the W.M.'s usual skill and good taste. Bro. E. Saunders, of the Lily Lodge (No. 820), was balloted for and elected a joining member. The work being concluded, the brethren adjourned to a dinner, which for elegance, good cheer, and profusion, is seldom equalled by any establishment. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were happily given by the W.M., and with that of the D.G.M. and the Grand Officers he coupled the name of Bro. George States, G. Steward of the year. In the course of Bro. States's reply, he playfully alluded to the name of the lodge, saying that although it was but a very young plant—a seedling he might term it of the W.M.'s—yet under such a brother it could do no less than turn out an Admiral Dundas, even if it did not become a pine or Myatt's surprise before the end of the year. He congratulated the lodge on its rosy prospects, and concluded by saying that if the officers only copied their W.M. they would turn out perfect hantboys. The W.M., in a very clever way, proposed the health of the initiates, to which those brethren replied; and after which, Bro. W. Watson proposed the toast of the W.M. amidst great applause. Bro. John Gurton replied to it, with the best feeling. He alluded to the formation of the lodge, and that the meeting was the first after its consecration, and concluded by expressing his confidence in its future. Other toasts rapidly followed, and with that of the officers the W.M. joined the name of Bro. Platt, their careful and indefatigable Secretary. The officers replied *seriatim*, and the last toast brought a very happy and highly successful meeting to an end.

ROSE OF DENMARK LODGE (No. 975).—The first regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 10th inst., at the White Hart, Barnes. The lodge was duly opened by the W.M., Bro. Smith, assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Little and W. H. Farnfield, and the minutes of the consecration meeting were read and confirmed. The business consisted of two initiations and five passings; after which the W.M. called on the Secretary, Bro. Buss, to read a letter received from Bro. Farnfield, the Secretary to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, requesting the lodge to furnish a Steward for the forthcoming anniversary of the Institution, on the 27th January next, when Bro. Charles D. Sewell, Dir. of Cers., offered to represent the lodge on that occasion. There being no other business, the brethren proceeded to discuss the

good things set before them by the worthy host, Bro. Wilcox, and a very happy evening was spent, enlivened by the vocal exertions of several talented brethren. The visitors were Bros. F. R. Lawrence, S.W. No. 91; Dr. Palin, late of No. 27; and H. W. Smith, No. 179.

PROVINCIAL.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Merchant's Lodge* (No. 241).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, on Tuesday, the 13th inst., when one gentleman having been initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry by the W.M., Bro. Mott, in his usual excellent style, the brethren adjourned to refreshment. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been given, the W.M. stated that they had now come to the event of the evening, that of presenting a testimonial, as a mark of their esteem to their respected Treasurer, Bro. Jewitt, and as Bro. Jewitt was an old member of the lodge, he (the W.M.) would call upon Bro. Younghusband, the oldest P.M. present to perform that duty.—Bro. Younghusband highly eulogised the conduct of Bro. Jewitt; he expressed his opinion that the lodge by honouring him, equally honoured itself. He then presented in their name, a handsome silver inkstand, with a suitable inscription.—Bro. Jewitt returned thanks in feeling and eloquent terms. Among the visitors present were the Prov. G. Treas., the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Corbett, of late 1071 London, and a brother recently arrived from the Confederate States. At ten the lodge was closed, and all present, both visitors and members, expressed their gratification at the proceedings of the ceremony.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Friday, October 9th, at the Shire Hall, Stafford. Owing to the unusual and interesting nature of the business to be transacted, there was a very large attendance. The Prov. G.M., Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon, presided, and amongst the Past and Present Officers in attendance, were Bros. Dr. Burton, D. Prov. G.M.; Thomas Ward, P. D. Prov. G.M.; Jas. Downes, P. Prov. G. Chap.; Horton Yates, Prov. S.G.W.; E. L. Bullock, Prov. J.G.W.; H. Day, Prov. G. Chap.; Wm. Dutton, P. Prov. S.G.W.; W. K. Harvey, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Thomas James, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Charles T. Davenport, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Colonel Hogg, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. W. McKnight, P. Prov. S.G.W.; H. C. Vernon, P. D. Prov. G.M., Prov. G.M. Worcestershire; John Hallam, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Foster Gough, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Edwin Yates, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Dr. Hopkins, P. Prov. J.G.W.; George Baker, P. Prov. J.G.W., &c. The visitors included the following brethren:—Charles W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M. Warwickshire; Frederick Empson, P. Prov. S.G.W. Warwickshire; W. Masefield, P. Prov. S.G.W. Worcestershire; Charles John Vyne, P. Prov. S.G.W. Somersetshire; W. Bristow, P. Prov. J.G.W. Worcestershire; — Wardhaugh, W.M., Bury, Lancashire; Bro. Binckes, Secretary to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

After the ordinary business of the lodge had been transacted, the following appointments were made:—

Bro. Arthur Bass	Prov. S. G. Warden.
„ C. E. Newman	Prov. J. G. Warden.
„ H. Day	Prov. G. Chaplain.
„ W. E. Cave	Prov. G. Assist. ditto.
„ W. Lynes	Prov. G. Registrar.
„ W. Howell	Prov. G. Treasurer.
„ F. James	Prov. G. Secretary.
„ C. Yarwood	Prov. S. G. Deacon.
„ Barnet	Prov. J. G. Deacon.
„ C. H. Bailey	Prov. G. Supt. of Works.
„ S. Hill	Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.
„ J. Crapper	Prov. G. Assist. ditto.
„ J. Bennett	Prov. G. Sword Bearer.
„ Lewis Day	Prov. G. Organist.
„ G. Whitehead	Prov. G. Pursuivant.
„ David Wright	Prov. G. Standard Bearer.
„ Henry Baggaley	Prov. G. Tyler.

The usual procession to St. Mary's Church was dispensed with on this occasion, in consequence of the inclemency of the weather. An able and appropriate sermon was, however,

preached by H. Day, Prov. G. Chaplain, of Burton-on-Trent, to the brethren in lodge. After the service a collection was made, amounting to £3 14s. 2d., made up to £10 10s. by taking £1 15s. 10d. from the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge. This sum was disposed of as follows:—£5 5s. was presented to the Provincial Grand Chaplain for schools at Burton-on-Trent; £3 3s. to the Newcastle Ragged Schools; and £2 2s. to St. Mary's School, Stafford. The P. D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Thomas Ward, then addressed the Prov. G.M., Bro. Col. Vernon, and said he had been deputed by the whole of the Masons of Staffordshire to present to him an address and a testimonial of their esteem upon his resigning his position as ruler of the province of Staffordshire. The address was signed by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Burton, on behalf of the brethren, and was handsomely engrossed on vellum. The plate consisted of a magnificent and costly silver epergne and candelabra, valued at £250.

The following is the address:—

"To Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire.

"Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and dear Brother,—The sacred and moral lessons taught us as brethren of the mystic tie would have been studied most unprofitably had they failed to impress upon us that as creatures of 'finitude' we must in some measure expect to be prepared for a severance of those kindly and truly fraternal bonds of affection which have linked us with you in one sincere brotherhood for the last ten years. While bowing with Masonic resignation to existing circumstances, we unitedly desire to express our sincere grief that a time has arrived when the calls of other important duties have led you to resign the Masonic rule of the Province of Stafford and the charge of us, your brethren, who for so long a period have been rendered happy and prosperous under your gentlemanly, judicious, and fraternal sway. Feeling that were our hearts bared to their inmost core you would see (as we hope you feel and believe) how sincerely you are beloved by your brethren, and that you would accept that affection as the best, and to yourself personally, the most agreeable testimony we could offer to your worth; we cannot, nevertheless, allow this occasion to pass without publicly testifying to your high merits and the esteem we have for you, both privately and as our dear brother and Provincial Grand Master. We, therefore, respectfully and cordially desire to put these sentiments on record by requesting you to accept at our hands the plate we now crave permission to present to you. It is the gift of the Masonic brethren of your province, who individually and collectively desire to embody in the qualities of the physical materials of which their gift is composed the symbols of the purity and endurance of those sentiments of respect and affectionate regard which have been engendered, cultivated, and watered by your own bright example in all your communications with us, and we devoutly unite in the prayer that our bountiful Creator, the great Architect of the Universe, may long grant you health, strength, and happiness, and be pleased to permit us from time to time to enjoy the pleasure of renewing by personal intercourse our loyal, true, and fraternal sentiments."

Colonel VERNON received the beautiful present with mingled feelings of gratitude and emotion, and acknowledged the same in his usual happy and felicitous style.

The following inscription appears on one of the pieces of plate:—"Presented with the other plate, to Lieut.-Colonel George Augustus Vernon, P.M. 317 and 607, Past Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of England, and Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire, upon his resignation of the latter office, by the brethren of his Province, as a testimony of their esteem and affection, 9th October, 1863."

THE BANQUET.

The annual banquet was held in the Assembly-room of the Shire Hall, and upwards of 100 of the brethren sat down to a splendid repast, unexceptionable in every respect, provided by Bro. Senior, of the Vine Hotel, and which was served up with promptitude, whilst the waiting was excellent. Handsome banners and emblems were hung on the walls, and the galleries contained a good number of ladies. The Prov. G.M., Col. Vernon, presided; the Prov. G.W.'s, Bros. Arthur Bass and C. E. Newman, being in their respective places, and Bro. S. Hill acting as Dir. of Cers.

The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured,

Dr. BURTON, D. Prov. G.M., proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," remarking that those three forces were intimately connected, that they were equally efficient, and that if they

were put upon their trial no doubt they would prove to be equally valuable as a means of defending the country and punishing the enemy. (Cheers.)

Bro. Colonel HOGG, P. Prov. S.G.W., returned thanks on behalf of the Army and Navy.

Bro. DARWELL (Captain of the Walsall Company) responded on behalf of the Volunteers. He said he recollected that some time ago, soon after the commencement of the volunteer movement, one of his delights was to meet gentlemen whom he had not before seen. At a social meeting of gentlemen interested in that movement, he made a remark that was received with disfavour at the time—namely, that now they had established a volunteer force there was no occasion to have a Freemasons' society. His remark was received with cries of "Oh, oh." He was not then a Mason; but now he saw the privileges and duties of a Mason, and he thought differently. (Hear, hear.) He thought too much praise had been lavished on the volunteers. Let them try a week or two of hard service, and then he should be gratified if they deserved half that had been said of them.

Colonel VERNON, Prov. G.M., then proposed the health of the excellent and distinguished nobleman who ruled their Craft—the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland. (Cheers.) Those brethren who had been Masons for a few years must be aware that the decisions of the Earl of Zetland had always been approved, and his lordship had been chosen for 19 years to preside over the Freemasons of England. He trusted that his lordship would be spared for many years to rule over the Craft, and that he would do so with as much efficiency as he had done hitherto. (Applause.) He had pleasure in joining with the toast the name of the D.G.M. (Earl de Grey and Ripon) and other officers, past and present, of the Grand Lodge. He should call upon their respected brother and friend C. W. Elkington to respond to the toast. (Applause.)

Bro. CHARLES W. ELKINGTON, P.G.S.B. and D. Prov. G.M. of Warwickshire, in the course of his reply, said that those who had met in the Grand Lodge must feel confident that a more fitting appointment could not have been made than when Earl de Grey and Ripon was chosen as the D.G.M. (Hear, hear.) A great responsibility rested upon the M.W.G.M., and especially when he had to choose a brother to fill the office of Prov. G.M. as the successor of one who was so much beloved by the brethren as Lieut.-Colonel Vernon, who was esteemed not only in Staffordshire, but also in the province of Worcestershire. (Applause.) His (Bro. Elkington's) G.M. requested him to say that he deeply regretted he could not attend there that day. Next to him, there was no one more beloved by the brethren in Warwickshire than the Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire. (Hear, hear.) Though retiring from office, Col. Vernon would still remain an esteemed honorary member of the Provincial Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) The worthy brother who had previously spoken (Captain Darwell, had said that the Volunteers superseded the Masons—(Captain Darwell and others: "No, no.") Well, he would take it for granted that he had said so. (Laughter.) His (Bro. Elkington's) opinion was that the Volunteer force would not have been in existence but for the Masons (Hear, hear)—for they never saw a body of Volunteers assembled without seeing amongst them a goodly number of Masons. At the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire, on Wednesday, a distinguished officer, Bro. Binckes, said that £14,000 had been subscribed for the Masonic Charities. Each successive year their subscriptions were increasing, and he believed that if he lived for many more years he should find that they collected more money than they would know how to dispose of for their own Charities. The liberality of the Masons had been displayed that day by the magnificent presentation which they had made to one of the best Masons they had, Lieut.-Colonel Vernon. (Applause.)

Colonel VERNON, Prov. G.M., then rose, and said it would ill-become them on an occasion like the present to omit to drink the health of the M.W.G.'s of the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland—the Duke of Athol and the Duke of Leinster. He was glad to say that the greatest harmony had prevailed amongst the three Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland. (Hear, hear.) In proposing the toast he was reminded of a melancholy circumstance. The Duke of Athol was suffering from an illness from which it was hardly likely that he would recover. They must all feel deeply touched by the account given of her Majesty the Queen to condole with the Duchess of Athol. When her Majesty was about to take her departure the duke, while suffering from a deadly disease, rose from his couch of sickness and accompanied her

Majesty to the train. He was bound as a nobleman and a gentleman to do so; but under the circumstances it was a great act of fortitude. (Hear, hear.) He, as well as all other true Masons, hoped that if it should not please Almighty God to restore his grace to complete health, He might, at any rate, in a great measure, mitigate his sufferings, and spare him some time longer. (Hear, hear.) They had met many esteemed brethren under the banner of the Duke of Leinster, whose health he was sure they would drink with enthusiasm. He (Colonel Vernon) then proposed the toast, "The M.W.G.M.'s of Scotland and Ireland," and it was cordially drunk.

Bro. Dr. BURTON, D. Prov. G.M., responded on behalf of the M.W.G.M. and brethren of Scotland.

Bro. Colonel HOGG, P. Prov. S.G.W., returned thanks on behalf of the Duke of Leinster and the Masons of Ireland, whom he lauded for their hospitality, their true Masonic feeling, and their love of their brethren in England and Scotland. He said he could not allow that opportunity to pass without expressing the regret which he, as well as other brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stafford, felt at the loss which they were about to sustain by the removal from amongst them of their Prov. G.M. They wished Colonel Vernon prosperity, and they would give him a cordial reception whenever he might honour them with a visit. (Applause.)

Bro. DUDLEY PARSONS, whose name was also coupled with the toast, likewise returned thanks for the Duke of Leinster and the Irish Lodge. He expressed the gratitude which he felt to the Prov. G.M., Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon, for his kindness towards the lodge, and his regret that he was about to leave the country.

Dr. BURTON, D. Prov. G.M., then rose, and said he was about to express a wish that the next toast had fallen into abler hands, and that it had been entrusted to some one who could have given beauty and embellishment to the sentiments of the company; but he would not say so. He did not want to talk poetical or refined language, because the subject of his toast required no adornment. The toast was "The Health of the Prov. G.M. Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon." (Loud and prolonged applause.) That was probably the last time they would drink that toast. He would not expatiate upon the subject, which though a painful one was not altogether unmixed with pleasure. They were not about to mourn over a dying man, or a lost friend, but they were going to drink the health of a brother who was about to leave an office which he had long filled most worthily, and whose heart would still be with the brethren of the province, although he might himself be separated from them by a considerable distance. (Hear, hear.) He called upon them to drink with heartiness and sincerity the health of the Prov. G.M.

The toast was drunk right heartily by all the brethren present standing. A song to the tune of "The Old English Gentleman," composed by Bro. Dr. Goddard, of Longton, specially for the occasion, was then sung, amidst great applause, by Bro. Glydon.

Lieut.-Colonel VERNON, Prov. G.M., on rising to respond, was again warmly cheered. He said his position that day was a very gratifying one, and at the same time it was a painful one. He had often had to return thanks for favours and acts of kindness which he had received at their hands; and then, after the acknowledgments he made to them at the lodge for the tangible evidence of their regard and esteem, he had again to offer them his sincere thanks for their good wishes. It was rather painful to him to have to make a speech upon that subject, but it was gratifying to him to know and feel, as he did in his heart—because he was certain that their expressions were cordial and sincere—that his reign over that province had been productive of mutual esteem. (Hear, hear.) Giving due credit to his respected brother, Henry Vernon, who was formerly D. Prov. G.M. under Col. Anson, the latter of whom was often unable to attend to his duties as Prov. G.M., he (Col. Vernon) still thought much of the success of his rule was owing to his own straightforwardness and honesty of purpose. (Hear, hear.) He had always endeavoured to do the best he could for the benefit of the Provincial Grand Lodge and of the Craft generally. They would excuse him if he spoke somewhat egotistically of himself, but what he said was retrospective, and they all knew that he had done his work as well as any of his predecessors. He had taken offices in lodges in different parts of the country, and he never asked a brother to do what he would not do himself. There had been seventeen lodges in the province, the business of which had been well conducted. There had been

occasions when he had been called upon to advise, and sometimes to admonish. He had had to take strong measures now and then; but he had done the best according to his ability, and they had given him credit for being right in his decisions. He felt proud to think that by his honesty of purpose he had gained their unbounded confidence, until it had become a byword in the province, "If the Colonel says so, it is all right." He thanked the officers—the D. Prov. G.M., the Wardens, the Registrar, the Secretary, and all of them—for the support which he had received from them. There was nothing like a good staff of officers, either in a regiment or a province; and he was glad to say that he had had a good staff in that province. He assured them all that after the appointment of his successor he should be glad to come amongst them as a Past Officer whenever an opportunity presented itself. He concluded, amidst loud applause, by repeating the expression of his thankfulness.

The Prov. G. MASTER, after a short interval, again rose, and said they were aware that since his non-residence in the province he had left the greater part of his duties to be performed by his excellent deputy. He was fortunate in having such a deputy as Dr. Burton, and he congratulated them upon having had the affairs of the province so well conducted by his worthy deputy. He felt that no brother ever left the command of a province under more favourable circumstances than he was about to leave the command of the province of Staffordshire. He again acknowledged the efficient aid he had received from the D. Prov. G.M., whose health he proposed. (The health was drunk with much enthusiasm.)

The D. Prov. G. MASTER, in acknowledging the toast, said the creditable management of the various lodges in the province had rendered his duties light, and it was to them that the credit was due for the flourishing condition of the province. He expressed an earnest hope that the prosperity of the province would be maintained. (Cheers.)

Bro. Col. HOGG, P. Prov. S.G.W., briefly proposed as the next toast, "The Visitors," on behalf of whom

Bro. BRIDGES, Secretary to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, was called upon to respond. He said he could not plead the old excuse that he was unaccustomed to public speaking, but he was surprised to hear his name connected with that toast. He attributed that circumstance to the kindness of the Prov. G.M., who wished to give him the opportunity of making an appeal to them thus early on behalf of the Masonic Charities, thinking he might do so then with greater chances of success than at any later period of the evening. Last year he attended there, and made an appeal on behalf of the charitable institutions, more especially of the Boys' School. It was his duty to endeavour to enlist their sympathy on behalf of the Boys' School, which had formerly suffered from that want of sympathy and support which it had received during the last year or two. He had gone to different provincial lodges, and had successfully pleaded the cause of that Institution. He had only occupied his present post two years; but by the kind encouragement given to his efforts, the income of the Institution for Boys had been nearly doubled, and they were about to replace the present building, which imperfectly accommodated 70 boys, by a magnificent structure which would perfectly accommodate 150 boys. By the 1st December the foundation of that building would be laid, and the superstructure would be commenced on the 1st of March next. He had given a guarantee to the committee that he would raise £1500, an arduous duty, from which, however, he would not shrink, for he felt certain that success would crown his efforts. (Hear, hear.) He renewed in more earnest terms than he had before addressed them his appeal to them for their practical aid, their active sympathy and support. Last year he received four or five almost conditional promises of stewards from the province of Staffordshire at their annual festival in London. Not one of these promises, he was sorry to say, ever came to anything. He hoped that at least one brother would give in his name to represent the province of Staffordshire on such an interesting occasion as the festival of 1884. One brother had almost said he would give his name as the representative of Staffordshire, and Bro. Bass had promised a subscription of £10 10s. The Institution clothed and maintained 70 boys, from 7 to 15 years of age, children of persons who in their prosperity occupied positions similar to those whom he was addressing. Two or three boys went from the province of Staffordshire, and an application had been made for the admission of another for the same province. The Charities were the brightest ornaments of their Order, and he hoped that they would never languish for the

want of support. On behalf of the Institution for Boys he asked them to give their aid, and he was confident that he should not appeal to them in vain. (Applause.)

The PROV. G. MASTER said Bro. Binckes had rightly interpreted his feelings in coupling his name with the last toast. It was necessary to consult local conveniences and circumstances, and he was anxious that the appeal should be made to the greatest possible number. He trusted that appeal would meet with due reward. If any brother would undertake to represent the Provincial Grand Lodge, as desired by Bro. Binckes, he should be glad to head the subscription list. He should regard himself as their Prov. G.M. until the appointment of his successor. (A voice—"May that never be,"—Hear, hear.) He proposed as the next toast, "The Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge," and explained that owing to the bad railway accommodation Bro. Bass, the Prov. S.G.W., had been obliged to leave. The toast having been cordially drunk,

Bro. NEWMAN, Prov. J.G.W., briefly responded.

Bro. BINCKES announced that Bro. F. James had undertaken to represent the province of Staffordshire as one of the stewards for the festival of 1864.

The PROV. G. MASTER said he would head the list of subscriptions with £10. (Applause.) He then proposed the health of the Prov. G. Treasurer, and the Prov. G. Secretary, whose activity, efficiency, and readiness to take extra duty merited the warmest gratitude of the brethren. (Loud applause.)

Bro. HOWELL, Prov. G. Treas., acknowledged the toast on his own behalf, and said that after having exercised the truly noble object of Masonic charity, and invested money in Consols, there was still a handsome balance in hand in favour of the province. (Applause.)

Bro. F. JAMES, Prov. G. Sec., also responded. He said he had given his services freely and willingly, and was perfectly satisfied if he had done any good. He only regretted that if he continued in office it was not under Colonel Vernon, who was a most excellent Prov. G.M. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that if he represented that lodge at the festival season next year, the brethren of the province would contribute liberally, and send a sum of money which would do them honour. If all of them gave a small amount willingly it would make a large total. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. BURTON, D. Prov. G.M., proposed "The Masonic Charities."

Bro. BINCKES, in reply, said in one province a successful attempt had been made to found a local educational institution. He was opposed to local objects calculated to weaken the support given to the central institution. He was not an advocate for centralisation in any other respect, but he thought that no local effort could do so much good as a central institution, the benefits of which were free to the Masonic world. Referring to the support given to the Masonic institutions and the claimants upon them, he said that a short time ago two-thirds of the claimants were from the provinces, and two-thirds of the support from the metropolis. In 1862, one half of the festival receipts came from the provinces and the other half from London, and one-half of the Stewards came from the provinces. In 1863, the provinces sent a large number of stewards and a large amount of subscriptions, showing that their provincial brethren were as liberal as their metropolitan brethren, when they really knew what was required of them. (Applause.) At the same time, he would not say one word against the liberality of their metropolitan brethren.

The remaining toasts were "The Ladies," proposed by Bro. W. K. Harvey, P. Prov. S.G.W., (Longton), and responded to by Bro. Bullock (Handsworth); "The Musicians," replied to by Bro. Thomas Chantry, Prov. G. Org.; "The Stewards," responded to by Bro. G. G. Warren, Prov. G. Steward; and "The Tyler's" toast.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire was held at the Dudley Arms Hotel, Dudley, on Wednesday, 7th October instant, at one o'clock, Bro. Henry Charles Vernon, Prov. G.M., in the chair, supported by the following officers and brethren:—Bros. A. H. Royds, D. Prov. G.M.; Richard Woof, Prov. S.G.W.; John Bateman, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. R. C. Roy, Assist. Prov. G. Chap.; W. Masfield, P.

Prov. S.G.W., Prov. G. Treas.; W. Bristow, P. Prov. J.G.W., Prov. G. Sec.; Alfred Powell, Prov. J.G.D.; E. Poole, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; James Fitzgerald, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; C. A. J. Tompson, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; F. B. Granger, Prov. G. Purst.; Christopher C. W. Griffiths, P. Prov. J.G.W.; M. Dennison, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. Renand, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Rev. Alexander G. Davies, P. Prov. S.G.W.; W. Haigh, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; G. B. Bradley, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; E. S. Haines, Prov. G. Steward; Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon, Prov. G.M. for Staffordshire; Dr. Burton, D. Prov. G.M. Staffordshire; Randolph, P. D. Prov. G.M. Somerset; Vigne, P. Prov. S.G.W. Somerset; Dyer, P.M. 529; Hobbs, W.M. 529; Brooks, P. Prov. G.D.; Cooper, W.M. 377; Westly, W.M. 560; Russell, P.M. 573; Collis, P. Prov. G. Reg. Staffordshire; Pinkett, 529; Shedden, S.W. 252; S. Smith, J.W. 252; and many other brethren.

The lodge was opened by the Prov. G.M. in due form, the Treasurer's accounts audited and passed, a donation of twenty guineas voted to the Masonic Girls' School, and it was resolved that the Provincial Grand Lodge subscribe three guineas annually to that institution, and the same amount to the Masonic Boys' School.

The following brethren were appointed Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Bateman	Prov. S. G. Warden
" Powell	Prov. J. G. Warden
" Rev. S. Franklin	Prov. G. Chaplain
" Rev. R. C. Roy	Prov. Assist. ditto
" W. Masfield	Prov. G. Treasurer
" Wheeler	Prov. G. Registrar
" Bristow	Prov. G. Secretary
" Hobbs	Prov. S. G. Deacon
" Tompson	Prov. J. G. Deacon
" Poole	Prov. G. Supt. of Works
" Fitzgerald	Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.
" Smith	Prov. Assist. ditto
" Dyer	Prov. G. Sword Bearer
" Tirbutt	Prov. G. Organist
" Granger	Prov. G. Pursuivant
" Shedden and Bastick	Prov. G. Stewards
" Westley	
" Dunnington	
" Foley	
" Newton	Prov. G. Tylers
" Stanley and Smith ...	

At the close of the business the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Mrs. Smith, of the Dudley Arms Hotel, in her well-known style, and after spending a very pleasant evening, the brethren separated in love and harmony shortly after nine o'clock.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Constitutional Lodge, Beverley, on Thursday, the 24th September. Present—Bros. G. Marwood, D. Prov. G.M. of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, as Prov. G.M. on the Throne; B. Jacobs, Prov. S.G.W.; F. Burrell, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. J. E. M. Young, M.A., Prov. G. Chap.; R. W. Hollon, Prov. G. Treas.; W. Lawton, Prov. G. Reg.; J. P. Bell, M.D., Prov. G. Sec.; H. B. Anderson, Prov. S.G.D.; C. Smith, Prov. J.G.D.; M. C. Peck, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; D. Morley, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Fountain, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; J. N. Lawson, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; F. S. Jackson, Prov. G. Org.; J. Booker, Prov. G. Purst.; W. Jackson, Prov. G. Tyler; the Prov. G. Stewards; many P. Prov. G. Officers, and the W.M.'s, P.M.'s, and Wardens of various lodges in the Province.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form, and with solemn prayer.

The PROV. G. SECRETARY read the minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Hull, which were confirmed. Letters of apology were read from the Right. Hon. Lord Londesborough; Bros. F. Binckes, Secretary to the Boys' School; J. Malam, P. Prov. S.G.W.; C. L. Bradley, P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. J. P. Moody, P. Prov. G. Reg.; W. Martin, P. Prov. J.G.D.; James Brown, M.P., W.M. Camalodunum Lodge.

The PROV. G. TREASURER read his Financial Report, which showed a balance of £264 14s. 7d. in favour of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The report was passed and confirmed.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER then called upon Bro. Hollon, Prov. G. Treas., who, in accordance with the notice he had given, proposed "That a Committee be appointed to frame by-laws for the Provincial Grand Lodge." He also proposed "That such a committee consist of the Prov. G.M., the D. Prov. G.M., the Prov. G. Wardens, with the Prov. G. Treas. and Sec.," which motion was seconded by Bro. Arden, P. Prov. G.S.B.

Bro. JACOBS, Prov. S.G.W., said he thought the labours of the committee would be greatly facilitated by the draft of proposed by-laws which had been prepared by the Prov. G. Sec., which he suggested should be read. In his opinion considerable delay would arise if the motion were carried; and it appeared to him desirable to extend the committee to the W.M.'s of the various lodges in the province. He therefore begged leave to propose, as an amendment on the motion of the Prov. G. Treas., "That a committee, consisting of the Prov. G.M., the D. Prov. G.M., the Prov. G. Wardens, the Prov. G. Treas., the Prov. G. Reg., the Prov. G. Sec., and the W.M.'s of all the lodges in the province, be authorised and empowered to take into consideration the draft of by-laws prepared by the Prov. G. Sec., and which shall forthwith be printed and distributed at the expense of the Provincial Grand Lodge; and to make, in writing, such suggestions, propositions, alterations, and amendments in the same, as they may think fit, and that such alterations and additions shall be submitted for approval to the next Provincial Grand Lodge."

This was seconded by Bro. Fox, P. Prov. G.D.

The PROV. G. TREASURER said that, as his motion was nearly identical in character with the amendment, and its intentions to the same end, he would withdraw his motion.

The PROV. G. SECRETARY said that for some time past he had been impressed with the necessity of their possessing a code of by-laws for the government of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and having communicated with the G.M., as Prov. G.M., his lordship had sanctioned their compilation; he had obtained many copies of by-laws from other Provincial Grand Lodges, and from these, and from several resolutions in their own minute book, he had drawn up a draft of by-laws, as a basis for the formation of new ones. This draft has been perused by the G.M., and had also been submitted (at his lordship's request) to the G. Reg. and G. Sec., who had made their observations upon it. If the Provincial Grand Lodge desired to hear the draft of the proposed by-laws, he should be happy to read them, and should be glad to assist the Committee in their labours.

The amendment on being put, was carried unanimously.

The PROV. G. SECRETARY, after comparing the position of this Provincial Grand Lodge with that of other provinces, and especially with the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire, alluded, amongst others, to the fact that, under the present rules if they desired to relieve distressed brethren from their funds, it would be two years before they could do so, he therefore proposed "That a Provincial Grand Lodge Fund be established, to be called 'The Masonic Benevolent Fund of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire,' for granting relief to aged, distressed, and necessitous brethren of this province, or their indigent widows or children, and for other charitable purposes exclusively of a Masonic character; and that a Committee be appointed to frame rules and regulations for its government, and that the Committee appointed to frame by-laws should be the Committee for compiling the same." He then read the "Constitutions" relating to Provincial Grand Funds of Benevolence.

The PROV. G. TREASURER, after some observations, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The PROV. G. TREASURER, who had given notice of his intention to move "That £100 be given from the funds of this Provincial Grand Lodge towards the building of the new Asylum for Boys," then withdrew his motion.

The PROV. G. TREASURER stated that the brethren of the Union Lodge at York had erected a new Masonic Hall, and he invited the D. Prov. G.M. to hold the next Provincial Grand Lodge therein next year.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER said he accepted with pleasure the invitation of the members of the Union Lodge, mentioning however, that he had received an invitation from the brethren of the Lennox Lodge at Richmond, but, as the Provincial Grand Lodge had been held there four years ago, he thought York should have the preference.

The various lodges in the province then communicated, all of which were represented.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER then appointed the following Prov.

G. Officers for the ensuing year, with the exception of Bro. Hollon, who was re-elected by the Provincial Grand Lodge:—

Bro. Lord Londesborough	Prov. S. G. Warden.
" W. Dalla Husband	Prov. J. G. Warden.
" Rev. R. Bradley, <i>M.A.</i> ...	Prov. G. Chaplain.
" R. W. Hollon	Prov. G. Treasurer.
" W. Lawton	Prov. G. Registrar.
" J. P. Bell, <i>M.D.</i>	Prov. G. Secretary.
" H. Glaister	Prov. S. G. Deacon.
" A. Young	Prov. J. G. Deacon.
" W. Falkingbridge	Prov. G. Supt. of Works.
" J. Meek	Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.
" G. Furby	Prov. G. Sword Bearer.
" J. F. Holden	Prov. G. Standard Bearer.
" J. Todd	Prov. G. Organist.
" J. Booker	Prov. G. Pursuivant.
" W. Johnson	Prov. G. Tyler.

Six Prov. G. Stewards to be nominated by the following lodges, viz.:—The Cleveland, Zetland, St. Germain's, North York, St. Cuthbert, Royal.

The D. PROV. G. MASTER regretted that circumstances had prevented the G.M. from meeting the numerous brethren who had honoured the Provincial Grand Lodge with their company: he congratulated the members on the important business they had that day transacted; he believed the formation of a Provincial Grand Fund of Benevolence would have a most beneficial effect on the subscriptions to the Charities, and that the by-laws would be found very useful, as materially lessening the labours of the presiding officers. He was happy also in congratulating the brethren at large on the prosperity and unanimity of the lodges in the province; there had not been a single complaint to the Prov. G.M. from any lodge, and he believed that perfect harmony and concord existed throughout this section of the Craft.

Hearty good wishes were then expressed, and the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in form and with solemn prayer.

A banquet was provided the same evening, of which about 100 brethren partook, in the Assembly Rooms, which were most tastefully decorated for the occasion, and one of the most agreeable evenings spent which the brethren of this province have enjoyed for some years past. The banquet was conducted under the management of Bro. D. Morley, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., and the musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. F. S. Jackson, Prov. G. Org., assisted by Bro. H. Deval, P. Prov. G. Org., and several other brethren.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

UXBRIDGE.—*Royal Union Chapter* (No. 382, late 536).—This chapter held its regular convocation at the Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge, on Saturday, the 17th instant. Present: Comps. Binckes, M.E.Z.; Eden, P.Z. and Treas., as H.; W. Watson, J.; Matthew Cooke, E.; B. P. Todd, N.; and Comps. Young, Lines, and Farquharson. The visiting companions were, J. Udall, Chancellor, and Little. The business was of a routine character, and at the banquet Comp. Binckes spoke with his accustomed fluency and appreciation of Royal Arch Masonry. He thanked those who had supported him in the chair, and a Past Principal's jewel was unanimously voted to him. Comp. Eden, P.Z. and Treas., was warmly received by the companions, for during some years, when the chapter was in abeyance, he was the custodian of its books and furniture, and well he maintained his trust. Comp. Binckes proposed "The Health of the Visitors," to which Comp. Udall replied in a very excellent manner. The M.E.Z. also took occasion to compliment Comp. Lines upon his excellent catering for the chapter, and after spending a most happy evening the companions separated.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*Chapter Sincerity* (No. 189).—The regular quarterly convocation of the above chapter was held in the Freemasons' lodge room, St. George's Hall, on the evening of Friday, the 16th October, 1893. Present:—Comps. Dowse, Z.; Rodd, H.; Harfoot, J.; Rae, S.E.; Clase, S.N.; Radford, P.S.; Sadler, S.S.; Hill, J.S.; Rogers, Janitor; R. Hill, Hooper, and Adams. The chapter was opened in solemn form at 7.30 o'clock, when the minutes of the former meeting

were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Ex. Comp. Rodda, 3rd Principal of Chapter Fortitude, which proving unanimous, he was declared a joining member of the chapter. Bro. Bayley, of Lodge No. 189, was duly accepted, by ballot, as a candidate for exaltation, and having signed the required declaration, he was introduced in ancient form and exalted to the supreme degree of the Holy Royal Arch. There being no other business for consideration, the chapter was closed in solemn form, with prayer, at half-past nine o'clock.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

METROPOLITAN.

A chapter of the Grand and Elected Knights, K.H., of the 30th degree, was held at the Grand East of the Supreme Council, Ludgate-street, London, on Wednesday, the 15th inst. Present—The Ill. Bro. Dr. H. B. Leeson, M.P. Sov. G. Com.; Ill. Bro. H. A. Bowyer, Lieut. G. Com.; Ill. Bros. H. Vernon, Dr. B. H. Kent, Col. H. Clerk, and H. G. Vigne, G. Insp. Gen. of the 33°; Ill. Bros. Hyde Pullen, Sec. Gen.; Dr. R. H. Goolden, John Barker, R. N. Phillips, of the 32°; Ill. Bros. Col. Goddard and Bollant, 31°; Bros. R. Costa, J. Gibbs, R. Spencer, J. How, C. Beaumont, H. Goolden, G. Lambert, W. Blenkin, and M. Shuttleworth, 30°. The chapter having been duly opened, the Ill. P. Sov. stated that in future the names of candidates proposed for advancement must be submitted three months prior to the chapter meetings, and that sufficient time be given to the members of the chapter to inquire into the eligibility of each name presented. The Treasurer's accounts reported the amount of the funds in the hands of the Supreme Council to be £840. Bro. Shuttleworth, with the permission of the Ill. P. Sov., stated that the hall and chambers now erecting in Bedford-row, for the use of the Grand Conclave of Masonic Knights Templar, was advancing to completion, and he attended for the purpose of inviting the Supreme Council to view the same, suggesting that the Council might be induced to hold their meetings in that building. The observations of the Ill. P. Sov., however, did not hold out any hope they would remove from their present location. The names of nine candidates for advancement were submitted, and the following three Sov. Princes Rose Croix, M. H. Bass, T. C. Price, and Lt. C. H. Cox being in attendance, they were balloted for and unanimously approved, and advanced into the degree, the ceremony being most efficiently conducted by the Ill. Bro. Col. Clerk, Bro. Hyde Pullen acting as G. Marshall, and Bro. Gibbs as G. Master of Ceremonies. The chapter having been closed, the brethren gathered around the festive board, Colonel Clerk presiding.

WOOLWICH.—*Invicta Chapter of S. P. R. 4.*—The first meeting for the season took place at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Friday, the 16th inst. There were present—Col. Clerk, S.G.I.G. 33°, as M.W.S.; Capt. Dadson, 30°, as Prelate; Dr. Normandy, 18°, as 1st Gen.; J. W. Figg, 30°, P.M.W.S. and Sec., as 2nd Gen.; Capt. Boyle, 32°, as G. Marshal; P. Laird, 18°, Treasurer, as Raphael; Matthew Cooke, 30°, Org. to Sup. G. Council, Organist; and the Ex. brethren George Lambert, 30°, Dr. Hughes, 18°, and Lyons, 18°. The Ex. Bro. Tattershall, of the Vectis Chapter, was the only visitor. The business consisted of admitting to the Order Bros. John Willes, of the Apollo University Lodge, J. R. Thomson, of the Florence Nightingale Lodge, and W. H. R. Beaty, of the St. James's Union Lodge, all of whom were installed Knights of the Order by Col. Clerk, with his usual precision and clear rendering of the most beautiful ceremony in Freemasonry. A ballot was also taken for Capt. McLaughlin, of the Royal Naval Chapter, which was unanimous in his favour as a joining member. The election for M.W.S. and Treasurer for the ensuing year then took place, resulting in the unanimous election of Capt. Boyle, 32°, to the former, and re-election of Bro. Peter Laird, 18°, to the latter office. The business having been concluded, the members adjourned to Bro. De Grey's, the Freemason's Tavern, Woolwich, to dinner, over which Col. Clerk presided, and the evening was profitably spent by the discussion of various matters appertaining to Freemasonry, as is the custom in the *Invicta Chapter*; and after the interchange of opinions and the careful information given by Col. Clerk, on points attached to the Order, the Ill. brethren separated, well pleased with their rational enjoyment, and charmed by the courtesy and knowledge of the S.G.I.G. who presided.

INDIA.

BOMBAY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

CONCORD LODGE (No. 757).—At the regular monthly meeting of this lodge, held on Saturday, the 19th September, there were present nearly fifty visitors and members. The first business of the evening was the admission to the mysteries and privileges of the Craft of two gentlemen from the outer world. Two brethren were then passed to the second degree. The ceremonies were conducted by Bro. Alfred King, the W.M. of the lodge, in his usual correct and facile manner. The W.M. then rose, and said:—Brethren, I have a very pleasing duty to perform this evening; I could have wished it in hands more capable of doing justice to it, although it is a subject which speaks for itself. I dare say you all know to what I allude. Bro. Farnham is now to be considered one of the pillars of Lodge Concord, and his name is to be put on record and handed down as one whose happy disposition and character is such that he has succeeded in gaining the respect and goodwill of every one—Masonically and privately—with whom he has come in contact. I am not going too far in saying Lodge Concord is proud of having had such a Master, and deems herself fortunate. These words are not flattery, but are the expressions of real feeling towards him; and are, I trust, but the outspoken thoughts of every member of Lodge Concord. This jewel has been voted to him for the services he has rendered to the lodge, and the inscription on the back but speaks the truth. I will read it to you. [Inscription read.] And now, Bro. Farnham, I assure you I have not, since I have been Master, had more pleasure in anything I have done than I have now in placing this jewel on your breast, as an acknowledgment of the services you have rendered to the lodge; and we hope you will deem it a donation fairly won. May the G.A.O.T.U. see fit, in his mercy, to grant you many long years to wear it. We trust it will always be to you a souvenir of the many happy and profitable hours we have spent together in Lodge Concord, and of the goodwill and brotherly love we hope you have met with. Bro. Secretary, will you please to record the presentation.—Inscription:—"Presented to V.W. Brother the Rev. J. J. Farnham, of Jordan Lodge (No. 237), P.M., Prov. G. Chaplain of Bombay, by the members of Concord Lodge (No. 1059), as a token of their sincere regard and esteem, and to mark the high sense they entertain of his great ability, uniform courtesy, and staunch integrity; also to testify their gratitude for the efficient, zealous, and successful manner in which he presided over them as Senior Warden and Acting Master in 1861, and as W. Master in 1862."—The jewel, which is of very chaste design and elegant workmanship, was manufactured by Bro. R. Spencer, of Great Queen-street, London. At the conclusion of the speech of the W.M., Bro. Farnham rose, and said:—It is no mere form for me to say that I am utterly at a loss to find words wherewith to give expression to the feelings which fill my breast at the present moment. To say that I heartily thank you, Worshipful Sir, and brethren of Lodge Concord, is but a poor expression of my feelings. I feel overwhelmed, not only with the sense of your kindness on this present occasion, but with a vivid recollection of the truly brotherly conduct of the brethren of this lodge from the day that I came amongst you, as a stranger, to the present time. The honour you conferred on me in making me your Master was in itself a sufficient reward for any amount of labour it might involve. It was an honour I had always aspired to, from the moment that the brethren of the Jordan Lodge first admitted me to the light of Masonry; but it was one I little thought would so soon be bestowed upon me. I can conscientiously say that during my period of office I endeavoured to do my duty to the best of my ability; and I am very thankful that my efforts have been so far crowned with success that I have won your approbation. Again thanking you very sincerely, allow me to express a wish that Lodge Concord may long flourish and increase, and may its name ever be characteristic of its proceedings.—The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, the subsequent proceedings of the evening being enlivened by the musical performances of several brethren.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

BOMBAY.—*Mount Zion Encampment.*—A meeting of this encampment was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 1st August, when there were present the following Sir Knights

Frs. A. M. Moore, Com.; G. S. Judge, Past Com. and Prov. G. Com.; J. H. Irvine, Past 1st Capt., acting 1st Capt.; J. P. Cornforth, 2nd Capt.; the Rev. J. J. Farnham, Prelate; W. H. Walker, Registrar; Reynell, Capt. of Lines; J. C. V. Johnson, acting Expert; Houghland, Equerry. The first business of the evening was the installation of Comps. H. Gamble, R. G. Boaden, and Farrow, which ceremony was very ably performed. The most interesting part of the evening's proceedings, however, was the presentation to V.E. Knt. Com. G. S. Judge, P.E. Com. of the encampment, of a pair of very elegant silver dessert dishes. This was done by the V.M. Commander in a neat and appropriate speech, which was replied to in suitable terms by V.E. Sir Knt. Judge. The dishes were manufactured by Sir Knt. Lambert, of Coventry-street, the pattern having been selected by E. Sir Knt. J. Gibbs, P. Com. of the encampment, who is now in England. The dishes themselves have on them an appropriate inscription, with Sir Knt. Judge's arms, &c., while inside the lid of the box in which they are kept is the following:—

"Presented to Gustavus Septimus Judge, Esq., the Founder and first P.E.C. of the 'Mount Zion' Encampment, and the Very Eminent Provincial Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Bombay and its Dependencies, by the Eminent Commander and Knights Companions of the 'Mount Zion' Encampment as a slight token of their esteem and regard for him, and their appreciation of the zeal he has evinced in furthering the interests of the Order in this Province.

(Signed) "† A. M. Moore, E.C.
 "† J. Gibbs, P.E.C.
 "† The Rev. J. J. Farnham, Prelate.
 "† J. Hodgart, 1st Capt. C.C.
 "† J. P. Cornforth, 2nd Capt. C.C.
 "† J. Irvine, P. 1st Capt., C.C. and Chancellor.
 "† W. H. Walker, Registrar and Treasurer.
 "† J. K. J. Grosjean, Hospitaller.
 "† R. C. Bulmore, Expert.
 "† J. Reynell, Capt. of Lines.
 "Bombay, 1863."

The attendance was scanty, owing to the convocation taking place in the midst of those downpours, so frequently experienced in Bombay, during the S.W. monsoon; but this did not prevent the Knights spending together a very quiet, pleasant hour at the social board.

AUSTRALIA.

(From the Melbourne Masonic Journal.)

MELBOURNE.—*Mariners' Lodge* (No. 1049).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic rooms, St. Patrick's Hall, on Monday, 27th July. Bro. Andrew Martin, who had been duly initiated and passed, was raised to the high and sublime degree of Master Mason. The lodge then took into consideration a letter from the committee for the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Victoria, and Bro. M'Gann proposed—"That the Mariners' Lodge should assent to the establishment of a Grand Lodge." Bro. Lempriere moved, and Bro. Demaine seconded an amendment—"That the Mariners' Lodge does not desire to sever their connection with the Grand Lodge of England." The amendment was carried, five voting in its favour and four against, four not expressing any opinion. A proposition that the members voting for and against the motion, also the members present who did not vote, should be inserted on the minutes of the lodge, was carried by a majority of one, the W.M. voting on this motion, and giving his casting vote in its favour. Lodge then closed in peace and harmony.

Hotham Lodge (No. 429, I.C.).—A lodge of emergency of the Hotham Lodge was held at their lodge-rooms, Court House Hotel, Queensberry-street, on Monday, 27th July, the W.M., Bro. G. Davidson, in the chair. Bros. the Rev. Moses Rintel, Alexander Short, and Monfort, P.M.'s, assisted the W.M. in the duties of his office. A ballot was then taken for Messrs. Thomas Bibby Guest, George Wright, and James Fyfe. Mr. Thomas Bibby Guest and Mr. George Elliott, who were balloted for at a former meeting, being in attendance, were properly prepared and severally admitted, and received the first degree and retired. Lodge closed in peace and harmony at ten o'clock.

King Solomon Lodge (No. 422).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at their lodge-room at the Travellers' Rest Hotel, Nicholson-street, on Tuesday, 28th July, Bro. Rintel,

W.M. A notice of motion was brought before the lodge by W.M., Bro. Rintel—"That, as a slight recognition of the valuable services rendered to this lodge by P.M. Bro. Bryant during his term as W.M., a jewel be presented to him." This resolution was carried, and a committee appointed to have the wishes of the lodge fulfilled. Bros. O'Neil and Cohen having proved themselves entitled to be advanced in Masonry, were passed to the Fellow-craft degree. Bro. Basch was then examined by the W.M., and having proved his proficiency in Masonic knowledge, was raised to the high and sublime degree of Master Mason. After some propositions had been made, lodge closed in peace and harmony.

HAWTHORN.—*Boroondara Lodge* (No. 1020).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Sir Robert Nickle Hotel, on Tuesday, July 28th. The lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer, at half-past eight p.m. The Treasurer's balance having been declared, and the ballot being taken for two gentlemen, who were declared unanimously elected, a gentleman who had been balloted for at the last meeting was then admitted, and duly initiated by Bro. J. R. Withers, W.M., into the secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. The election of the W.M. for the ensuing year then took place, which resulted in the choice of Bro. W. H. Campbell, S.W., he having the votes of all the brethren present, with the exception of one. Bro. G. Lewis, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. J. T. Smith was again re-elected Tyler. Bro. F. Hunt, P.M., gave notice that he would, at the next meeting of the lodge, move the following resolution:—"That this lodge of Freemasons, under the English Constitution, desires to express its unalterable affection to the Grand Lodge of England, and cannot too strongly deprecate the movement recently initiated to establish a Grand Lodge of Victoria—a movement which, arising in disaffection and supported in ignorance, is opposed to the spirit of Masonry, and is calculated to degrade it as a society, and impair its influence for good." There being nothing more proposed for the good of Masonry in general or this lodge in particular, the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

SANDRIDGE.—*Sandridge Lodge* (No. 1070).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, the 28th July, Bro. D. H. Beresford, W.M. Lodge was duly opened by the W.M., and the minutes of the former lodge having been read and confirmed, Bro. Cruikshank proposed, and Bro. Vines seconded, Mr. George B. Gill as a fit and proper person to be initiated into Freemasonry. Mr. Samuel Chas. Sims was proposed by Bro. Johnson, S.D., and seconded by Bro. Cruikshank. Mr. Charles Palmer was proposed by Bro. Legie, and seconded by Bro. Garton. A ballot was taken for the above gentlemen, and, being elected, were initiated into the ancient mysteries pertaining to the Entered Apprentice Degree. Bro. Robert Morgan was proposed as a joining member by Bro. Garton, seconded by Bro. Johnston, and unanimously elected. An invitation from the committee of the Presbyterian Church (about to be erected at Sandridge), requesting that the first stone of the new church should be laid with Masonic honours, was accepted, and a lodge committee, consisting of the W.M., J.W., and Bro. M'Kelvie, were appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements.

Talbot Lodge.—The regular monthly meeting of the brethren of the above lodge was held in the lodge-room, at the Commercial Hotel, on Tuesday, the 28th July, Bro. Biggers, W.M., in the chair. A ballot was taken for Mr. E. B. Stanworth, who was declared duly elected. Owing to indisposition, however, on his part, his initiation was postponed until next meeting. Bro. Colles, who had been duly initiated and passed, having replied satisfactorily to the usual questions, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The ceremony was admirably performed by the W.M. Four persons were then duly proposed and seconded as candidates for initiation. Bro. Cohen, S.W., then moved a resolution to the effect that one of the rules of the lodge be altered, so as to make two black balls, instead of one, as now, reject an applicant for admission into the privileges of the Order. This resolution is to be considered at the next monthly meeting. After the usual routine business of the lodge had been transacted, the lodge was closed with the usual observances.

SANDHURST.—*Corinthian Lodge*.—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the lodge-room, Bendigo Hotel, on the 29th July, Bro. A. Alexander, W.M. The W.M. having opened the lodge, the minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed. A petition from a gentleman desirous of being admitted into the mysteries of the Order was received, and he

was duly proposed, seconded, balloted for, and admitted as a candidate for initiation. The lodge was then opened in the Fellow Craft Degree, and Bros. Howingan, Phillips, and Resdaile were tested as to the proficiency made by them in their former degrees, and, having answered satisfactorily, the lodge was opened in the third degree, and those brethren were raised to the high and sublime degree of Master Masons. Some general business having been gone through, the lodge was closed in harmony.

FOREST CREEK.—*St. John's Tradesman's Lodge* (No. 391, I.C.)—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 29th July, at the Chewton Hall, Chewton. Bros. Lucas, Pringle, and Brunier were examined by the W.M. as to their proficiency in the E.A. degree, previous to their being passed to that of craftsmen. Having satisfactorily passed their examination they were asked to retire. The lodge was then passed to the second degree, when they were re-admitted, and the ceremony of passing was ably performed by the W.M., assisted by Bro. Ustick, P.M. Application from Mr. A. Kerr, Oriental Bank, Chiltern, asking for clearance, granted; the lodge unanimously expressed their regret that they had lost such a valuable member as Bro. Kerr, and desired the Secretary to give him a recommendation to any lodge he may wish to join.

MELBOURNE.—*St. Clair Lodge.*—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 6th August, in the Masonic Rooms, St. Patrick's Hall. The lodge was opened at a quarter to eight o'clock. Mr. W. M. Turnbull, who had been duly proposed, balloted for, and accepted, was duly initiated into the ancient mysteries of the E.A. degree. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. George Simpson having passed the required examination, retired, and the lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Simpson was raised to the high and sublime degree of a M.M. A communication from the proposed Grand Lodge Committee, requesting a contribution to defray the expenses of that committee, was then read, and the sum of £2 2s. was ordered to be paid for that purpose.

Hotham Lodge (No. 429, I.C.)—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, 10th August, at the lodge-rooms, Errol-street, Hotham, Bro. G. Davidson, W.M., in the chair. Mr. Henry John Bollen was then balloted for, and being in attendance outside the lodge, was subsequently admitted, and received the Entered Apprentice Degree. Bros. John Stewart, James O'Shea, and James Foot Dow, were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. Bro. William Henry King, was raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason.

COLLINGWOOD.—*Combermere Lodge* (No. 1054).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at their lodge-room, Swan Hotel, Gertrude-street, Collingwood, on Monday, 10th August. Lodge was opened at half-past seven. Mr. C. Blake was duly elected and initiated. Applications for relief were received from Bro. Douglas and another brother, and both applicants were relieved. A candidate was proposed for initiation.

MELBOURNE.—*Australia Felix Lodge* (No. 697).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the lodge-room, St. Patrick's Hall, on Monday, August 10. The lodge was opened in the first degree.—Bros. Noon, W.M.; Delmotte, S.W.; Edwards, as J.W. A communication was received from the proposed Grand Lodge Committee. The W.M. permitted it to be read, but would not allow any proposition to be made on the subject.

Australasian Kilwinning Lodge (No. 337).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic rooms, St. Patrick's Hall, on Tuesday, the 11th August. Lodge opened in the first degree at half-past seven.—Bros. Baines, W.M.; Thomson, P.M.; Elms, S.W.; Blanchard, J.W. After the confirmation of the minutes of the former meeting, the lodge was opened in the third degree, and the ballot was taken for two gentlemen, who were unanimously accepted. Lodge was then resumed in the third degree, and Mr. Hector J. Cuttford, who had been regularly proposed and accepted, was initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M. Bro. Lynch, who had served his full time as an Entered Apprentice, having proved himself worthy of further enlightenment, the W.M. opened a Fellow Craft lodge, and Bro. Lynch was advanced to the degree of F.C.

SANDRIDGE.—*Sandridge Marine Lodge.*—An emergency meeting of the Sandridge Marine Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Sandridge, on Tuesday, 11th August, at high noon, Bro. Beresford, W.M. The lodge was called for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of the Presbyterian Church, Sandridge, which ceremony was performed by the brethren of the lodge, assisted by upwards of fifty visitors.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

PORT ELIZABETH.

St. John's day (June 24th) was a gay and important day for the Freemasons of Port Elizabeth. A new Freemasons' Hall, on the Hill, which had been for some time in course of erection, was opened with a procession, and the day being especially genial, a large number of the population, the fair sex predominating, assembled all along the line to witness it. A correspondent of the *Anglo-Africa*, published at Grahams Town, who styles himself *Flos Cuculi*, thus describes the proceedings. This auspicious day set in with a hot sun and keen piercing wind, but such inconveniences only stimulate on this occasion the votaries of gridirons and mallets. How many anxieties were there the previous eve, to render the celebration of this day more imposing than heretofore. Recruits were beat up from all quarters; one ardent square worshipper purposely travelled from outlandish regions for the occasion. Others got themselves put through the degrees, so as to master pieces. Insignia were furnished up, aprons aired, rosettes fresh plaited. At the mystic hour might be seen sundry black-robed members of the "Craft," all filled with that grand principle which should actuate every one, "Loving one's neighbour or brother as one's self." There were grey-bearded, bald-headed, wrinkled personages, and youths with just the gloss of manhood about them, all repairing to the mysterious upstairs room, so closely guarded, and therefore denominated a "lodge," or lock-up. After due deliberation upon forms and ceremonies, the Craft in skilful array, headed by a band, in front of which danced black girls, variously attired, and processed to church, there to hear the bell toll forth from the last of the prophets. "Locusts and wild honey," "the wilderness," how realised in a sumptuous after dinner! But this is the only practical way of realising the truth of an illustration, as *vide* our Bishops, whose scrip and staff are the substance of what in gospellie periods stood a shadow. We live in enlightened times, and if Adam and Eve preferred fruit, and St. John locusts, we of the 19th century have an established preference to the solids of life, nor can we live on allegory alone. The sermon was like all such discourses, to the point,—within the circle; parabolic sweeps were carefully avoided; the "nines" strongly impressed,—strengthened in their inner men, the band of sworn brothers dispersed until the refectory time, to the calls of which all responded within its hearing. And what a sight! those long tables set by the plumb line and square, those three branched candelabra, afterwards replaced by characteristic pillars and mundane shafts; the wedged mallets, the plumb line, chisel, square, and the like; the ten commandments duly labelled on the mantelpiece, as if fresh from the banks of the Moselle; the platters, all marvellous to behold to Johnian eyes; the knives and forks were only to deceive vulgar gaze. The hour for dining arrives, each "fellow craft" girds on his apron, sticks a rosette in his breast; now the outer doors are closed, the knives and forks are displaced, and trowels and compasses supply their want, the royal arches (not those of the Adelphi), keystones to the structure before them, strike their circles, the W.M. just installed see all square, then

"Tooth to flesh, and lips to wine,
Of all joys, a good feed's divine."

Enlivened by the strains of music they drown royalty in bumpers, and float the navy in the "Bay of Biscay," the Craft from high to low their share receive, and 'prentices are shown the virtues of a Craft that brings all men to one level. Work warms all men, and in eagerness they declared they would not "go home till morning," which is a truth nobody can deny. With the cloth, the body removed their cloth, and as jolly bricks all keystones in their way, showed how man should love his brother as himself. Thus ended the evening of the 24th of June, far different from that whose name it bears. His brotherhood was the universe, his craft to fit all men as bricks in the grand temple, his principle no secrecy. But in the 19th century it would be wrong to cast pearls—away. Knowledge is to the few; and if Masonry, Freemasonry will make men honest in their dealings, charitable towards all, truthful in their speech, then may it flourish, may it gather strength and uproot the evil that lurketh in secret places, and may it ever enjoy the 24th of June.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the larger part of the Royal Family still remain at Balmoral. The Prince and Princess of Wales are at their seat Sandringham, Norfolk. Prince Alfred is at Edinburgh.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The returns of the London mortality continue to range above the average. The number of deaths last week was 1205, which is 56 above the ten years' average. Among the fatal diseases small-pox and scarlatina continue to be conspicuous. The births for the week were 1939, which is 96 above the average.—Mr. Hope, one of the members for Windsor, died on Sunday, and Mr. Langston, one of the members for Oxford, on the following day. Mr. Hope was Colonial Under-Secretary in the Government of Sir Robert Peel from 1841 to 1845, but latterly the hon. gentlemen has been ranked among the select band of Liberal Conservatives. Mr. Langston was an advanced Liberal, in favour of the ballot and a "wide" extension of the franchise.—The Metropolitan Board of Works have at last shown some symptoms of vitality in the matter of the Thames embankment. Considering how long it is since the Act for constructing the work was passed, it is certainly matter of surprise that the contract for the embankment which lies between Westminster and Waterloo bridges—being the first contract issued—should only have just been settled. The sum demanded by the successful contractor is £520,000. There was another estimate lower by £25,000, but the board was not satisfied with the securities offered nor with the competency of the contractor to carry out the work.—Mr. Farnall reports a further decrease of 1,629 in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the cotton manufacturing districts. With regard to the state of employment, the following facts have been collected by the Honorary Secretary of the Central Relief Committee:—On the 26th ult. there were 267,962 operatives in full work, 104,198 on short time, and 160,835 out of work, against 235,827 in full work, 118,900 on short time, and 171,535 out of work in August, and 235,827 in full work, 121,718 on short time, and 178,205 out of work in July. In December last, there were on full time only 121,129, on short time 165,600, and 247,230 entirely out of work in the districts then in communication with the Committee. At the meeting of the Central Committee, a very important discussion took place on the probable cotton supply of the coming year. The discussion arose upon a paper prepared by Mr. E. Ashworth, who, basing his calculations on what he believed to be trustworthy testimony, estimated that in 1864 the imports of cotton will exceed those of the present year by 610,000 bales.—The Hampshire magistrates met last week, when the Earl of Carnarvon presented the report of a committee, of which he was chairman, and which was appointed a short time ago at his instance to consider the prison discipline in the county. The report was of a sweeping nature, and recommended that hard labour should be made more use of, that the hours of rest should be diminished, and that the dietary should be reduced, especially in the article of fresh meat. The visiting justices, and especially their chairman, dissented from several of the recommendations of the committee, but it was agreed to print the report, and take it into consideration on a future day.—The annual report of the Chaplain of the Manchester City Gaol bears additional testimony to the fortitude with which the cotton operatives have resisted the temptations of a period of severe distress. Last year there was a large increase in the number of prisoners, but the chaplain expressly states that that increase "was not due to the presence of factory operatives or other un-

employed classes." This year—that is, in the twelve months ending September 30—there has been a decrease of 149 in the total number of committals. Among the persons committed during the year were 148 "returned convicts."—A meeting of the Middlesex magistrates took place at the Session House, Clerkenwell-green, Mr. Pownall in the chair, when reports were read of the state of the prisons under their charge. The committee that visits the House of Detention called attention to the coroner's jury which sat on the death of a prisoner removed from the prison to Colney Hatch, who added to their verdict of "death from natural causes," that death was accelerated by the treatment he received in the House of Detention. The committee declared that after making the strictest investigation they could discover no foundation for this statement, and they hoped coroner's juries would be cautious in adding opinions to the verdict they were sworn to deliver.—The Rev. H. Ward Beecher addressed a crowded meeting at Exeter Hall on Tuesday night, on the American question. He claimed the sympathies of Englishmen for the cause of the North, on the broad ground that the war, as the North conducted it, was hostile to slavery, and would eventually extinguish it. There was a good deal of diversity of opinion manifested, but, upon the whole, the reverend gentleman was heard very patiently during the whole of his speech, which lasted for more than two hours. The reverend gentleman experienced a rough reception from the people of Liverpool on the previous Friday evening, when he attempted to expound to them that the subjugation of the Confederate States would be for the advantage of the trade and commerce of England. It was some time before he could get a hearing; and when he proceeded to assert that the Morrill protection tariff was all the fault of the South, and that the negro was upon the whole well off in the North, the tumult and uproar of the meeting was renewed.—At the Chertsey Agricultural Association, Colonel Lamar, formerly a member of the United States Congress, and who subsequently led a division of the Southern army at Bull Run, made a remarkable and eloquent address on American affairs from a point of view. He drew a forcible picture of the present condition of both the Northern and Southern States, contending that the Southerners were simply fighting for civil liberty and constitutional government. With respect to the slavery question, he argued that the Southern slaveowners had done more to Christianise the African race and raise the slaves in the social scale than had been effected by any country in the world. He contended, however, that they were still unprepared for perfect freedom, which, in his opinion, would prove a curse instead of a blessing.—It seems that Mr. Mason, the Confederate commissioner, who recently left London for Paris, in obedience to instructions from Richmond, has returned to this country, but only, we presume, in a "private" capacity.—The Surrey Magistrates had a meeting on Tuesday, at Kingston, when a Roman Catholic clergyman who had been in the habit of attending the prisoners of his own religious persuasion at Wandsworth goal, presented a memorial praying that he might have a room and a salary for the purpose. The visiting justices, to whom the matter had been referred, reported against the application, and their report was confirmed; but notice was given that at the next meeting a motion would be made for the appointment of a Roman Catholic chaplain.—The Court of Aldermen met on Tuesday, when by-laws for the regulation of the city traffic, framed under the City Police Act of last session, were read, and ordered to be transmitted to the Home Secretary for his approval.—The parishes of Cauldon and Waterfall, in Staffordshire, appear to be unfortunate in the clergyman who is entrusted with the cure of souls in both. The Rev. H. Hen-

niker, whose father is patron, appears, as a general rule, to set the rubric at defiance, and has lately crowned his other eccentricities by refusing to bury the dead of his parish. The consequence is that the church is converted by the wilder portion of the parishioners into a bear garden, and the day of rest into one of riot. Matters have gone so far that the ecclesiastical authorities in the diocese have been forced to investigate the matter.

—The Rev. P. Jones, incumbent of Hindley, Lancashire, has resigned his living, as he can no longer conscientiously give his full "assent and consent" to all that is contained in the "Book of Common Prayer." We infer, from a statement made to his parishioners by the rev. gentlemen on Sunday, that the Athanasian Creed, and the Baptismal, Visitation, and Ordination services are the stumbling-blocks which compel him to take this step. Mr. Jones will, however, continue a member of the Church, and will do all he can for the revision of the "Prayer Book."

—The magistrates and landowners of the county of Galway have prepared an address to Lord Carlisle, in which they deplore and condemn the stupid insult recently offered to His Excellency by Lord Leitrim. The *Globe* says "the real reason why the hotel at Maam was ordered to be closed again Lord Carlisle was, that Lord Leitrim had been more than once passed over for the lieutenancy of the county in which the great bulk of his property lies."—A dreadful calamity has occurred at one of Mr. Hussey Vivian's collieries at Port Talbot, near Swansea. On Saturday afternoon, an explosion took place, bringing down the roof in many parts of the mine. Some 400 men were at work at the time, and of these 36 are ascertained to have been killed. Many more were injured, and it may even be feared that the list of killed will be found to exceed the large number we have stated.—It appears that the rotten gunboats which are now in course of demolition are to be replaced by a squadron of armour-plated vessels. The new gun-boats, we are told, will be constructed on "an entirely new system," from plans prepared by Mr. Reed. They will be propelled by twin screws, and each boat will be capable of carrying two heavy guns.—The *Valiant*, a 34-gun iron-clad, provided with a sort of beak to enable her to act as a "ram"—was launched at Poplar. It is not expected that any of the other iron frigates will be ready to leave the building yards before the close of the year.—A few days ago the Duke of Buckingham was subjected to a gross outrage by some railway passengers at the Bath station of the Great Western, as he was getting some luggage out of the carriage. The offenders were brought before the Bath magistrates on Saturday, when they expressed their great regret for their unmannerly conduct, which they attributed to their eagerness to get into the carriage, as the train did not stay more than a minute or two at the station. The duke accepted their apology, on their undertaking to pay all expenses and give £5 to the Bath United Hospital.—Peterborough Cathedral was entered by thieves on Saturday night, and a strong oaken almsbox, supposed to have contained about £20, was broken open, and rifled of its contents.—The protracted inquiry into the murder of the man Cheenery, at Wolverhampton, has been brought to a close, but without unravelling the mystery which has hung over this terrible affair ever since the discovery of the deceased's body. The Coroner's jury could only enter a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."—An inquest has been held on the body of a married woman named Blythe, who, it is suspected, has been poisoned. She had lived in High-street, Great Gardiner-street. A *post-mortem* examination had been made, and the medical man said there were symptoms of poisoning. The contents of the stomach were, however, being analysed, and therefore

nothing definite was known as yet. There seems to have been numerous rumours as to deceased's death. These are to be brought out at the adjourned inquest.—

A man named Conolly, living near Clonmel, having been missing for some time, the mystery was enhanced by a young woman, one of Conolly's neighbours, stating that on a certain night she saw her father in an adjoining room chopping up a dead body, which she watched him afterwards carry out and bury in a bog. The bog has been searched, and sure enough the head and part of the murdered man's body has been found. The young woman must, therefore, have known something about the matter, though it seems unnatural that she should accuse her own father.

—The other day, Mr. Briggs, a coalowner, residing in the neighbourhood of Wakefield, who has had some trouble with his miners, received a missive warning him of a terrible fate. The men employed at one of the pits of the Kirkless Hall Company "struck" last week against a proposed reduction of their wages, and on Friday a notice was found posted at Ince, intimating that "the pistol was loaded" for the principal partner in the Company, Mr. John Lancaster, and his brother, Mr. S. Lancaster. If innocent of these atrocious threats, the colliers employed by Mr. Briggs and the Kirkless Hall Company have ample opportunity of removing a stigma which for the present they must be content to bear.—An accident has happened to the *Africa*, one of the Cunard steamers. On the night of the 12th she went ashore in a dense fog near Cape Race. In half an hour she was got off, and, though making much water, bore up for St. John's, Newfoundland, where she arrived next day. Her cargo would have to be discharged.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—A conference of the ministers of most of those German Sovereigns who assented to the Emperor of Austria's proposals for a reform of the Federal Constitution has been opened at Nuremberg; and Count Rechberg will preside over its deliberations.—The Ionian Parliament has passed, by an overwhelming majority, resolutions demanding the immediate cessation of the English protectorate, and the incorporation of the Septinsular republic with the Greek kingdom.—The *Indépendance Belge* has published an extraordinary and improbable story to the effect that the Poles have applied for assistance to the Ottoman Porte; that they have offered to conclude an offensive and defensive alliance with Turkey, and to aid in re-conquering all the provinces which have been wrested from the Sultans by Russia; that the Turkish Government is not disinclined to listen favourably to the offer; and that the Russian Cabinet apprehends a conjoint attack from Sweden, Turkey, and France. At the same time it is affirmed, that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has declared to the Turkish ministers that a recognition of the Poles as belligerents will be regarded by Russia as a declaration of war.—A telegram received through the Russian consulate announces that the Hotel de Ville at Warsaw was fired in three places on Sunday, and ascribes the act to the work of incendiaries. To meet these and other violent acts on the part of the insurgents, the Russian Government is resorting to very extreme measures. Amongst the most recent is an order for all civilians to give up their arms, and the dismissal of all functionaries of Polish nationality. It is even asserted that the Russian language is in future to be used in administrative proceedings in Poland—a statement, however, that we think is open to great doubt.—A Copenhagen journal states that the King of Denmark unexpectedly returned from Schleswig to his capital on Thursday evening, in consequence of the receipt of "important notes" from the French and English Cabinets; but another Copenhagen newspaper denies that any offer of mediation between Germany and Denmark has been received from either

France or England.—The Swedish journals agree in stating that a treaty of alliance has been concluded between Denmark and Sweden, but will not be formally signed until German troops shall have entered Holstein.—The “Giant” balloon of M. Nadar has had an unfortunate descent. Having left Paris on Sunday evening, it floated away eastward, then northward, then crossed the Belgian frontier, and finally made its way into the German’s Fatherland. But near Eysstrup, in Hanover, it came to earth. The balloon was dragged for several hours, the anchors having broken. Of the nine persons in the car three were seriously, and two slightly injured. The aeronaut himself has had both his legs dislocated. Madame Nadar, his wife, has suffered injuries in the thorax, and has had one of her legs severely contused. The sufferers were conveyed to the city of Hanover, and placed under the care of the French legation, whither the King of Hanover at once sent an aide-de-camp to inquire after their wants. M. Nadar himself telegraphed an account of the fall to Paris.—A highly significant paragraph relating to Mexico appears in the Paris papers. It purports to announce by telegram from Vera Cruz, that a large party exists in the interior of Mexico which is calling out for the immediate and complete annexation of the country to France.

AMERICA.—New York telegrams of the 10th instant have been brought to us by the *China* and *Anglia*. The latest Federal accounts from Chattanooga asserted that General Rosecrans had received large reinforcements and supplies of artillery and ammunition, and that he would soon resume offensive operations. The situation, we are told, portended an early engagement, and on the 5th inst. the Confederates opened fire on Chattanooga from Lookout Mountain, and actually threw shells into Chattanooga. Large bodies of Confederate cavalry, under Generals Forrest and Wheeler, were actively, and more or less successfully, endeavouring to interrupt the communications of Generals Rosecrans and Burnside. In Tennessee they had destroyed a bridge on the railway south of Murfreesborough, and they had taken Shelbyville and Macminnsville, with some 2500 prisoners. In Kentucky, however, they had been defeated, at Anderson’s Cross Roads and Franklin, and had lost several hundred prisoners and three or four guns. The result of their operations was, it is admitted, to have rendered the roads in General Rosecrans’s rear difficult to travel except for strong military commands.” A rumour transmitted from Cairo to New York asserted that General Franklin had attacked the Confederates at Brasher City, Louisiana, and had been repulsed by them, but had subsequently received reinforcements, and had then renewed the attack, and defeated the Confederates. This rumour was, however, discredited in New York. Federal advices from Charleston of the 3rd inst. stated that General Gilmore had removed his head-quarters from Morris Island to Folly Island, in consequence of the height of the tides. There had been heavy firing between the Federal and Confederate batteries, as it had been discovered that the Confederates were planting heavy guns amid the ruins of Fort Sumter; but it was not supposed that the bombardment of the city would commence before the 1st of November. Subsequent accounts of the 6th instant, apparently derived from telegrams published in the Richmond journals, state that the Confederates had attacked part of the Federal squadron. The result is variously announced, one version affirming that the Federal frigate *Ironsides* had sustained some damage, and another that she had much damaged the Confederate iron-clad steamer *Chickora*. There had been a few skirmishes on the banks of the Rappidan; but neither of the hostile armies was known to have made any considerable move-

ment. An expedition, apparently of no great importance, had left Fort Monroe for some unknown destination. President Lincoln had issued a proclamation desiring all Americans to observe the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving. The Russian squadron was about to sail from New York for Boston, where the officers were to be entertained by the citizens. By the arrival of the *Bohemian* we have news from New York (by telegraph to Cape Race) to the 12th inst. Among the more important items of intelligence are the following: that the Confederates are operating against Forts Smith and Scott in Kansas City; that General Johnstone is reported to be at Santon, Missouri, with 15,000 men, to intercept Rosecrans; the rumoured defeat of the Federals above Port Hudson, with a loss of 1500 prisoners; that the Confederate cavalry had been overtaken below Shelbyville and routed, with a loss of 100 killed, the Federals being in pursuit; that a strong Confederate force is concentrating in Virginia; a Federal repulse of cavalry at Culpepper; and the fact that a combined land and naval attack on Charleston was to take place on the 11th.

NEW ZEALAND.—The New Zealand advices brought by the *Calcutta* and *China* mail estimate that about 7500 natives were in arms in the Northern Island. General Cameron’s troops had been successful in one or two small engagements; but it was believed that large reinforcements would be required before the war could be terminated. The settlers were forming volunteer corps with great alacrity, and the Governor had applied for succour to the government of the Australian colonies, whence all the imperial troops and some bodies of colonial volunteers were to be sent to his aid. Several Europeans in the Northern Island had been murdered by the Maoris, and it was supposed that all the scattered colonists would be compelled to take shelter in the larger settlements. Some 35 gold miners had been drowned in a flood caused by a landslide, and 40 more had been overwhelmed by an avalanche of snow.

INDIA.—The Bombay mail brings intelligence from India to the 29th ult. The Governor-General was to leave Simla on the 26th on his way to Sealkote, where he would be joined by his camp and then proceed to Kashmir. There he would be met by Sir Hugh Rose. There was so much disaffection on the frontier that leave of absence to officers stationed in the Punjab had been stopped. The prisoner Nana Sahib turns out to be a high priest of the Mahrattas. Central Asia continued in a very disturbed state. The King of Bokhara had summoned his tributary chiefs to his standard to march to Kokan, which was threatened by the neighbouring tribes. Captain George Hare had been shot dead in a mess-house at Elliehpoor, and the wife of Captain Macquoid had been severely wounded at the same place by a domestic servant.

JAPAN.—From Shanghai, we receive accounts to the effect that Admiral Kuper, with the British squadron, had arrived at Kagosima. Negotiations having failed to induce the Prince of Satsuma to submit to the British demands, Admiral Kuper “besieged and levelled the city,” and burned the three steamers which the Prince had purchased from Europeans. Having thus given a salutary lesson to the greatest of the hostile and refractory Japanese Daimios, the British men of war returned to Yokohama, where their presence is no doubt needed to convince the Tycoon’s Government of the expediency of observing the treaties concluded with European powers.—A telegram received at the Foreign Office, from the British Consul-General in Egypt, confirms the account of the bombardment and destruction of Kagosima and the Prince of Satsuma’s three steamers by the British squadron. The British loss amounted to 11 men killed and 39 wounded, including Captain Josling and Commander Wilnot, of the flagship *Euryalus*; and the guns of the Japanese shore batteries are represented to have been well served.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. B. HARRIS (Hamilton, Canada West).—Remittance received with thanks.

DELTA and W. BLACKBURN.—Next week.

W. L.—Very soon; it is nearly completed.

J. S.—We will give you due notice.

F. P.—In a week or two.