

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1863.

MOTHER KILWINNING.

BY BRO. D. MURRAY LYON, K.T., PROV. J.G.W.
OF Ayrshire.

No. V.

That the Lodge of Kilwinning, in agreeing to the election of a Grand Master for Scotland, never contemplated abandoning their ancient landmarks, is abundantly testified by their continuance to act in the matter of erecting lodges independently of the new Masonic power which they had, in 1736, been a party to establish in the Scottish metropolis; nor does it appear that they ever were formerly called upon to divest themselves of the functions in this respect so long exercised by them, in the knowledge, and with the acquiescence, of many of the leading lodges in the country.

There is not in the records under consideration any mention made of the difference which caused Mother Kilwinning to break with the Grand Lodge; but the minutes of the latter body, November 20, 1743, show a letter to have been received from the Lodge of Kilwinning, "complaining that they were only second on the roll, while as the Mother Lodge of Scotland they were entitled to the first place." This claim of precedency over all other lodges was, however, disallowed by Grand Lodge, who "decreed that as the Lodge of Kilwinning had produced no documents to show that they were the oldest Lodge in Scotland, and as the Lodge of St. Mary's Chapel had shown their records as far back as 1598, the latter had an undoubted right to continue first on the roll." This decision of Grand Lodge was given in accordance with their previously adopted resolution, to the effect that the seniority of the lodges "should be determined from the authentic documents which they produced:" but, however, mortifying to the Lodge of Kilwinning, who stood alone in their claim to be the original one instituted on the introduction of the Order to the village whence they derive their name, this settlement of the question of seniority among the lodges on the roll of Grand Lodge was not understood to affect the universally-admitted opinion that Kilwinning was the "cradle of Scottish Masonry."

That the present is the original Lodge of Kilwinning there can, we think, be little doubt. That there was such a lodge in active operation at the period from which the oldest records of St. Mary's Chapel date, is established by the recently discovered Masonic Ordinance promulgated in 1598 by William Schaw, Maister of Wark and Warden General of Scotland;—in 1642, the Lodge of Kilwinning are found exercising Masonic authority in four of the five districts over which they were by that ordinance placed;—their earliest records extant, which purport to be those of "ye Ludge of Kilwyning, ye antient Lodge of Scotland," do not seem to be those of a newly-formed body, but on the contrary bear evidence of their being nothing less than a continuation of the recorded transactions of a society enjoying an uninterrupted existence;—and as it may reasonably be taken for granted that there were alive in 1642 craftsmen cognizant of the position assigned by statute

of 1598 to the lodge meeting in Kilwinning, is it at all likely that an upstart lodge would, without challenge, have been permitted to assume the name and exercise the functions belonging to a lodge of such repute as that of the "heid and second ludge" in the realm, and quietly to settle down upon the honours of an antiquity not their own? Again; the extinction of the lodge recognised in 1598 as the original Lodge of Kilwinning, and the occupation of their place by another, are events which could scarcely have transpired during the lapse of the first forty years of the 17th century without a record or tradition of the same being preserved by some portion of the Craft; and it is well known that no record of such an event has ever yet been discovered, nor is there the slightest ground for supposing that any such evidence exists. We have ever been taught to venerate the existing Lodge of Kilwinning as the fountain-head of Scottish Masonry, and until it be shown by evidence more convincing than to our mind has yet been produced, that their traditionary antiquity as the first established Scottish lodge of Craft Masons is a myth, we cannot do otherwise than accord to them the honourable pre-eminence of being the Mother Lodge of Scotland.

So long as Mother Kilwinning's position in Grand Lodge remained open to adjustment they rendered an apparent allegiance to the elected head; but whenever they found themselves permanently placed in a secondary rank, they withdrew from the newly-formed Masonic confederacy, and for well-nigh seventy years continued to exist as an independent Grand Body, dividing with the Edinburgh Grand Lodge the honour of forming branches in this country, as well as in our North American colonies and other parts of the British possessions. This rivalry did not, however, disturb the fraternal relations subsisting between the brethren of both constitutions: indeed, so far from this being the case, we find members of Grand Lodge itself petitioning for admission as affiliated sons into the Kilwinning Lodge. Here is one such petition, copied from the original:—

"Unto the Worshipfull Claud Thomson, Deputy Master; Robert Gemell and John Cuninghame, Wardens; James Haddo, Secretary; and the Remnant Members of the Antient and Honourable The Mother Lodge of Kilwinning.

"The Petition of Alexander Espline, presently one of the Grand Stewards of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and Patk. Bowie, Master of the Stewards of St. David's Lodge at Edinr., a *legitimate Daughter of Mother Kilwinning*:

"Humbly Sheweth, that your petitioners, fired with the highest esteem for our mother Lodge, and being occasionally in this country, have come to Kilwinning that they might have the honour of seeing some of the Bretheren of That Lodge; and having the most Sincere regard for it, if consistent with the amiable Rules of the Lodge, do in the most earnest manner entreat the favour of being admitted members of Our Mother Lodge of Kilwinning.

"May it therefore please the Worshipfull Deputy Master to Appoint such of the Bretheren as he Shall Judge proper to take Tryall of our knowlege in

massonry; and if found Qualified, to Admit us members of Kilwinning Lodge, upon paying the usual dues; and your Petitioners Shall ever pray.

"ALEX. ESPLIN.

"PATR. BOWIE.

"Kilwinning, May 8th, 1758.

"Direct the answer to Patr. Bowie or Alex. Espline, Merchts. in Edinbro.; and if you Send In a Description or pattern of the ribbons of your Lodge, and what quantity will be necessary, P. Bowie will do him self the Honour to make a Set of New Ribbons to the Mother Lodge.

"P. BOWIE."

On the presentation of their petition, Bros. Esplin and Bowie underwent an examination conducted by a committee of the brethren, and having been "found qualified Masons, accepted, and cunning in the craft," were "ordained and admitted members of this The Mother Lodge." Twelve months afterwards the Lodge order "a Letter of Thanks to be written to them for their very handsome present of ribbons for the jewels of The Mother Lodge." Previous as well as subsequent minutes record many other instances of the most fraternal intercourse taking place between the sons of Grand Lodge and those of Mother Kilwinning. The Canongate, Leith, Glasgow, Torphichen, Ayr, Kilmarnock (lodges originally sprung from Kilwinning), with the Journeyman, St. Luke, St. James, Roman Eagle (of Edinburgh), Argyle of Glasgow, and others holding of the Grand Lodge, are named in connection with brethren visiting Kilwinning for the purpose of being admitted as *matriculated* members of the Mother Lodge; besides which we find the Lodge Canongate, a year after the Kilwinning Fraternity had parted company with Grand Lodge, sending to "our Mother Lodge" a "dutiful and affectionate letter," to which the Master was directed "to make a proper return."

And as if to reciprocate the true Masonic spirit animating the craftsmen of Kilwinning in extending the grip fraternal to, and adopting as sons, brethren hailing from lodges holding of Edinburgh, the Grand Lodge consent in 1759 to the occupation of the throne in the Grand East by Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, an ex-Grand Master of Mother Kilwinning; in 1786 a matriculated member of the same ancient lodge (Rev. James Wright, of Maybole), as Grand Chaplain, preaches before Grand Lodge, as he had done twenty years previously in presence of the Lodge of Kilwinning; and during the years 1797-8 another son of Mother Kilwinning (the Earl of Crawford) holds the post of Depute Grand Master of Scotland.

Circumstances such as these could not but strengthen the friendly intercourse subsisting between the members of the two Masonic Grand Bodies then existing in Scotland; and with the exception of an occasional ebullition of a somewhat intolerant spirit on the part of stray adherents of the Grand Lodge, these amicable relations continued until the long and earnestly desired abdication of Mother Kilwinning placed the Scottish fraternity under one supreme head. We shall instance only one of the unseemly fracas we have hinted at. In the summer of 1807, there being a public procession of Freemasons in the town of Greenock, the Lodge Greenock Mountstewart Kilwinning, No. 70 on the

roll of Kilwinning Lodges, were brought into collision with Lodge No. 234 (holding of Grand Lodge) claiming the precedence of the former, who urged that "as being the oldest and most respectable" lodge they had a right of precedence over No. 234. On behalf of the lodge demurring to this claim, it was stated that, as holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, they were entitled to the position claimed, and that "according to the laws of the mother lodge they were bound, not only to have no communication with the Kilwinning Lodges, but they were not even to acknowledge them as Masons." The dispute having assumed rather a serious aspect, the magistrates of Greenock, who were on the ground, interfered, deciding in favour of the Greenock Mountstewart, which lodge, with Bro. Geo. Blair at their head, thereupon took up the desired position, and, by their dignified Masonic bearing in the after proceedings of the day, fully supported the honour of their venerable mother.

While the appointment of the clerk of the lodge was anciently vested in the hands of the Deacon and Warden, these officials themselves held their Masonic position from year to year by the suffrages of their brethren—the election taking place in open lodge, in which apprentices equally with masters and journeymen had the right to vote; and that the democratic principle might even be more fully developed in the choice of the lodge's officials, the Kilwinning brethren in 1704, as has already been shown, abrogated the statute which gave to the two principal office-bearers the patronage of the Secretaryship of the lodge, and inaugurated the new law by electing their clerk. A short time afterwards we find the lodge on one occasion unanimously waiving this right in favour of the Master, who consequently for that year made choice of his own Secretary. These apparently trifling inroads upon the rights of the members paved the way to greater, for in 1740 the Master is found ratifying the election of office-bearers, a list of those nominated by the lodge having previously been submitted for his approval; and of the immediately succeeding annual election, the lodge, after making choice of the Earl of Kilmarnock as their Master, are quietly ignored by his lordship's depute *appointing* the remaining office-bearers:—

"The twentieth of December, which have been for ever observed when a lawful day in this lodge as the anniversary of a new Master's election, falling on Sunday, the lodge was convocate upon Monday, the 21st (1741), when Robert Mollison, Esq., our Right Worshipfull Master, having opened the lodge and taken the chair, he proposed for his successor the Right Honourable William, Earl of Kilmarnock. This nomination being unanimously approved of by all the brethren present, our late Worshipfull produced a letter from the said noble Earl signifying his acceptance and appointing him Deputy Master for the year ensuing, *with power to choose the several officers of the lodge*, and do every other thing competent with the said office in absence of the Master elect. . . .

"In consequence of which authority our late Right Worshipfull continued in the chair, and appointed Thos. Boyd, Esq., of Piteon, and Mr. Alexander Ferguson, Minister of the Gospel at Kilwinning, Senior and Junior Wardens; David Blair, Esq., of Giffordland, Secretary; James Cunningham, Esq., of

Culleland, and Charles Campbell, Officer of Excise, Saltcoats, Stewarts; and continued John Allison to be Waiting Officer upon the lodge. After passing and raising Bro. Archibald Stewart in a proper lodge, and distributing the usual charity to the distressed, the Deputy Master signified to the Right Worshipfull, by a letter, the gratefull sense the lodge had of his Lordship's acceptance, which would so eminently tend to the good of Masonry in general, and the advantage of this Lodge in particular, and requested to know when his Lordship would be waited upon by a select committee appointed for that purpose, to receive their compliments of congratulation in the chair. . . .

"The Right Worshipfull Master having appointed Wednesday, the 20th January, 1742, for meeting the brethren, the committee were regularly convened, when the Right Honourable William, Earl of Kilmarnock, was installed, proclaimed, and acknowledged Right Worshipfull Master for the year ensuing, and after taking the Chair, and opening the Lodge, he admitted the Right Honourable Alexander, Earl of Eglintone, an apprentice, and James Harper, his Lordship's gentleman; and by the unanimous consent of the Lodge, the said Earl of Eglintone was passed and raised, and . . . obliges himself by subscription hereto annexed, to abide by the rules of the Lodge. . . .

"At Kilwinning, the 20th December, 1742: Our late Right Worshipfull Master, the Earl of Kilmarnock, being this year elected Grand Master of Scotland, was necessarily absent at Edinburgh; on that account it was therefore moved that the Lodge should proceed to the election of a new Master, and they unanimously agreed upon the Right Honourable Alexander, Earl of Eglintone, who was proclaimed and acknowledged accordingly, and the *Honourable* Archibald Montgomery, *Esqr.*, his brother, Deputy Master."

The irregularities observed by the Kilwinning Lodge in the appointment of their office bearers is further exhibited by their subsequent election of a Master *for life*, as recorded in the minute of 20th December, 1778:—"The brethren present, in consideration of the family of Eglinton being often friendly in protecting and countenancing the ancient Mother Lodge, and that the present Earl of Eglinton in particular has been long a member of this lodge and often shown his attachment to it, and his inclination to promote the interests of the lodge in particular and Masonry in general,—and that he lately presented the lodge with a steddin for building a new lodge upon, for a trifling quit-rent in name of tack-duty,—Therefore, *in hopes of his further countenance*, and in gratitude for his past favours, they have come to the resolution of electing, and they do unanimously elect, Archibald Earl of Eglinton to be Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Mother Lodge for life."

The noblemen and brother receiving such a mark of the brethren's gratitude and esteem is one of the distinguished Masons represented in Bro. Stewart Watson's celebrated picture of "The Inauguration of Robert Burns as Poet-Laureate of the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge." As the Hon. Archibald Montgomery, he was in 1742 initiated in Mother Kilwinning, acted for several years as the Depute Grand Master of that lodge, and on one or two occasions was elected to the Grand Mastership. He was an

early patron of the Burns, and marked his appreciation of the Poet's genius by subscribing for a very large number of copies of the second edition of his works. As an officer of a regiment of Highlanders he saw much severe service in America during the war that terminated in 1763, and rose gradually through the various ranks till he attained the rank of a general in the army. The following anecdote is related of him:—On his return from the wars, he was pressed by his mother to recount 'the dangers he had passed' and sufferings he endured: he replied that the chief endurance was from the sting of the vegetable nettle and the animal muskito on his kilted houchs." He died on the 30th October, 1796.

Progressing with the times, the obtaining of an "Ensign" for the Mother Lodge, necessitates the appointment in 1755 of a "Standard-bearer:" the three "Waiting Officers" of the lodge being in 1764 to be designated "Tylers;" "Honorary Members" are introduced in 1766; the "Treasurer" makes his appearance in 1779; followed in 1810 by the "Chaplain;" but not till 1850 does Mother Kilwinning avail herself of the services of the mystic messengers which modern Masons designate by the name anciently applied to the chief ruler in lodges of the Scottish Craft.

In 1767 the fees for admission are raised to the maximum amount at which they stood during the whole remaining period of Mother Kilwinning's independence: "It is this night enacted that in future every apprentice who is a real working Mason with stone and lime, shall pay into the Box at his entry 7s. 6d.; every Wright and Squareman, 10s.; and every gentleman Mason, one guinea."

On the office of Secretary becoming finally disjoined from that of Warden, the lodge in 1740 procured from Edinburgh, at an expense of 8s. 4d., a jewel to be worn by their scribe; and with this incidental notice we may here correct an error into which we fell in saying that the jewels presented to Mother Kilwinning by Montgomerie of Bourtreehill in 1736 are those still worn by the three principal office-bearers. Now that Speculative Masonry, with its tinsel and trappings, had usurped the place of the old Craft Lodge of Kilwinning, the gentlemen forming the membership of the re-modelled society, elated with the flourishing condition of their lodge, and from a desire not to be behind in the ornamentation of their "pillars," agreed to replace the presentation jewels, of which we have spoken, by a set of a more modern and costly description. Accordingly these were procured from Edinburgh, £6 9s. being paid for them; and, with a questionable sort of economy, the brethren are, during the following year (1769) found deliberately disposing of their old jewels to their daughter of Riccarton for the sum of 39s. ! The only redeeming feature of the minute which notes the payment into the treasury of this shabbily acquired sum, is the announcement that on "the same day was taken out of the Box half-a-guinea as the price of a *Fidle from France* to Robert Gilmore's Blind Son." Thus showing that notwithstanding their parsimoniousness in selling the jewels gifted to the lodge by a former Grand Master, they yet possessed the "heart to feel" for the poor blind son of a brother, and that in voting him the price of a "*Fidle from France*"—thus furnishing him with the means of

enjoyment, and of earning his living as a village musician—they had regard to that benevolence which as the students of speculative Masonry they were taught to practice.

After the institution of Grand Lodge, so rapid was the growth of Mother Kilwinning that at the annual meeting of 1745 the propriety of erecting a hall for their special use was first broached; but not till Nov. '47 did the project meet with the formal approbation of the lodge, who, however, step by step, went very cautiously about the business.

"Convocated in *select* lodge, to consider the proposal to building a Large Hall, the members present were unanimously of opinion that a list should be made out of all the surviving members, and such gentlemen as have been made Massons in this lodge, and that a certain tax not exceeding the sum of , be laid upon each of such Brethren; at the same time not to limit their generosity, in case any of them choose to exceed this regulation: And that all Lodges who own this Lodge as their Mother be applied to for contributions."

Nothing further is heard of this scheme till 20th Dec., 1770, when, "The Brethren being unanimously convinced of the necessity of having a Lodge or House of their own to meet in, appoint a Committee for purchasing ground and contract for the building; and in order that they may have command of all their money, the same Committee is empowered to do diligence on the bills." Lord Eglintone's offer to let to the lodge, on a long tack, "his Court House of Kilwinning," which was described as "in a ruinous condition," diverted the brethren from their original intention; and in December, 1771, the lodge agreed to "write circular letters to all their Daughters for filial aid to repair or rebuild the said Court House." Another pause in these proceedings took place, and in the interval the death of their generous Grand Master, by the hand of a poacher whom his lordship had attempted to disarm, led to the abandonment of the proposal to rebuild the "Garnel." Subsequently, however, the offer of a 500 years' lease of the piece of ground upon which the building stood, with a gift of the old material of which it was composed was made to the lodge by the eleventh Earl, which offer being accepted, the demolition of the court-house was speedily accomplished; and upon its site was erected in 1779 the present hall, at a cost to the Mother Lodge of nearly £300—the payment of which not only exhausted their funds, but placed the lodge considerably in debt; so much so as to lead to the adoption of the resolution, "to retrench the charities considerably, on the account of the distress of the lodge, and to be continued till the funds are more flourishing."

Among the Daughter Lodges contributing of their means to aid the Mother Lodge in paying of the debt incurred in the building of the Freemasons' Hall at Kilwinning, appear the Canongate Kilwinning, Newmilns Kilwinning, Greenock Mountstuart Kilwinning, and High K. T. of Ireland Kilwinning, each of whom sent five guineas. The Greenock Mountstuart forwarded their subscription by the hand of their R. W. M., who along with the two brethren accompanying him, were treated in the lodge to the extent of 8s. 4d. worth of toddy. In ordinary circumstances, about the period alluded to, it was usual for the lodge to en-

tain brethren coming from a distance to attend meetings of the Craft. Four visiting brethren from the Canongate and Torphichen are in 1765 treated by the lodge to a bottle of toddy each, and in some cases a bottle of porter is added to that allowance. The Lodge Canongate, when first applied to for their contribution towards the Kilwinning Hall, were "much embarrassed" with their own affairs. Nevertheless we find the Right Worshipful the Master of that lodge, under date April 27, 1780, thus addressing the Master of the Mother Lodge:—" . . . I with pleasure acquaint you, R. W., that the Lodge of C. Kil. are well disposed to give you what assistance is in their power. . . . St. John's Chapel, our lodge, has cost us a deal of money—not less, as I am informed, with the different repairs, and including an excellent organ, than £1400, which has prevented us having any cash in hand, and depriving us of the pleasure of assisting you in the manner we wish. . . .

We will send our mite as soon as we can." We select a few sentences from the reply which the Secretary of Mother Kilwinning sent to Bro. Dr. Nathaniel Spens' very fraternal letter:—" . . . Permit me, Rt. Worshipful, in name of my constituents and brethren, to return our affectionate thanks for the attention you have been pleased to show for our undertaking, and your desire to promote a fund for so venerable an object as rearing an edifice for an assembly to the Mother's sons, and to perpetuate the memory of a Matron whose offspring has extended over Europe and America, and diffused a light, and boundless circle of charity to the indigent and distressed. . . . While we rank the Cann. Kilwinning Lodge an Honourable Daughter of the Mot. Kil. Lodge, it reflects the highest mark of her gratitude and affection to the aged Matron, and binds us in indissoluble ties to pray for prosperity, unanimity, and harmony to the Can. Kil. Lodge."

We have already shown the West Kilbride Lodge to have received a charter from Kilwinning within two years after the formation of Grand Lodge. The next recorded charter is that issued in 1746 to a number of "Gentlemen Masons" at Port Glasgow, erected into a lodge under the name of "Cumberland Kilwinning;" and in February of the same year the "Working Masons" in Loudoun obtained a charter for the Lodge "Loudoun Newmilns Kilwinning." These were succeeded by many others, a list of which we shall give in our next communication.

Notwithstanding the numerous charters issued by the Mother Lodge, it is not till 1777 that the brethren, desiderating the want of a Seal wherewith to stamp their charters and other official documents, "unanimously agree that there shall be cut into a Seal, consisting of the *Masons Arms*, for the public benefite of sealing Charters granted by the Lodge of Kilwinning to any other bodie, to be incorporated by virtue of their authority, or any other paper extracted from said lodge."

Two years elapsed before the Mother Lodge accomplished their intention in regard to the procuring of a lodge seal. Under date Oct. 17, 1779, the following entry occurs:—

"Having this day received by the hands of Rob. Laughland, Secretary, a very fine Masonic Seal, engraved in silver, now deposited in our box, and to be used for the sealing of charters, diplomas, and other

writings that regard the Mother Lodge—the cost of the seal, and expenses of obtaining a charter, very finely written, and embellished (with the first impression of the seal appended), for the High Knight Templars of Ireland Kilwinning Lodge, being 6 pound stg., for which the Society stands indebted to Bro. James Haddow, . . . it is resolved and appointed that all charters granted by this our Mother Lodge, in future, may have our seal appended; and that One Pound, 11s. 6d. be charged as charter fee, as has been done with the H.K.T. of Mother Kilwinning Lodge; and for each Diploma granted to *Gentlemen Masons* 5s. to be paid to the Box, and 2s. 6d. for each Operative Mason, reserving privilege for the lodge to compliment any brother they find worthy with a diploma, with the seal appended, as a mark of honorary distinction and your esteem.”

We now present a fac-simile of what is supposed to be the first and only seal of the Mother Lodge—referring the reader to one of the letters embraced in this communication for a description of it.



That the Royal Arch and Knights Templar degrees should have been conferred in virtue of a charter issued by Mother Kilwinning may seem less strange when it is considered that, towards the end of the last century, a similar practice obtained among lodges holding of Grand Lodge of Scotland, to such an extent as to cause that body to interpose their authority to prevent the continuance of that practice as being contrary to the constitution of a body recognising none other than the three Craft degrees of St. John's Masonry. But the fact that the charter granted by the Lodge of Kilwinning in 1779 to certain brethren in Dublin—possession of which in 1838 entitled the office-bearers and members under it to be recognised as Knights Templar—should, as “the oldest K.T. warrant in Ireland,” be reckoned worthy of preservation in the archives of the Grand Conclave of High Knights Templar of Ireland, does in this respect really distinguish it above all other Blue charters emanating from Scotland. The petitioners for the charter in question appear to have been introduced to the Kilwinning Fraternity by Dr. Augustus Cunningham, a member and ex-warden of the Mother Lodge—the brother who in 1765 presented to the lodge “a beautiful embroidered apron” to be worn by their Grand Master, and for which he received the thanks of the lodge. A perusal of the three following letters

may suggest the motives by which the Dublin brethren were actuated in ignoring the Grand Lodge of Ireland, within whose legitimate Masonic jurisdiction their residence undoubtedly placed them. Indeed the purport of Bro. Rainford's letter strengthens the presumption that his co-petitioners in their desire in the first instance to be commissioned as a “Provincial or Deputy” contemplated the assumption of the prerogatives of a Supreme Body; and this it is asserted they ultimately did—in which act some brethren who have devoted considerable attention to the subject, recognise the establishment of the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland.

Dr. Cunningham, in transmitting to Scotland the documents connected with the application for the charter to the Dublin brethren, thus addressed his friend Bro. Arthur of Irvine, by whom the petition, &c., were laid before the Kilwinning Lodge:—

“DEAR SIR,—I send to your care the two inclosed letters, being strongly solicited by a very respectable and worthy sett of Bretherin, who, several years ago, formed themselves into a lodge, by the name of the High Knights' Templars, as every lodge in this city is known by some particular denomination. Upon finding I was a member of our ancient Mother Lodge Kilwinning, they told me they had long been desirous of holding their Origin and a Charter from Kilwinning, as they had always heard and lookt upon it to be the real and only Antient Lodge, at least in Britain.

“They therefore wish that through my application they may obtain there inclosed request, and they promise me, upon the word of Bretherin, to put into my hands *five Guineas*, over and above all expenses, upon there receiveing said Charter, and which I, upon the faith of a brother, will transmit to Scotland for the use of the Kilwinning Lodge. If the request is granted, may I desire of you as a brother, that you will take care to have it done in as Elegant and Handsome manner as possible, and properly signed by Our Grand Master and Wardens, &c.

“I think if our Brother Haddow, in Edinr., was applied to, he would gett it done in the best manner, with a proper Seale appended thereto. You will see I am anxious to have every honour done to the lodge, as well as to my Scotch Bretherin.

“Mr. Rainsford's letter wishes only that in case that any other lodge, knowing that this one holds of Kilwinning, and application coming from this place, or from Ireland—as many of the members of this may fix in different parts of this kingdom—this lodge may have the honour of applying to you for any future Charters, for which they will at all times be answerable for payment to Kilwinning for said Charter.

“I am, respectfull, Dear Sir, your sincere friend and afeconate Brother,

“GEO. AUGT. CUNNINGHAM.

“Dublin, Aprl. 26, 1779.

“P.S.—I have left the Letter of Application unaddressed, as delivered to me, and open for your parusal, as I was at a loss to know how was your Grand Master or Wardens, or whome to address it to.

“Excuse this Trouble.

“G. A. C.”

Bro. Rainsford to Bro. Dr. Cunningham:—

“SIR & BROT.,—I take the Liberty of at length enclosing to you our Letter to the Lodge of Kilwinning, which a particular hurry prevented my doing

earlier. It is unaddress'd, as I was ignorant to whom to direct it, therefore left that with the rest to your friendly care. I have no doubt of succeeding thro' your exertion, but shall be glad to obtain along with it a copy (if there is any) of their Code of Regulations, & an account of their Records & Establishment, if not too much trouble; and shall only add that if it could be done in such a manner as to Establish us Provincial or Deputy to them without hurting the Mother Lodge, it would make us all very happy; if it Cannot, at all events have the Charter; but from my conversation with you, I have every reason to hope everything that can be done will be by your interposition, which will ever be most gratefully acknowledged by us all. In the Name of the Body, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

"Your much obliged,

"Humble Servt. & Brother,

"WILLM. RAINSFORD.

"Sth April, 1779."

Petition alluded to in the preceding letter:—

"BRETHREN,—Studious to follow Free Masonry on the justest principles of the Ancient Craft, and willing to derive an Authority from the first Source, a Regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, held in Dublin, have been long desirous to obtain a Character from their Esteemed Brethren, the Ancient Lodge of Kilwinning, as they are fully satisfied of their just title of Primogeniture. Anxiously soliciting after the Attainment of this much deserved Object, but at a loss to whom to turn for advice, or where to apply, they count it a fortunate Æra, their meeting with their much beloved Brother George Cunningham, Esq, whose friendship has pointed out a Clue to lead them out of their Labyrinth of Doubt. Under his auspices, therefore, they apply for a Charter from you, to Hold a Lodge, to be called The High Knight Templars Lodge of Ireland, and hope ever to walk worthy of their Vocation, and the high Favour you will Confer on them by granting it.

"We remain with the greatest Respect, wishing you the Salutation of Peace, Love, and Harmony, Your truly Affectre. Brethren,

"HENRY WHEELER, Master.

"PETER GRANT, Senr. Wdn.

"ROBT. COLVILLE, Jun. W.

"RICHD. GAUDRY, Secy.

"Dublin, April, 1779."

(To be continued.)

IS TASTE AN EXPENSIVE INDULGENCE?

In a recent Parliamentary debate it was stated by a high personage, "that the indulgence of taste proved very expensive," and this caused some merriment from those who unthinkingly concurred.

But it may be well, in these days of art museums, of schools of design, and of truthful work, to consider briefly whether this is borne out by facts, and whether it be not something besides taste that costs so much. This abused quality seems in places to be quite misunderstood; and it appears to be thought that taste and extravagance are synonymous terms; an exercise of the one being carried out only by an unlimited supply of the other.

Now, as the subject under discussion was a matter of building, it will be right to consider it with reference to that, in the first place.

Buildings cost more or less as they are large or small, substantially constructed, or otherwise, and if plain or enriched; and herein lie so many points of taste.

The value of a building is computed, not merely from its original cost, but from its substantial condition, or otherwise, after some years of wear and tear, and is raised or reduced accordingly. So the taste of the person who builds is exercised, in the first instance, by having it well or ill built, and taking measures accordingly, by the employment or not of proper advisers in the matter, and paying an adequate amount for the work.

It is exercised again by the condition of the design, by its beauty or faultiness, and its fitness for the proposed erection, for its consistency and unity.

Further, it is exercised by the elaborations in the form of structural and superposed decorations which are intended to give *éclat* to the whole thing.

Now, be it observed, that the design, the structure, and its decorations form three points of necessity: we must have all three to make one building complete; and unless true taste be exercised in every part, and under all circumstances, it will prove to be a very dear building indeed. If badly designed, ill built, and vilely "decorated," it will be a perpetual discomfort, and entail an endless expense in repair, alterations, and improvement; while, if taste have been exercised, it will form almost a sacred protection to it, and elicit expressions of continuous enjoyment and satisfaction, while outlay for improvement will not be needed at all.

If we look to the old buildings, both sacred and secular, which now rear their heads amongst us, perhaps not so complete and entire as when first erected, but in which, if there be only ruin or the mutilation left by the fanatic, there will yet be perceptible the presence of taste—of regard for consistency and the elements of beauty and strength of which the present day is more regardful. And these remains—these bold, plain stones and oaken rafters, parts of the structural necessity itself—would not have cost less had they been shaped in any other way, which would have equally suited the purpose of their position and use; and the moulded edges, sculptured bosses, and enriched details which meet the eye at every turn, they are joys for ever as things of true beauty, which no doubt delighted those in whose generation they were built, and now serve as examples and guides in this distant day of their existence; when, if left only to time, many of them would have still retained much of their original freshness and perfection. But the hand of man has been laid on with violence, thus hastening their disruption and ruin. Thus the point of substantiality is vindicated; and it may here be asked, How many of our present buildings will last 500, 300, or 200 years? Do contracts, competitions, and speculation aid the cause of really cheap and effectual building? This may be well doubted, seeing the method of construction in ordinary use in the present day.

On the other hand, some really fine structures have been and are in course of rearing, which will do honour to their projectors now and for many years hence, from the simple reason that, having exercised in them the threefold taste, all will honour them; and indeed every one feels, from reasons perhaps which he cannot explain, that he is bound to give his assistance in upholding such desirable works, which, perhaps, have afforded him only a gratification of the eye in passing.

But if, on the contrary, an outrage be perpetrated upon even ordinary taste, its removal and destruction are universally acquiesced in.

Taste in building may be said to be the most perfect adaptation of the means to the end; the best expenditure of money

for a certain purpose; an eye to the whole before the work is commenced; and a rigid attention to the execution of the work during its progress.

Taste does not consist in extravagant outlay for an insignificant purpose; in covering up bad work with a tinsel clothing; or bedizening a structure with an elaborate superficial oration to the neglect of important structural conditions.

If a building be required for a palpably small sum, there are of course certain matters and purposes to be provided for, as in the most costly edifices;—strengths here, piers and voids there, as is usual. It is in the artistic disposition of these and other necessary matters that the "taste" will consist and evince itself. And it is well known that when a form has to be many times multiplied, that very fact reduces the cost of its production very considerably; so that "things of beauty" may meet the eye even for small sums, and so render the parts and the whole of our large buildings tasteful in an eminent degree without being expensive. But if, on the other hand, something very egregious be attempted at one part to the sacrifice of others of equal importance, which are left crude in consequence of the cost of one monstrosity, then taste is not displayed. It is mere expenditure without satisfactory result or return.

Taste is even more shown in a consistent plainness altogether than in an ornate group with accessories of the barest and commonest character surrounding it, serving to make the bare appear worse, and the ornate ridiculous.

In another case, however, there may be a worthy object to be attained, and an adequate sum wherewith to accomplish it. Here the exercise of taste has another phase: all substantial parts are sure to be provided for, and then the enriched portions will have the attention and require the exercise of suitable taste. For, however meagre or elaborate adornments may be, they must accord with the general purpose and style of the building, and serve to enhance its beauty.

Taste will first be exhibited in the fitness of the structure, and then in the enrichment, as it were, of that fitness; and an outlay for this is entirely legitimate when it can be well afforded.

There can be no question, and it should be well remembered, that the first cost is the cheapest, and is the best investment of money in building.

Low-cost building is a great bane. There is quite a thirst amongst a certain class for big buildings for little sums; and, alas! contractors are found who favour this mania by tendering and showing themselves a good deal lower than angels by undertaking to erect them; the small figures in the tender frequently swelling into large ones in the balance-sheet of bankruptcy,—a conclusion unsatisfactory to the builder, and not likely to lead to pleasant reflections in the possessor of such underpaid magnificence.

Taste, again, is shown in proper pay for good work; but in its most popular sense, it may be taken to mean,—show, appearance, decoration, spending a large sum of money; and here, for "taste," might certainly be read "extravagance." True taste, however, is generally profitable, like all good things, and its appreciation grows larger day by day.

Turn we from the actual building to the adornments—those articles of *vertu*, fine pictures, peculiar china, glass, or metal work, the life-like statuary—those things which etherealise an earthly tenement to those which have an appreciative taste. True, each and every one of these may have cost a large sum of money; but it does not require much research to discover that the purchase of such things is a very excellent investment. They are as good, or better than gold, as their value for the most part increases with years; and if a collection of a well-

known judge be to be sold, what a rush do we find to the auction-room! what eagerness at the biddings, what premiums are paid upon the original cost, and what handsome sums do we find realised almost daily by their disposal in this manner! What a fine legacy a few dusty bronzes, antique cups, or some small squares of canvas may turn out to be, if converted into cash, as many persons can testify?

Therefore, an indulgence in taste in the higher arts is not expensive when the word is misread as wasteful and useless; but is the acquirement of valuable "portable property" and heir-looms, which gladden the eye while they profit the pocket, an outlay which, for the most part, returns to the possessor in a few years with adequate money interest, if so desired.

And surely, apart from profit, even the gratification of the eye with objects of true taste is no small matter, but one which should be allowed some scope: although it is not at all admitted that a tasteful building or article need cost more money, or so much, as one utterly devoid of taste and consistency, where real extravagance is developed and allowed to run riot, either in unscientific construction, defective styler characteristics, in meretricious decoration, or in impurity of form and inconvenience of arrangement.

A display of real taste is frequently a negative exhibition, the simplicity of outline and purity of form being amply sufficient to delight the senses; as "beauty unadorned" is beauty still, untrammelled by excrecent addenda, which deform while they add to the cost; the composition possessing a *bizarre* appearance wherein beauty is hidden, and consequently no rest or satisfaction is afforded to the eye.

The adornment of perfect beauty, then, is waste; and if a building or work of art is to be profusely decorated, it should only be judged when completed, when its clothing, robes, and jewels are set about it. Before this it is a mere carcase, a framework to receive that which is to constitute its chief excellence, to make it presentable to the eye of taste by beauty of figure.

The skeleton of the human form divine may possess all the structural elements necessary to the various uses to which it is to be applied, but it is in the muscular development and surface-carving that we discern the finished beauty which is acceptable to the general eye, which is now getting very critical and wakeful in art matters. It therefore behoves those having the appointment of placing objects before it so truly to study the form, proportion, and uses before doing so, that they shall exhibit a superior order of knowledge of taste in their works, so as to be truly leaders, and not pretenders, who do much harm and are blind guides.

An exercise of taste proper may, therefore, be fearlessly indulged in by those who understand it and are well advised, whether it be in a building or in its fittings, in works of art, or in any matter of composition where the educated eye is to be consulted in connection with the cost.

True form is one great item, and simple forms are mostly tasteful; much mischief is done by overloading with decoration; the *ensemble* is not pleasing, it may strike the eye by its pomposity, its many parts and colours may bewilder, but of repose there is none. It is trickiness from ground to roof, from end to end; patchy, gaudy, but oh! so costly, so much labour and material consumed; the only satisfaction being that it did cost so much, which is a common answer of many persons.

Meretricious designs must be one of two things;—exceedingly paltry, from its bareness and impurity, its inartistic form and arrangement; or very gaudy, from the defective form being required to be wrought over with something very glaring, to take off the attention, and cover the multitude of sins underlying the coat of many shapes and colours; appealing to a sense of vulgar importance without innate or inherent modest intrinsic merit of any kind. While taste, on the contrary, may be shown to impart true and lasting pleasure at the least possible sacrifice of money value. Beautiful objects may be produced, or a building may be erected having a high standard of excellence.

The secret of this, however, may lie in its simplicity, entirety, and fitness, without extraneous parasitical oration. It is the whole truth and nothing but the truth, which no one can gain-say. But it may cause exclamation,—How could there be so much excellence for so little money? Why, indeed? Because tasteful judgment had been exercised from beginning to end.

Therefore it may be fearlessly asserted that an indulgence in taste is not a wasteful expenditure of cash, but a source of true and refined pleasure. A general cultivation of this, too, is a national advantage; encouraging, as it does, a higher class of artisans, and elevating the ideas of the people generally, not only in matters of art, but in every branch of social economy; all catching gleams of the sunshine of refinement, by which dark places of ignorance are lighted up, showing them in all their tawdry hideousness, and leading to their abandonment, in favour of ways and pursuits resulting from better information, of which there is still plenty of need, and for which there is ample scope without fear of over education.

An indulgence in true taste, therefore, may be said to be a safe investment of capital.

“THOMAS GOODCHILD,” in the *Builder*.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

O.B. OF MASTERS OF SCOTTISH LODGES.

Many Scottish Masons look upon the installation ceremony as a useless modern innovation; hence a great proportion of lodges neglect to instal their Office-bearers. By Grand Lodge laws, the R.W.M. Depute Master and Substitute Master are bound at their installation to take the following O.B.:—“I —, in the presence of the G.A.O.T.U., do solemnly promise to perform the duties of the office of Master (or Depute Master, or Substitute Master, as the case may be), faithfully, zealously, and impartially, to the best of my ability, during the ensuing twelve months, unless a successor shall have been previously appointed and installed in my stead. That while in the chair I will not permit or suffer any deviation from the ancient customs and landmarks of the Order, recognised by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, nor administer, or cause to be administered, any ceremony contrary to, or subversive of, our Constitutions. That I will maintain pure and unsullied the genuine tenets of the Order. That I will observe, and as far as lies in my power, strictly enforce, those charges and regulations to which I have now given my assent, and otherwise conscientiously perform my duty as Master of the Craft. So help me God.” An oath of similar importance is also administered to the Wardens and the other Office-bearers, the whole ceremony of installation being performed in a “just and perfect lodge, opened in the Apprentice Degree.”
—D. MURRAY LYON.

ORNAN'S THRESHING FLOOR.

I have heard a song sung by some of our Irish brethren. I think the title of it is “Ornan's Threshing Floor.” Can any of your correspondents across the Channel supply the words of the song.—I. N. C. N. C. (Glasgow).

THE COUNT CAGLIOSTRO.

In answer to the inquiry of a brother at Cambridge, it is the once notorious Count Cagliostro who was tried at Rome and condemned to death for being a Freemason. The sentence bears date April 7, 1791. There was a commutation of the punishment to perpetual imprisonment. A report of the trial was published officially. According to my memorandum, it professes to give an account of the principles of the Freemasons. The book is extremely rare, and has never come in my way. The authority for my memorandum I have entirely forgotten.
—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

IS FREEMASONRY THE SAME EVERYWHERE?

We are often told that Freemasonry is the same everywhere. Is this the fact?—B. C.—[Yes, in some cases. The brethren all over the world have a great love to see

themselves in print, and everywhere there is an immense amount of twaddle printed, in the shape of speeches about Freemasonry.]

PROFESSOR BUHLE ON FREEMASONRY.

Where are Professor Buhle's remarks on Freemasonry to be found?—R. B. 25.—[In eight large folio volumes. See also a series of articles on “Ancient Writers and Modern Practices,” in the 4th vol. of *THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE*, 1858.]

THE LETTER G.

Wanted, some further explanation of the letter G than that afforded by the lectures. Where can I get it?—T. T.—[See *Ashe's Masonic Manual*, “On the letter G, and Relation existing between Geometry and the Masonic Institution,” which will be found under Argument xii., p. 125 of the old edition, 1825.]

HIGH PRIESTHOOD.

“B***” has to thank several brethren for their replies to him in a recent number. May he venture to ask for further information on the subject? If so, he would be glad to know who was the founder of the degree, and if it is not American, compiled from the rite of the “Initiated Brothers of Asia,” which took its rise at Berlin, in 1780, and about which two pamphlets appeared, also at Berlin, in 1787, which are noticed as numbers 225 and 226 of Thory's “Catalogue.” “B***” of course, is not a High Priest, and has no intention of incurring the penalty for passing himself off as such, but simply seeks knowledge as far as it may be legally communicated to him, and for which he would be thankful.—B***.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

“FREEMASONRY A LUXURY.”

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—For some time past your pages have been filled by correspondents, who have endeavoured to prove the universality of Freemasonry, and show that there is more in the Craft than a mere convivial society. At the last Grand Lodge, the Grand Registrar is reported to have quoted from the Duke of Sussex, as he stated, to the effect that “a Mason's lodge was a Mason's church.” Unorthodox as the sentiment is, from whatever quarter it comes, it may pass muster as the expression of one of the Grand Officer's opinions, particularly when he safely quotes a previous use of the dogma. But how it narrows the question no one seems to consider, for it makes Freemasonry a sect—and not a very brilliant sect, either—doing entirely away with all pretensions to purity of doctrine; for, if a church admits Christians, Jews, and any amount of free-thinkers as a portion of its disciples, its consistency must be of a most curious compound, and its tenets still more extraordinary.

Definitions of Freemasonry seem to be pretty rife just now, as the following extract from a report of the late meeting of the Boys' School, inserted in the *Daily Telegraph* of the 20th instant, shows. It there states that:—

“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.”

And so Bro. Udall believes Freemasonry to be a luxury! He ignores its benefits to mankind at large, and thinks

only of the material comforts it affords. This is a new view of the Craft—Udall's view—and he evidently wishes to propagate his ideas on the subject; for, with the very worst possible taste, this dictum appears in the *Daily Telegraph*, having the largest circulation of any paper, next the *Times*, for all the profane to take their cue, and gibe and sneer at "the luxury of Freemasonry," which no man ought to indulge in unless he had power to support it!

Bro. Udall is, of course, a Past Grand something or other, and with the peculiar acumen of Past Grand Officers, having had his full share of such honour as Freemasonry could give, begins to throw dirt at one of its most cherished precepts. In the lodge we are told all the brethren are equal; but it is evident, from Bro. Udall's view, that good, honest, upright and true men are not to indulge in it unless they have purses as long as Bro. Udall's! If the bad taste that prompted this public sneer at "honest poverty" had been confined to the pages of your periodical, which circulates among the Craft, it could have done but little or no harm; but when it is dispersed over the whole face of the land and read by every class of society, what can the uninitiated world think but that the whole Craft is a luxury, and that it is, or ought to be, reserved only for such epicurean spirits as Bro. Udall.

In the name of common sense, which seems very uncommon amongst Grand, and Past Grand, *nobodies*, let us not be branded as mere luxurious idlers who have nothing to care for beyond keeping the good things of this world amongst—not a chosen, but a purse-elected few, and whose duty should be to disseminate, rather than curtail, the numbers of those who may wish to enter the Order, although their business avocations may not have been so highly remunerative as Bro. Udall's.

Hoping you will use your potent authority to put an end to such false notions being published to the world, in such a reprehensible manner,

I remain, your obedient brother,
LUXURIE INIMICUS.

CAN A WARDEN INITIATE, &c.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—“Resurgam” writes, “In the year 1646 the learned antiquary Elias Ashmole was made a Mason, in Warrington, by the Wardens and Fellow Crafts;” and then continues, “in 1646 a Warden unquestionably could initiate.”

I ask, were there not at that period two Grand Lodges existing in England, with identical landmarks, but differently constituted? and did not the Union in 1813 place all the private lodges in England and Wales under one grand head, named “The United Grand Lodge of England?” and did not this United Grand Lodge of England, in 1815, put forth “regulations for the government of the Craft,” thereby “altering, repealing, and abrogating” all past regulations? The laws existing in 1646, 1682, and 1725 are not in authority now. Is “Resurgam” quite sure that the Warden of 1646, 1682, 1725, in the Athol or York Lodges, was the same officer as of the present day?

The word Warden has, I think, its ancient and its modern meaning. It is a Saxon word; and, in times long past, it was given to persons in whom was vested absolute authority. The division of the City of London into wards show this. Again, the chief officer of the Cinque Ports (at one time an almost kingly office) is called the Lord Warden; the governor of a prison is sometimes called the warden; the chiefs of some of the city companies are called wardens, prime warden, and master warden. In one English university the name of warden is given to the heads of some of the colleges; there is a Lord Warden of the Stanneries, and there was a Lord Warden of the Marches, all men of mark; all of which, I think, prove that the person called a warden, in the days of Elias Ashmole, had more significant and definite duties

and powers than are conferred on a Warden in a Freemasons' lodge in the present day, whose office is probationary.

In the “Book of Constitutions” (I have before me the edition of 1861) we have, from page 1 to 15, “The Charges of a Freemason.” These charges are commanded to be read on certain occasions, because upon them are formed the “Regulations for the Government of the Craft,” which follow on page 16; and these charges will give some insight in the working of ancient lodges, and I fail to find anything which will support the “Wardens' Rights,” as assumed by “Resurgam” in the seventh paragraph of his communication.

At page 6, chapter iv., the office of Warden is spoken of as a position of honour, but it is not said that the Warden can take an apprentice. That portion of the charge which relates to taking apprentices distinctly states, “Candidates may, nevertheless, know that no Master should take an apprentice unless he has sufficient employment for him.” Page 9, chapter v., “Where a Fellow Craftsman is chosen Warden of the work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the work in the Master's absence,” &c. Here is nothing about taking an apprentice, only as to “the Management of the Craft in Working,” *id est*, work already in hand; and in that sense only may a Warden rule a lodge at the present day.

“Resurgam” refers with great confidence to Rule 15, on page 23, and is amazed that this rule has been overlooked. It has not been overlooked by me, but carefully read. If “Resurgam” can prove from Rule 15 that a Warden can initiate, in like manner I could prove that an Entered Apprentice could initiate, as being done “in the absence of the Grand Master, or any superior officer, or member in such lodges.” But, in the first place, Rule 15 is an extension and supplement to Rule 14, which gives no warrant for a Warden to initiate; and in the second place, Rule 15, at page 24, concludes with these words, “Unless special provision is made to the contrary,” and special provision to the contrary is made by Rule 12, pages 62 and 80, “Of Proposing Members—Making, Passing, and Raising.”

“Resurgam” seems very anxious as to his right as a Warden only to sit in the Master's chair while ruling the lodge in the absence of his superior officer, and to regret that the “Book of Constitutions” will not assist him. He must rely upon his good taste and modesty in the matter. A Mason so inquiring and zealous as “Resurgam” (who, I think, will never be able to sign himself “Resurexi”) will be sure to become the Master of his lodge. But in the interim, if I were he, I would not dress myself in borrowed robes. I would patiently wait until I should have an undoubted claim to the position, and feel that no one could push me from my stool. I think it is an affair between him and his lodge, or a question for the Board of General Purposes.

Rule 16, page 24, declares, “The Grand Lodge alone has the inherent power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them, always taking care that the ancient landmarks of the Order be preserved.” I call upon the members of the Grand Lodge to take that care. Our duty is not to inquire what were the practices in 1646, 1682, 1725, or any period anterior to the “Solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Freemasons of England in December, 1813, but to transmit to our successors the ancient landmarks of the Order;” and “the laws and regulations for the government of the Craft” pure and unsullied as we have received them.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother, very fraternally yours,
WILLIAM BLACKBURN, P.M., Secretary
to Crystal Palace (742), member of
Dobie, Kingston (889), Prov. G.S.B.
Surrey.

Surbiton, S.W., Oct. 20, 1863.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—“In the year 1646, Elias Ashmole was made a Mason in Warrington, by the Warden and Fellow Crafts.” Does not the word “Warden” here mean the “Master?” the equivalent term for the latter at this period being “Deacon,” at Kilwinning.

Would “Resurgam” please point out his authority for saying that Ashmole was not made a F.C. until 1682. How does he know what degrees he received at Warrington? In the same paragraph in which we are assured Ashmole received his second degree in Grand Lodge, according to the old regulation, we are informed that the four old lodges retained their inherent rights of initiating, passing, and raising. It should be understood, once for all that, as an historian, Preston is no authority for anything. Any student of Masonry knows why Anderson adopted the style which Preston followed. I do not dispute at present his reconcilability of the before-mentioned, because I don't consider it yet proved that the operative Masonry of England and Scotland was one and the same in degree or object with our present speculative Masonry. I merely ask, how are they to be reconciled?

Comparison of the minutes of Edinburgh and Kilwinning lodges would show that a Master Mason was one who employed Fellows of Craft, and that there was no ceremony. F.C.'s are only mentioned at Warrington. Dermott, in detailing the origin of our present ceremony, mentions certain rusty Masons who had “passed the degree of a Craft.” Originally our two pillars both belonged to our first degree. An old catechism states,

“Q. An A.P. I presume you have been?

A. J. and B. I both have been;

A Master Mason I was made,” &c.

At Roslin and Melrose it was an apprentice who was slain by his master. A German catechism, printed in your pages some years ago, states that the “study of moral and honourable conduct” commenced when the Mason had faithfully completed his apprenticeship. At Kilwinning we find entering, receiving, and passing mentioned. Might not the entering be the ceremony detailed, and common to all operative lodges, and the receiving and passing the two principal degrees of what we call Craft Masonry.

However unwilling brethren with Craft predilections may be to admit it, I can myself see but one way out of the difficulties surrounding the subject. There can be no doubt of the antiquity of our ceremonies; were they not originally rather the accident than the rule of the operative lodges?

I trust “Ebor” understands that the strong terms I have occasionally used have been applied to the ignorant or else willful misrepresentations which, I am sorry to say, are constantly made, and not to an honest and impartial attempt to trace our ceremonies to the operative Masons.

I believe everything in England has been published respecting Masonry which we are likely to get; but such is not the case in Scotland, where there is the Melrose Lodge with books and papers for 300 years; and there is the original Latin charter of Malcolm at Glasgow. Would our Scottish brethren help us here? Let us get together all the information we can, and surely we have sufficient brethren who would help with their subscriptions to an honest, impartial history of Freemasonry, in place of the rubbish now passing as such.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

△.

MASONIC FOUNDATIONS.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Permit me to offer a few remarks on the occasion of Freemasons being employed in laying the foundation-stone of a new building dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, according to the rites of the Established Church.

Each Freemason has his own peculiar views of the manner in which the Great Beneficent Being should be addressed and worshipped—the salvation of the soul being a personal matter, thereby permitting a Jew, or a Chinaman to be present at any ceremony, whether for their own mode or for Christian worship. The intended structure, it must be borne in mind, is merely at its foundation—at the opening. None but those for whom it is intended are presumed eligible to attend, and to enter heartily into the services; the foundation-stone being merely the beginning of a structure which may be never finished. But when Freemasons are engaged they agree in one essential point, that the work has been begun in order; they invoke a blessing that it may be conducted in peace, and finished in harmony; God, or the Mighty Architect, forming the real ingredient in the principles of Masonry which permits and invites men of all creeds to assemble in concert for the innocent purpose of paying respect to whom respect is due. And who but a man of crooked temper or prejudiced views could object to such reasonable practices? Truth is at the basis of a Freemason's belief, Fidelity is the watchword, and Charity is the characteristic of a true Freemason's heart.

What a pity it is that men find fault with that of which they know nothing! What should we think of a reviewer who writes an opinion of a book which he has never read? or of one who decides an arbitration without hearing both sides of the question? And thus with Freemasonry. The bigot, in his religion, cannot understand how Jews, Turks, and Mahomedans associate with Christians of all denominations in peace and good-will, imitating in some little degree the liberality of Him who dispenses His goodness on all alike in giving air, and bread, and water, and life—or, like the Samaritan we read of, who, having found an enemy half dead, relieves him and takes care of him.

Not long ago, the writer of this letter was consulted by one very high in his spiritual office, whether I would not prefer a Freemason to any work over which I might be deputed—as if the spirit of Masonry sanctioned injustice! “Certainly not,” I replied, “if such preference was at the cost or risk of injuring a deserving man.” Why, let me here ask, should one man usurp dignity over his fellow-man in matters where conscience only can decide? Why should a bigot, in professing Christianity, object to the society and consultation of others differing from him merely in mode of worship, or government of class? I have, in my capacity as a Mason, associated with men of all nations, creed, and colour, and have heard, I hope in charity, differences of opinion expressed in great harmony.

When men take upon themselves to criticise partially, and to condemn wholly, one of the most ancient institutions in the world, we must not expect to find in their notions much liberality; and thus many clever professors—ignorant, may be, of the origin of many of their own emblems—ridicule those of Masonry. When sneers are cast at the “white kid gloves” of the “Craft,” and the aprons and sashes, and the jewels and banners, forgetting their origin, I repeat it betrays a want of that charity which is so strongly recommended.

As well might be derided the banns worn under the chin of a barrister or a Church clergyman, the scarf and the jewel of an Order, the academical degrees and collegiate costume; and when Freemasons are subjected, not only to laughter, but to much blame—designated, perhaps, as fools, or something worse—the fact is overlooked that Masonry has been upheld, and is still supported, and will continue to be supported until Time, the consumer of all things, shall be no more.

Dignified professors have always adorned the Masonic body, and have not thought it incongruous with the principles they have professed to join in working a lodge, or enjoying a banquet. It is but a poor compliment to those good, and great, and wise men, now no more, to have one of their own body in this enlightened age de-

fame the Order of which they know nothing, and will not care to inquire.

Many acts of the dear old Archbishop Howley are fresh in my memory, but none shine brighter than those of that charity professed by Masonry that "vaunteth not itself, and speaketh evil of none." Many of his pious deeds were not paraded for the gratification of a contemptible notoriety, or a sanctified preference over other men.

The vestments, the ornaments, the furniture, are all indicative of character. One emblem I have seen suspended from the reading-desk of a Protestant pulpit is highly prized by Masons, and frequently becomes the subject of a lecture at their meetings. I mean the double triangle in gold upon a crimson ground of silk velvet. The thistle, too, is not overlooked by the skilful Craftsman; the *civile* the square, the lamb and the dove together, with a profusion of choicest flowers, are all understood in Masoury; and where the font is found filled with water and lilies, and pomegranates, all adorn the mouldings of the structure, and when mediæval candlesticks and sconces are tastefully distributed, and the good old custom of having the ten commandments neatly framed upon panels in the eastern part, are all Masonic—*anterior* to their introduction into Christian assemblies, the loyalty also of our body has ever had a representative emblem in our regalia—the coat of arms of the country under whose protection we live.

The altar, or pedestal, and the sacristy, or ante-room, as mentioned in the Levitical law, the tessellated pavement, are well understood by the working Mason, and afford him an opportunity of many words of solid advice and warning. And who does not love to see those delicate, transparent, beautiful little emblems, the banners, putting us in mind of the two tables of stone upon which were written the Ten Laws delivered by God to Moses on the Mount; all combining to convince inquiring minds that we have no device, or motto, or emblem, or banner, or geometrical figure which does not call to mind some truth, or some virtue sanctioned in the upright, loyal, and fraternal professor of Freemasonry.

Yours fraternally,

A PAST GRAND STEWARD, P.M., AND
PAST GRAND OFFICER.

MASONIC CHARITIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The Masonic season having now fairly commenced in the metropolis, and as installations, together with rewards to retiring Masters will be numerous, I should like, through the medium of your widely-spread columns, to make a suggestion. In many lodges it is customary to present the retiring W.M. with a P.M.'s jewel; would it not be more agreeable to many, and a better way of using lodge funds, to make (or offer to) such brother a Life Governorship in *one* of the Schools. It may be urged that £10 10s. would dip largely into some funds; to such I would say, a life membership only costs £5 5s. Those who wish for outward ostentation can treat themselves to a jewel.

To those who regulate the affairs of the Charities I would suggest that a parchment certificate, similar to our Grand Lodge certificates, might be issued *for this purpose only*, setting forth the name, &c., of the brother so honoured, and the number of the lodge, &c., by whom presented, the expense of which would be but trifling; and this would be by numbers more highly prized than the glittering jewel, which, out of lodge, loses much of its lustre.

Several to whom I have spoken about it entertain a favourable view of my proposition, and the assistance of your powerful pen may do much in bringing about a lasting benefit to the Charities in a very quiet way.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

W.M.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

At the meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence, on Wednesday last, Bro. John Udall, P.G.D., in the chair, eleven petitioners were relieved with various sums, amounting to £121; one was recommended to Grand Lodge for a grant of £50, and another for £30, making a total of £201. The consideration of two petitions was deferred, and one withdrawn.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—This flourishing lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 20th, at Bro. C. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark. Bro. Frederick Walters, W.M., assisted by Bros. E. Harris, P.M., Sec.; D. Davies, P.M., Treas.; E. Smith, P.M.; J. Donkin, P.M.; W. H. Hughes, P.M.; Levy, S.W.; H. Moore, J.W.; and J. C. Gooddy, I.G., performed the ceremonies of the evening. Messrs. Marshall, J. Denton, R. G. Chipperfield, and F. E. Cooper were each introduced separately, and initiated in an able and impressive manner into the privileges of ancient Freemasonry. Bros. Morris and Turney were properly passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft Freemasonry; this ceremony being exceedingly well rendered. The sum of ten guineas was unanimously voted from the lodge funds, and paid to the Boys' School (Bro. E. Harris, P.M., Collector, being present), to support the Steward, Bro. J. C. Gooddy, I.G., who kindly undertook that distinguished position. This makes the third time the sum of ten guineas has this year been sent to support the Masonic Charities. It was decided by a large majority that in future this lodge should be held at the Green Man Tavern, instead of the Bridge House Hotel. After business, the brethren partook of refreshment. Amongst a very large number of visitors we noticed—Bros. H. A. Collington, P.M. 140, J.W. 871; G. Chapman, J.D. 147; G. Brown, S.W. 169; J. Searle, J.W. 169; R. Welsford, P.M. 548, &c.

PROVINCIAL.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of this Grand Lodge took place at Dursley, on Wednesday, 21st inst. It being the first Grand Lodge held there, the circumstance caused a full attendance of the brethren from that locality, including several from Wotton-under-edge, Berkeley, with others from Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Cirencester.

Bro. George F. Newmarch, D. Prov. G.M., most ably presided, in the absence of the Rt. Hon. Lord Sherborne, Prov. G.M., who was prevented from attending by a domestic calamity.

The number of brethren present was nearly sixty, among whom were, as officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the following brethren:—Bros. G. F. Newmarch, D. Prov. G.M.; J. G. Wilson, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. G. Roberts, Prov. G. Chap.; T. G. Palmer, Prov. G. Treas.; J. K. Cooke, Prov. S.G.D.; E. S. Cossens, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; C. Partridge, Prov. J.G.D.; E. G. Woodward, Prov. G. Org.; J. B. Purchas, Prov. G. Purst.; R. Wiggins, Prov. G. Tyler. The Past Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge present were—Bros. T. Taynton, W. O. Watts, Alex. Shirer, jun., J. S. White, and T. Grist. The various lodges in the province were represented as follows:—Royal Gloucestershire (No. 839), Bros. W. Nicks, R. T. Smith, J. M. Butt, A. Wheeler, H. T. Lovegrove, and H. Weight; Royal Lebanon (No. 493)—W. B. Stocker, H. Jeffs, T. E. Jeans, W. Crump, Chas. Tomes, J. G. Wilson; St. George's (No. 900)—E. S. Cossens, W.M.; Prince of Wales (No. 951)—E. S. Cossens; Royal Manchester (No. 10)—F. Binckes; Moira (No. 109), London—J. W. Harrington, S.D.; Royal Union (No. 246)—R. Tovey, P.M.; Sherborne (No. 702)—J. Gainer, P.M., T. Grist, W. Cowle, R. B. Carter, J. B. Purchas; Royal Union—S. Wallace, W.M.; Foundation (No. 82)—S. Wallace, W.M.;

St. John's (No. 761)—W. P. Want, P.M., Rev. G. L. De Courcy Ireland, S.W., J. Whitmore, S.D., W. E. J. H. Weight, J.D., Geo. S. Gracie, J. Ricketts, W. Champion, W. Tilton, and T. Morse (Treasurer); Lodge of Sympathy (No. S55)—Llewellyn White, W.M., O. Dauncey, and E. Portlock.

Bro. T. G. PALMER, Prov. G. Treas., after the usual preliminaries, read his report, which exhibited a large balance to be disposed of.

Bro. W. S. WALLACE proposed that the sum of £10 should be applied to the purchase of a Vice-Presidentship of the Old Men and Women's Almshouses, in the name of the D. Prov. G.M. This was seconded by Bro. E. S. COSSENS, and carried unanimously.

The sum of ten guineas was voted towards the funds of the Boys' School, and five guineas to the funds of the Girls' School.

The TREASURER exhibited patterns of Provincial Grand Lodge jewels, which were highly approved, and he was directed to purchase a complete set for the use of this Grand Lodge.

Bro. E. S. COSSENS, G. Supt. of Works, read his report, which related to the varied working of the lodges of the province, with a suggestion that one form of by-laws should be adopted for the province, with limited variations as to time, &c., in the same manner that one "Book of Constitutions" regulates the Craft in general. This led to some discussion, the D. Prov. G.M. being of opinion that the duty of inspecting the working of lodges devolved upon the G. Dir. of Cers.

Bro. COSSENS referred to, and read from, the agreement of 1813, showing that at that period nine (as we understood) expert brethren were appointed by the Grand Lodge of York, and the same number by the Grand Lodge of London, and authorised to visit the several lodges for the purpose of establishing one mode of working, language, dress, &c.; but that neither of such brethren were the G. Dir. of Cers., and hence he concluded that they were G. Supts. of Works. No ultimate decision was arrived at on either subjects of the report, but it was generally felt that Bro. Cossens had effected much good in bringing the matter before the Grand Lodge.

One of the duties of the meeting is to appoint brethren to fill the various offices of the Province for the ensuing year, and the following appointments were made:—

Bros. S. Wallace, W.M.	Prov. S. G. Warden.
" R. Hendewerk	Prov. J. G. Warden.
" Palmer	Prov. G. Treasurer.
" E. Trinder	Prov. G. Secretary.
" Llew. White	Prov. S. G. Deacon.
" Stocker	Prov. J. G. Deacon.
" W. P. Want	Prov. G. Chaplain.
" C. Partridge	Prov. G. Supt. of Works.
" Puchas	Prov. G. Pursuivant.
" A. Shirer, jun.	Prov. G. Registrar.
" Tovey	Prov. G.S.B.
" Woodward	Prov. G. Organist.
" Wiggins	} Prov. G. Tylers.
" Harmor	

After the business of the meeting had been disposed of, the brethren sat down to a most sumptuous banquet at the Old Bell Hotel; we need not attempt description, for the world generally knows that Masons are not bad judges of "the good things of life," of which, on the present occasion, there was a profusion, and served in Bro. Ayliff's usual good style. The dessert comprised everything that could be obtained.

After the banquet the following toasts were given and appropriately responded to:—"The Queen and the Craft;" "The Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England, and the Earl de Grey and Ripon, D. Prov. G.M., and the other Grand Officers;" "Lord Sherborne, Prov. G.M.;" "The D.P.G.M.;" "The Clergy," to which the Prov. G. Chap. suitably and impressively replied; "The Prov. G. Officers, past and present;" "The Prov. G. Treas. and Prov. G. Sec.;" "The Charities—the Benevolent Institution, the Boys and the Girls, and the Decayed Masons," which, in a most earnest and interesting speech, was acknowledged by Bro. Binckes; "The Lodges of the Province, including Dursley, Berkeley, and Wotton," which was suitably acknowledged by Bros. Wallace, Walker, and Want.

The whole of the proceedings terminated with the greatest satisfaction.

The meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge for 1864 will take place at Tewkesbury.

TEWKESBURY.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 900).—This lodge met as punctually as usual, the W.M., Bro. Cossens, presiding, though in ill health. Bro. Albert H. Wansborough, having passed a satisfactory examination, was promoted by the W.M. to the degree of F.C. Bro. Daniel Chandler was examined as to his qualifications, and having satisfied the W.M., he was raised to the S.D. of M.M. in the W.M.'s usual manner. The W.M. announced the disposition of one of the brethren to present to the lodge a pair of elegant silver candlesticks for use at the Secretary's table. The brethren retired to refreshment, and parted at an early hour.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

BLACKBURN.—*Lodge of Perseverance* (No. 345, late 432).—The second monthly meeting of the above lodge, after the summer recess, was held on Thursday evening, Oct. 22nd, at the old Bull Hotel, at seven o'clock. There was a large attendance of the brethren, including Bros. Franklin Thomas, P.M., and Prov. G. Reg. of Oxfordshire; Richard Ratcliffe, P.M. 434; Thomas Birtwith, Charles Toplady, and James Pilkington, P.M.'s 345; Ellis Heath, W.M.; J. Garsten, S.W.; Adam Duckworth, J.D.; B. Ellstan, S.W.; Thos. Robinson, J.W.; Christopher Tattersall, I.G.; R. Abbott, Sec.; and Joseph Pearson, P.M. Tyler; also R. H. Hutchinson, Esq. (Ex-Mayor), J. Procter, J. W. Bottom, J. Cullis, J. Thompson, J. Brunskill, Jos. Radcliffe, W. Ainsworth, J. Ibbotson, and many other brethren. The lodge having been duly opened in the first and second degrees, Bro. Franklin Thomas, at the request of the W.M., passed Bro. George Ellis, to the degree of F.C., and afterwards delivered, in a most impressive and eloquent manner, the lecture on the tracing board in the first degree; at the conclusion of which, the worthy brother had passed to him the cordial thanks of the lodge. Bro. Tiplady then read a letter from Bro. John Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec. of East Lancashire, conveying the intelligence that the Prov. G. Master, Bro. Stephen Blair, had presented the lodge with a valuable and most beautiful engraving of himself, copied from a portrait by Bro. R. Mercier. The engraving having been handed round, Bro. Tiplady moved, and Bro. Heath seconded, that the cordial thanks of the lodge be given to the Prov. G. Master, Bro. Stephen Blair, for his handsome present, and it was subsequently ordered that the same be suitably framed and glazed, and fixed up in the lodge-room. The working tools and questions in the second degree having been given, the lodge was closed down to the first degree, when Mr. Stephen Longfield was proposed and seconded to become a member of the Order. Business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to refreshment and passed a couple of hours in a very agreeable manner, the satisfaction of the brethren being greatly enhanced by the remarks of Bros. Thomas, — Hutchinson, Heath, and Tiplady, and by the singing of Messrs. Birtwith, Garden, Eastwood, Duckworth, and other brethren. We understand it is in contemplation to remodel and decorate the lodge-room, and to ornament it with complete new furniture.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 148).—The regular monthly meeting took place at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, on Monday evening last. There was an unusually large attendance of brethren. Bros. H. B. White, W.M.; John Knight, S.W.; John Bowes, J. W. and Sec.; Charles Pettitt, J.D.; James Hamer, Prov. G. Treasurer as S.D.; W. Woods, I.G., &c. The minutes having been read and signed, a ballot was taken for Mr. W. Robinson, a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, which proved unanimous in his favour. The candidate was then initiated by the W.M. in his usual correct, precise, and effective manner. The lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, and Bro. John Tunstal having given proof of his proficiency in the degree of a F.C., was entrusted, and retired. The lodge was opened in the 3rd degree, and Bro. Tunstal admitted in due form and raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. by the W.M. The lodge was closed down. The W.M. announced communications from The Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, and from Grand Lodge. A gentleman was proposed as a fit and proper person to be made a Mason. Labour being ended, the lodge was duly closed at 9 o'clock, and the brethren retired to refreshment.

NEWPORT.

ADDRESS FROM THE SILURIAN LODGE TO THE R.W. PROV.
GRAND MASTER ELECT.

The elevation of Bro. John Etherington Welch Rolls, of The Hendre, near Monmouth, October 22, 1863, to the high office of Prov. G.M. of the province of Monmouth, naturally excited the warmest interest of the Craft throughout the whole county, and the various lodges evinced a commendable eagerness to lay their homage at the feet of their new chief. The large and important Silurian Lodge (No. 471), at Newport, at an early convocation, resolved on presenting a congratulatory address, and on soliciting the Prov. G.M. to consent to its reception, received from him an intimation that he would receive the same at his house, on Thursday, the 22nd, when, also, the hospitable Prov. G.M. invited the deputation to a *déjeuner*. The Isca officers were expected to present their congratulatory address at the same time, but, through an inadvertence, its presentation was deferred to the day of installation.

The Silurian deputation consisted of the following officers:—C. W. de Benardy, W.M., P. Prov. G.M.; Samuel Hancorn, P.M., Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Henry Hellyer, S.W.; John Griffiths, William Williams, Sec., Prov. G. Sec., *vice* Bro. King; William Pickford, Treas., Prov. G. Treas., *vice* Bro. Wells; Bartholomew Thomas, S.D.; Charles H. Oliver, J.D.; George J. Hands, L.G.; John Whitchurch and John Marshall Scott, Stewards. There were also present Jacob J. Nicholas, P.M., Prov. J.G.W.; Edward Wells, P.M., Prov. G. Treas.; Thomas Beynon, P.M., Prov. G. Purst.; Samuel T. Hallen and W. Jones, Prov. G. Secs.; &c.

The Philanthropic Lodge, Abergavenny, was represented by Bros. Higginson, P.M., and Pearce, W.M. There were also present from the Monmouth Lodge Bros. Alexander Rolls, P.M.; Seagrave, P.M.; Davies, P.M.; Price, W.M.; King, P.M.; Dyke, P.M.; Oakley, P.M.; Wall, P.M.; &c. Bros. George Homfray and William Burton, of the Isca Lodge. The brethren all appeared in full costume—the brilliant jewels, collars, and various insignia producing a striking effect.

On arriving at the Monmouth station, the officers of the Silurian, Isca, and Philanthropic Lodges were received by the officers of the Monmouth Lodge, and taking their seats upon two coaches, with splendid teams of four horses each, and gaily-uniformed postilions, the party were driven through the beautiful scenery on the suburbs of the county town to the picturesque seat of the Prov. G.M., The Hendre, about four miles from Monmouth. Here they were introduced to the Prov. G.M. by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Lyne (of the Silurian); and shortly afterwards, in the presence of Mrs. and the Misses Rolls.

Bro. DE BENARDY, the W.M. of the Silurian, addressing the Prov. G.M., said—Right Worshipful Sir, we attend here this day on a twofold mission—one of duty, and one of love; the two more happily blended in one of homage, respect, and esteem towards you on your high, auspicious, and most welcome appointment as the right worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of this small but active province—a province distinguished for many years past for its zeal and true Masonic feeling. Yours is an appointment than which a more welcome, more judicious, or more considerate could not have been made; and it must be gratifying to you, sir, to be selected to rule over a province where, hitherto, you have exercised a duty and a power with unvarying courtesy and zeal, in the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It is an appointment, too, believe me, most welcome to the province, and to every individual brother in it; for could you search into the heart of every Mason in the province, from the last-initiated to the late Prov. G.M., you would find the sentiment to be universal—that “the right man is in the right place.” We yield you our ready promise of obedience and active co-operation; we welcome your appointment as a true Masonic boon; and our best wishes will accompany you in your rule and governance. Here, Right Worshipful Sir, while we bend low and worship the rising sun, let us never forget the vivifying principle under which we have progressed. Ingratitude, I trust, will never find a place in a Freemason's heart; and while we welcome you most heartily again, we meanwhile, in our hearts, think with kindly feelings of our late Provincial Grand Master, regretting that circumstances have caused his retirement, and wishing that he may enjoy life and happiness for many, many years. And now, Right Worshipful Sir, I offer you this congratulatory address from the brethren of the Silurian Lodge; I trust it may find place among the monuments and records of your family, where, if it prove not the most

valuable, we still hope it will be considered a testimony to the worth and value attached to your high appointment by the unanimous voice of the brethren of the province of Monmouthshire.

Prov. G. Secretary WILLIAMS then read the address, which had been beautifully engrossed on parchment. It was as follows:—

To John Etherington Welsh Rolls, Esq., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire.

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—We, the Worshipful Master, officers, and brethren of the Silurian Lodge (471), Newport, beg leave to present our sincere and hearty congratulations on your appointment to the high and honourable office of Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire.

We are confident it would have been impossible for the chief authority in Masonry in this country to have made a choice more judicious in itself, or more acceptable to the Craft; nor could that important and distinguished trust be vested in abler or more worthy hands than yours.

For many years we have been permitted to see you discharge the duties of our D. Prov. G.M., with zeal, wisdom, and fidelity; indeed, the popularity and prosperity of Masonry among us may be attributed, in a large measure, to the success with which, in the absence of the Prov. G.M., you have administered the affairs of the province; and this long experience of your ability justifies us in looking forward to the future with the hope that now, under your supreme government, Masonry will continue to flourish with increasing strength and vigour.

The influential position you hold in the county of Monmouth—the great esteem in which your character is deservedly held—the affability of your manners—your courtesy, your warmth of heart—all combine to place you in the first rank of our county gentlemen. We rejoice that, in your person, Masonry is addressed by these most estimable qualities. We cannot but feel the advantages to be thus derived to our noble science from the personal worth of him who presides over it, both in disarming prejudice and in gaining friends.

We, on our part, promise a willing obedience to your authority. It is our most earnest desire to co-operate with you in all your counsels for the good of Freemasonry. We know the spirit diffused from the head will find its way through all the members of the body. And we fervently trust that you may live many years to rule the province; and at all times to unite the brethren in the bonds of harmony, concord, and brotherly love.

Signed on behalf of the brethren of the Silurian Lodge (No. 471), C. W. DE BENARDY, W.M.

The address having been graciously received,

The Prov. G. MASTER, betraying considerable emotion, said—Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren of the Silurian Lodge, it is quite impossible for me adequately to express my feelings of gratification at the very kind and flattering address which you have just presented to me—an address expressed in such glowing and flattering terms, that if I could hope in years to come to be deserving of only half the encomiums you have showered upon me, I should indeed rejoice. I am, I assure you, extremely proud of the confidence you place in me, and of your approval of my appointment. It was not without considerable reflection that I decided on accepting the distinguished honour offered me by Lord Zetland. Your reception of me on all occasions had been so kind and so very gratifying, that I determined not to refuse that honour; and now I feel re-assured, by your kindness this day, as well as by the very flattering intentions expressed by the Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren of the Isca Lodge, and by the gratifying letter of congratulation that I received in May last, from the Worshipful Master and brethren of the Philanthropic, as well as by several private letters of congratulation—all showing me that I have not acted contrary to the wishes of the brethren of the province in having accepted the honour of becoming their Provincial Grand Master. (Hear.) It only remains for me to assure you that it will be my constant endeavour to merit the good opinion you have been pleased to form of me; and I trust that, with the assistance of my excellent Deputy Lyne and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, I shall be able to carry on the business of the province to the satisfaction of the brethren, and for the honour and welfare of Masonry. (Masonic cheering.)

The brethren were then invited by the Prov. G.M. to join

himself and family at a *déjeuner* in the great hall, whither all proceeded, and sat down to a most elegantly laid and sumptuous banquet. At its conclusion,

The Prov. G.M. gave "The Health of our Sovereign," which was loyally pledged; Miss Ellen Rolls accompanying on the harmonium the excellent vocalisation of Bro. Wall and the Prov. G.M., aided by the guests, in the National Anthem.

The Prov. G.M. then drank "The Healths of the Brethren of the Province," thanking them with fervency for their unanimous congratulations.

Bro. DE BENARDY, W.M., proposed, in highly eulogistic terms, "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master," who responded emphatically.

The D. Prov. G. MASTER proposed "The Health of Mrs. Rolls," and

Bro. HALLER, Prov. G. Sec., begged to be allowed to add "The Misses Rolls;" the toast being pledged with much fervour.

The Prov. G. MASTER acknowledged the compliment on the part of the ladies; and the brethren were then invited to smoke the rarest of Havannah's productions on the lawn of the house, whither all adjourned, and amidst the sylvan beauty and charming scenery of one of the loveliest spots in the fair shire of Monmouth, a delicious half-hour was enjoyed. At length, the hand of old Chronos in the stately tower of the mansion warned the brethren that the railway bell would shortly ring; and mounting their coaches, three parting cheers for the hospitable Master and the amiable and lovely ladies of his house "made the welkin ring again," as they dashed away homewards, through the picturesque and sunny glades of the park.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

LAYING A FOUNDATION STONE OF A SCHOOL OF ART.

Bro. his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Prov. Grand Master, visited Nottingham on Thursday, the 22nd inst., for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the Government School of Art, Waverley-street, with the accustomed Masonic ceremonies. The members of the corporation and of the Masonic lodges, and a very large body of the influential inhabitants of the town assembled at one o'clock at the Exchange Hall, and, having formed a procession, headed by the band of the South Nottingham Yeomanry Cavalry, proceeded along Clumber-street, Mansfield-road, and through the Arboretum to the building, where a large platform had been erected for the accommodation of ladies, by whom it was completely filled. The authorities having taken the positions assigned to them,

The MAYOR opened the proceedings by stating the object for which they had assembled. He observed that some twenty years ago the town of Nottingham, like many other manufacturing towns in the kingdom, felt the importance of taking steps to develop the designs and aid the manufacturing interests in arriving at greater perfection than they at that time had reached. They found it desirable to avail themselves of the system which the Government had established of granting both pecuniary aid and models and drawings in those places where schools of design, as they were then called, should be established. Gentlemen of all degrees in the town united in asking for that aid for a school for Nottingham. They began feebly, but went on successfully, moving from one place to another, until the present time, when a number of gentlemen determined to make an effort to establish a school of art under the Government arrangements. About £2000 had been accumulated, and £750 in addition had been placed at the disposal of the committee, and the committee had felt quite justified in undertaking the erection of a suitable building. He had been asked what had the corporation of Nottingham to do with such a matter. His reply was, that the members of the corporation were individually closely connected with the mercantile and manufacturing interests of the town; and, if they did not give their sanction and countenance to schemes of this sort, they would be neglecting their duty. (Hear.) Their willingness and promptitude showed that they took a deep interest in the institution, and they were desirous of showing to the town at large that they wished God speed to the undertaking, and hoped that it would prove advantageous not only to the town, but to the whole neighbourhood. (Cheers.)

The Duke of NEWCASTLE then spoke nearly in the following terms:—Mr. Mayor and citizens of Nottingham, I most readily comply with your request that I would lay the foundation stone of this new school of art. I believe you expect me to make some few observations with reference to the progress

and utility of these institutions; but I am sure you will not expect from me on this occasion a dissertation upon art, any discussion of its civilising influences, or even of its application to the mechanical arts with a view to their improvement. I have no doubt that when this goodly building is finished, and when we shall be called upon to attend its annual meetings, and move resolutions, we shall be expected to offer some dissertations, and perhaps on these occasions, at the close of them, it will remain questionable whether those who come to instruct you do not better succeed in instructing themselves, and whether, after all these speeches and dissertations, the teacher is not somewhat better taught by teaching the business of the day. On the present occasion I will only refer to these schools in general and this school in particular. The mayor has informed you that it is now twenty years since schools of design were established by the aid of the Government in various towns in Great Britain. Those schools have from time to time undergone many material changes. They have been placed under the superintendence of various departments. At one time they were under the superintendence of the Board of Trade. At present they are more appropriately placed under the department of Science and Art. These schools have also undergone changes of name, and, having originally been called schools of design, are now termed schools of art. I am not quite sure whether that change of name has been altogether judicious; because, although it is intelligible to those who take pains with such subjects, it is liable to mislead many as to what are the real objects of these schools. When we speak of the fine arts, we are apt to mean the arts of painting and of sculpture, allowing perhaps a little merit to drawing and engraving. I believe if the term school of art is to be quite appropriate, we ought to add to these arts the arts of invention and of emulation, which are practised and pursued with a view to the enlightenment and the pleasure of the mind through the medium of the eye. And, accepted in this form, perhaps the term school of art is the best and most appropriate term that can be used. (Hear, hear.) In the course of these twenty years, although under different names and managements, their objects have been the same, and in principle they have been the same. In the course of these twenty years you may naturally ask what they have done. These schools, at the time of the Great Exhibition of 1851, were only 19 in number. At the present moment there are 90—(hear, hear)—and the number of pupils who are either directly or indirectly receiving instruction through their instrumentality amounts to upwards of 70,000. (Hear, hear.) Now, you may say that these numbers prove nothing. I would not be content with that argument, although I think it proves much, because I think it is not likely that 71 towns should, within the last nine or ten years, have followed the example of the preceding 19 unless they knew that the 19 had received advantages, and that they expected to secure similar benefits themselves. (Hear, hear.) But I am not content with that argument. If I am asked "What good have they done?" I will not go to local evidence, not even to English evidence, but I will ask you to read the reports of the most intelligent and able Frenchmen who took an interest in the Great Exhibition last year, who speak in the highest possible terms of the advantages of these schools. Those learned and enlightened Frenchmen go so far as to say that they tremble for the future pre-eminence of France, so far as regards the art of design; they tremble for her future pre-eminence, because in these two decades of time—the 10 years before the first Exhibition, and the subsequent 10 years before the second—the English manufacturer has made enormous progress, and this progress they attribute entirely to the enlightened teaching of these schools. (Hear, hear.) Well, if these schools are flourishing, and have been of advantage to the country at large, I believe they have been especially useful in Nottingham. (Hear, hear.) On looking over the tables in the July number, and examining the details respecting the progress of science and art, I find that Nottingham presents a most favourable comparison with all the other towns in the kingdom, whether large or small, whether you look to the number of persons who have received instruction in these schools, or whether you look to another important test—the number of local medals distributed, and even the national medallion, which is the highest order of merit these schools can receive. (Hear.) In all these points Nottingham stands pre-eminently many, and certainly on an equality with all. If I were disposed to quote testimony, I could find in the volume to which I have referred, the testimony of some of our most distinguished statesmen, and when I look at Mr. Heyman,

and such enlightened men as the Messrs. Adams, and many others conducting business in the town, and see that their testimony universally concurs in the fact of the improvement of design in Nottingham, and that it is attributable to the school of design, I think I may conclude that that part of the question is settled. (Hear, hear.) These objects have been attained partly by the excellence of the Masters, partly by the attention to local claims, and partly to the various improvements which have been from time to time introduced by the central department. I allude to this matter for this reason: For some years past the money given by the Government has been given for results. When, originally, it was given to means there was no impetus, no temptation to excel; but now it is given to results, and you see the consequence. It is a great improvement, which the commission who sat upon the subject of popular education two or three years ago, strongly recommended. It had been previously adopted by the schools, and has been of the greatest value in urging pupils to aim at excellence. (Hear, hear.) There is another feature to which I may refer. Wherever prizes are distributed, wherever a youth receives a local medal, he confers a benefit on the school to which he belongs; because the Government gave 10s. for each medal, and in the case of a national medallion £10, to the schools for the purpose of purchasing works of art. (Hear, hear.) I think I need not say a word more to prove to you how unquestionably useful these schools have been; but if there is no question as to the utility of these schools, there is still some question as to the best mode of teaching in them. At any rate it is a moot point with many persons. Some persons think that, instead of endeavouring to apply the fine arts to mechanics and manufactures, it would be much better to educate artists and to trust to the future application of the talents of those artists to manufactures and mechanics; and there can be no doubt that if you secure a supply of perfect artists this might be the case; but rare indeed are the men who combine these two great elements of power of design and power of execution. You have in one period a Benvenuto Cellini, and in another period a Flaxman who can do this; but such men are rare, and if you waited until you procure that supply, the manufactures of the country would derive little benefit from these schools. Such men are not made by schools. You are told that a poet cannot be made—that, if he is a poet at all, he is a poet from the hour of his birth. Such is unfortunately the case, but the remark is equally applicable to art, and a first-rate artist, such as those to whom I have referred, will never be formed by a school, but must have that native genius in him which may be developed but never can be created by a school. (Hear, hear.) Many gentlemen will tell you that it is in the lace of this town that such remarkable proofs of success have been given. But it is not in lace alone; it is in all the great staple manufactures of the town and country. But there are great incidental advantages arising from this success. I have been assured that the quality of smith's work, in consequence of the necessity of its application to finer parts of machinery, has been improved in delicacy of touch. You see improvement in the architecture of the country, and more especially in this town. I read the excellent speech recently made by Lord Stanley on schools of art. His lordship commented with great, and in many cases with just, severity on the state of architecture in our towns. His lordship has, I believe, since the delivery of that address, been in this county. I am afraid he did not come to Nottingham. If he had done so, I think he would have been inclined to modify his censure, so far at least as this town is concerned; for there has been the greatest progress in architecture of all kinds—in mills, and warehouses, and dwelling-houses, and public buildings, which in almost every street are showing a most remarkable improvement in the way of taste. Do I attribute this to these schools? Yes I do. (Hear, hear.) I know that many of the best architects in the town are of such an age that they cannot have studied in the schools. I do not believe that even the younger men—the able architect of this building—has had this opportunity; but I think it tells on the architects of this town, upon the manufacturers, upon the masters. They want enlightening—they want to be taught art just as much as the operatives, and they have, by a desire to instruct the mass, obtained the advantages of a knowledge of the style of art, greatly improved their taste, and are no longer content with those hideous masses of brick and mortar with which the streets were formerly disfigured. (Hear, hear.) It is the taste of the richer classes, who spend a small additional sum on the decoration of their houses and factories for the pleasure which it gives to their enlighten-

ment, and this necessitates a better educated class of workmen. I believe there is no class and age which is not susceptible of such impressions. Even to a child, the form of a school which is most pleasing to the sight finds the greatest favour. But I am certain that if a child is not able to tell you that it prefers that school to another, the influence produced on that child's mind is by no means unimportant. (Hear, hear.) It is, as has already been stated, 20 years since a school of design was established in this town. We were satisfied with small beginnings, and I believe we were wise in being so satisfied. There is often danger in doing too much at once. You get up a public meeting, and solicit subscriptions, and get up an amount of factitious interest in the institution, and then it falls off, and the end is *the decadence and death of the institution altogether*. But we began here on a small scale. For 10 years we were content with a humble place in Beck-street. The school was afterwards removed to another place still more inconvenient. Our next step was to give up housekeeping altogether, and then we went into lodgings—(laughter)—highly respectable, no doubt, and through the liberality of the owner we had them for nothing. (Hear, hear.) But now the time has come for making a great push. We have felt our strength. If anything which is likely to make its way is to be opposed, it should be opposed, as the old adage says, in the beginning. If the supporters of ignorance, and the admirers of ugliness, had wished to stop these schools, they should have taken steps for doing so twenty years ago. Their day has gone by. Perhaps the supporters of ignorance and the admirers of ugliness have not existed in Nottingham for twenty years; and when I look around me here I think they must have fled from Nottingham. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But, be that as it may, an enlightened advocacy of art, as applied to manufacturing establishments, cannot be thwarted, for this plain reason, that every one knows that it is for his own interest. (Hear, hear.) You seem here to have been in a tremendous hurry. I am here expecting to have to lay a stone, but I did not expect to see a great mass of building towering above me. I don't think you have behaved quite fairly to us. You have invited me and my brother Masons to assemble here to-day, and have left us nothing to do; and I actually saw the workmen on the building looking down and laughing at us, as if they were saying, "Why, there is hardly a stone apiece for you." (Laughter.) But if we come to celebrate its completion, instead of its commencement, we are equally happy, and all of us, whether belonging to this town or coming from other parts of the county, are very glad to have attended this celebration; and I am sure I am speaking the feelings of all when I say, may this school prosper; may it tend to the extension and benefit of the rising trade of this great town; may it tend equally to the advantage of the enterprising manufacturers who belong to it; and, lastly, but by no means least, may it tend to the future increase of its work, and, consequently, to the wealth and happiness of its operatives—to those working men of Nottingham who have, I regret to say, for the last few years suffered very great privations, but who have borne their privations with the most exemplary fortitude and patience. (Loud cheers.)

His Grace then laid the stone with the usual Masonic formalities, and at its conclusion the band played "God save the Queen," the whole company joining in chorus.

The procession was then re-formed, and returned to the Exchange Hall, where a luncheon was provided. The Mayor presided, supported by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Mr. Close, Mr. Heard, Mr. Kelly, Dr. March, Dr. Fearnley, Lieutenant A. Alcock, the Rev. C. Jackson, and a large number of other gentlemen.

The usual loyal toasts having been given and duly honoured,

The Mayor proposed "The Health of the Lord Lieutenant of the County," which was drunk amidst loud and enthusiastic cheers.

The Duke of Newcastle, in acknowledging the compliment, said that he looked upon the duties which devolved upon a large landed proprietor as greater than that of the representative of the Queen, because they involved such complicated social relations, not merely with regard to those with whom they were in the habit of associating, but with that great and important body, the middle classes of the country. Referring to the more immediate business of the day, he said he had felt great difficulty in making the address which he had delivered sufficiently short. But he was certain that the objects of such institutions could not be overrated

and, apart from other modes of progress and of education, this was one which many intelligent men in the town had long seen was not to be neglected. (Hear, hear.) He hoped and expected that when the great difficulties were overcome which he was afraid applied to almost all the world at the present moment—and particularly that fearful social struggle which was going on across the Atlantic—whatever the solution of that difficulty might be, he believed that the trade of this town and of the country must revive, and that when it did revive it would depend upon those men who had established and maintained these schools through evil report and good report—to further their objects and to extend that trade which, without the advantages and the accessories of art, must decline, and ultimately fail. (Hear, hear.) To those gentlemen in Nottingham who had assisted and advocated these schools, the gratitude of its inhabitants, and particularly of the working classes, was due. (Hear, hear.) It was not only the extension of trade and manufactures which was concerned in the well-being of these schools, but they materially affected the pecuniary interests of the workmen, and had a material bearing on their civilisation. (Hear, hear.) The instruction in art which was given at these schools permeating the various grades of society, and descending to the very lowest and the humblest, materially assisted the clergyman, the schoolmaster, and all who were engaged, in the great work of education. (Hear, hear.) These were times of very eventful importance; and whether we were studying the education of the humbler classes in the ordinary sense of the word, or whether we were endeavouring to elevate them by an instruction in art to artistic tastes, or whether we were making any other advance, we were materially aiding the great work of preparing the mass of the people of this country for any struggle which might come, for we saw in various countries in Europe what he hardly knew whether to call civil war or rebellion—despotism struggling with the desire for freedom—and we saw the most frightful scene the world had ever witnessed, two divisions of the same people engaged in a war which in the eyes of both parties appeared to be a war of extermination. We might well prepare ourselves for some contest, although he hoped it would be a bloodless one in this country. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) He concluded by proposing the health of the Mayor and Corporation, and, in so doing spoke highly of the municipalities generally throughout the kingdom, although, like all other institutions, they were susceptible of improvement; and expressed his regret that men of wealth and position and leisure did not come more prominently forward to take their proper share in the duties of municipal government. (Cheers.)

Several other toasts were afterwards given and responded to.

SUSSEX.

LEWES.—*South Saxon Lodge* (No 311, late 390).—The brethren of this lodge, to the number of forty, met at Freemasons' Hall, High-street, on Wednesday, 21st October, when the minutes of the last meeting being read and confirmed, the W.M., Bro. B. U. Hearn, then proceeded to the installation of Bro. G. W. Cooke, the W.M. elect, assisted by Bro. Corder, W.M. Royal Brunswick, Brighton, which being completed, the W.M. then appointed his officers for the year ensuing:—Bros. R. Turner, S.W.; J. C. Lucas, J.W.; Briscoe, S.D.; Capt. Settle, J.D.; T. J. Monk, I.G.; Barratt was invested as Treas.; Little as Chaplain, and Bro. Cooper as Organist. Two raisings were ably performed by the retiring W.M., as well as one passing. Two propositions were made for initiation, and one for a joining member. All business being concluded the brethren retired to Bro. Wingham's, Crown Hotel, where a banquet, in his first-class style, awaited them. Among those present, we noticed Bros. F. H. Gill, Col. Makay, Capt. Settle, *R.S.M.*, Corder, Hales, F. P. Freeman, Prov. S.G.W.; R. W. Wood, Prov. G. Sec.; Fraser, from the Grand Steward's Lodge; Challen, Prov. G. Purst.; Dr. Haswell, from Hartington Lodge; Lawes, Hiscock, Newnham, &c. After the cloth was removed and thanks returned, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given from the chair, and duly responded to by the brethren. Altogether a pleasant evening was spent, and will be long remembered among the red-letter days of South Saxon Lodge.

FINE sensibilities are like woodbines, delightful luxuries of beauty, to twine round a solid, upright stem of understanding; but very poor things if, unsupported by strength, they are left to creep along the ground.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the report of the Committee of General Purposes to be presented to Grand Chapter on Wednesday next, November 4th.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 14th July to the 21st October, 1863, which they find to be as follows:—

Balance 14th July, 1863	£496	5	2
Subsequent Receipts	150	0	0
	£646	5	2
Disbursements, including a purchase of £300 Three per Cent. Consols	378	18	0

Leaving a Balance of £267 7 2

which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival, and Co., bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee beg also to report, and they do it with much regret, that they have found it necessary to suspend the Alfred Chapter, No. 306 (late No. 384), Leeds, from all Masonic functions. The circumstances that have compelled your Committee to this course are briefly as follows:—

A complaint was made in September, 1862, by a companion who had been exalted in the chapter, that he was unable to obtain his Grand Chapter certificate, notwithstanding repeated applications made to the chapter to obtain the same. Your Committee finding that the chapter had made no regular return for nearly twenty years, summoned the principals to attend the next meeting, and produce their charter, minute books, &c. At the same time your Committee notified to the principals that they would not require their personal attendance provided the charter and books were sent up, and further that the President had signified his readiness to call a special meeting to inquire into the complaint.

In the month of November following a return was sent in, which, however, appears not to have been thoroughly examined at the time, and which did not come before your committee till their next meeting, when they again drew the attention of the principals of the chapter to the fact that no proper return had been made after the year 1844, and they therefore required information as to what proceedings had taken place between that date and the time when the chapter was said to have been re-opened, with a copy of the minutes at such alleged re-opening, and requiring that such information should be furnished by their regular meeting in April last.

The order of the Committee not having been complied with, another summons was issued, requiring the attendance of the principals with the charter and books at the quarterly meeting of the Committee to be holden in July. At the end of the month of April the minute book was sent up, but unaccompanied by the charter and other books that had been required, and without any explanation as to the proceedings of the chapter subsequent to 1844.

The repeated orders of the Committee for the production of the charter and books not having been complied with and no explanation having been offered, your Committee, at their quarterly meeting held in July last, ordered that a peremptory summons should be issued requiring the attendance of the principals.

This peremptory summons has, like the others, been disregarded, and your Committee therefore, in pursuance of the authority vested in them by the Supreme Grand Chapter, and

with a view of upholding the authority of that body, felt they had no course left but to suspend the Alfred Chapter from all Masonic functions.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received an application from the High Cross Chapter (No. 754), Tottenham, praying for permission to remove to No. 56, Crutched Friars, in the City of London. The application is accompanied with the approval of the High Cross Lodge, to which this chapter is attached, to the proposed removal.

The Committee consider the application is regular in form, but leave it to Grand Chapter to determine as to the expediency or otherwise of a removal; merely observing that the charter was originally granted on the ground that the chapter was to meet at some distance from London, although within the London district.

The Committee have further to report that they have received the following petitions, viz. :—

From Companions the Rev. Adolphus F. A. Woodford as Z.; the Rev. T. B. Ferris as H.; Joseph Buckton as J.; and seven others for a chapter to be attached to the Philanthropic Lodge (No. 304), Leeds, to be called the Philanthropic Chapter, and to meet at the private rooms, No. 1, Bond-street, Leeds, on the second Monday in each month.

From Companions George Price as Z.; William Locoek Webb as H.; Curthbert Henry Woodward as J.; and nine others for a chapter to be attached to the East Surrey Lodge of Concord (No. 463), Croydon, Surrey, to be called the East Surrey Chapter of Concord, to meet at the Railway Hotel, Addiscombe-road, Croydon, on the third Wednesday in January, April, July, and October in each year.

From Companions Ezekiel Nathan as Z.; Sydney James as H.; Julius Hyman as J.; and nine others for a chapter to be attached to the Otago Lodge (No. 844), Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, to be called the Chapter of Otago, to meet at the Shamrock Hotel, Dunedin, Otago, on the first Thursday in September, November, January, March, May, and July in every year.

These petitions being regular in form (although the latter is not accompanied with the formal sanction of the lodge), the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have received notice of the following motions for the next Quarterly Convocation of Grand Chapter from E. Companion J. J. Hardey, P.Z. No. 753.

1st.—“That the minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the 5th August, 1863, be not confirmed, so far as they declare it to be illegal to hold a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons on a Sunday.”

2nd.—“That Freemasonry is universal, and that it is inconsistent with such universality, to prohibit the holding of a Royal Arch Chapter on a Sunday, which is the Sabbath only of a section of the population of the world.”

3rd.—“That Freemasonry comprising persons of all religious denominations, it is just and proper that a Royal Arch Chapter should be authorized to meet on a Sunday if desired by its members.”

(Signed) JOHN SAVAGE (in the Chair).

Freemasons' Hall, London,
21st October, 1863.

THERE exists in human nature a disposition to murmur at the disappointments and calamities incident to it, rather than to acknowledge with gratitude the blessings by which they are more than counterbalanced.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*Jerusalem Encampment*.—A conclave or chapter of encampment was held on Wednesday, the 21st inst., when Sir Knt. Benjamin St. John B. Joule, J.P., *Mus. Doc.*, was unanimously elected E.C. for the ensuing year; Sir. Knts. Hine, re-elected Treasurer; and Joule and Capt. Bennett, Auditors. Rev. Sir Knt. Porter signed his certificate as a Knight Templar and Knight of Malta, of the “Lagan Valley Encampment,” Ireland. A Priory of Knights of Malta was also held, and ceremonials compared. As usual, a most agreeable and fraternal evening was spent in Masonic conversation.

IRELAND.

LONDONDERRY.

LIFFORD.—The Freemasons of Lodge Harmony (No. 102), Lifford, entertained Bro. Captain J. K. Humfrey, Senior Warden, to a supper in their lodge-room, on Wednesday, 21st inst., previous to his leaving for the South of Ireland. The chair was occupied by Bro. John Moody, W.M., and the vice-chair by Captain Searle. About 36 of the brethren sat down to partake of the viands. After the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to, the health of “Our Guest” was given, with full bumpers, accompanied with all the honours, to which he very gratefully and ably responded. During the evening a few good songs, &c., were given by some of the brethren, and, after enjoying “the feast of reason and the flow of soul,” the company separated, wishing the guest every success.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.—*St. Aubyn's Lodge* (No. 958).—At the regular monthly meeting held on Tuesday, Oct. 20th, although the attendance of the members was somewhat limited, this was fully compensated by the large number of visitors, many of the Mechanics' Lodge having by previous agreement come together from St. Helier, so that there were nearly forty assembled, including the Prov. G.M., and about a dozen Past Masters. The lodge was opened soon after half past six by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, W.M., assisted by Bro. Schmitt, P.M., acting as S.W., and Bro. Orange, J.W., Bro. Ainslie taking the chair of Imm. P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Several letters were read, among them one requesting the appointment of a steward for the approaching festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution, which it was agreed could not be complied with, owing to distance from London, the season at which it is held, and inability on the part of a lodge but recently formed, the furniture of which is not yet quite complete, to join actively in such demonstrations. After examination of the certificate of Bro. James C. C. Pipon, and of a note from the Secretary of the Apollo University Lodge, in which he was initiated, and to which he still belongs, a ballot was taken for his admission as a joining member of St. Aubyn's Lodge, which was unanimous in his favour. Several communications from the Prov. G.M. were read, announcing the suspension, in addition to the three mentioned at the last meeting, of the following brethren from all their Masonic rights and privileges. Bros. Neel, Desmoulins, Grossière, Robert, C. Asplet, G. Vickery, T. De la Mare, F. M. Giraudot, E. Gallichan, Pèneveyre, Hon. E. Bellew. The W.M. read a letter from the Secretary of the Césarée Lodge, announcing a formal resolution for the offer of its pedestal, chairs, &c., to St. Aubyn's Lodge for the sum of six guineas. The W.M. reminded the brethren that he and the Wardens had been previously commissioned to negotiate the matter, and explained his reason for not putting a resolution for the acceptance of this offer to the members, namely, that he hoped to raise the money from private Masonic sources, so as to make a present of the furniture mentioned. Mr. John F. G. le Bas was initiated by the W.M. The W.M. having announced that he had returned to the owner the pedestals at first used by the lodge, it was resolved, that the best thanks of St. Aubyn's Lodge be presented to the Prov. G.M. for his kindness in lending his pedestals for its use, as well as for the interest he has uniformly evinced

in its success and prospects. The Prov. G.M. suitably acknowledged this expression of gratitude. The W.M. announced several presents from himself and Bro. Joseph Stevens towards the furniture, and a velvet cushion for the Master's chair from Mrs. Hopkins. Votes of thanks were passed to the several donors. The W.M. reported that he had had some pleasing correspondence with Bro. V. Bird, of the St. Aubyn's Lodge (No. 954, Devonport), and read a letter from him containing an invitation to be present at the consecration of the said lodge on October 28th, and other matters. Bro. Le Bas, having been placed before the pedestal, received the customary charge on initiation from the W.M., and also the lecture on the first tracing board. Bro. the Rev. F. de la Mare addressed the members in feeling terms, announcing that, having obtained an appointment to a distant foreign chaplaincy, he was shortly about to leave Jersey. He expressed the satisfaction he had derived from his connection with St. Aubyn's Lodge, his pleasure in having shared in its formation, his wish still to continue a member, because he saw in it a manifest desire earnestly to carry out true Masonic principles, and his desire to present, as a parting token of his regard and interest in it, a set of columns for the lesser lights, for the preparation of which he had given directions. The manner in which this address was received by the brethren indicated their sense of the loss they are about to incur. The Rev. Chaplain proposed the nomination of Bro. Capt. Philip Veary as a joining member of the lodge. No other business being brought forward, the lodge was closed in the usual form at half-past eight, and the brethren proceeded to the ordinary light refreshments. These concluded, the W.M. brought before the notice of the brethren the customary routine of toasts, commencing with "The Queen and the Craft," and appropriately descending in the social and Masonic scale to "All poor and distressed Masons." The Prov. G.M. returned thanks for himself and Provincial Grand Lodge, and finding a visitor from London present, who was his namesake, expressed a hope that he would carry back, and convey to his brethren, a favourable impression of the working of Masonry in Jersey, as produced by the proceedings of the evening. The Prov. G.M. concluded by proposing the health of the W.M., in support of which the rev. the Chaplain addressed the brethren, taking advantage of the opportunity to enforce the fact, that so long as a man pursued a conscientious and undeviating course of conduct, whatever opposition he might encounter, and however obnoxious he might temporarily become, he would be certain to be ultimately appreciated. This he exemplified by reference to the course of the W.M. in Jersey, who, at first obscure and unknown, had, by taking up what he deemed to be abuses—social, political, moral, and Masonic—for a time rendered himself unpopular, but was now esteemed, and able to be the founder of a useful and efficient lodge, which, he trusted, was already firmly established, and was gradually working its way to distinction. The rev. brother again alluded to his approaching departure, adding that, though it would be painful to sever many associations here, he had scriptural authority for what he was about to do, namely, "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he is worse than an infidel." On this ground he had felt it a duty to obey the call made upon him. The W.M. briefly replied, expressing his extreme regret at losing so valued a friend and brother—one to whom he had looked for counsel and assistance; he also stated his gratitude for the allusions made for the first time in public to the difficulties under which he had laboured, and the manner in which he had overcome them, assuring the brethren that, whether in the chair or out of it, he would, so long as he should reside in Jersey, be ever ready to perform any duty called for by the lodge, at the same time expressing his intention to retire from the position of W.M. after one year's term of office, in order to give opportunity to others for gratifying a laudable ambition for advancement. He further urged the older brethren to look to their laurels and study to obtain Masonic knowledge, or some of those recently initiated in the lodge would vie with and outstrip them. Bro. Hammond, member of a lodge in London, responded on behalf of the visitors, assuring the Prov. G.M., in reference to his observations, that though he visited many lodges, he seldom found one better worked, or in which so much harmony and regularity appeared to prevail. He was especially pleased with the temperate and moderate style of the refreshments, which conduced to the benefit of the brethren, by enabling them to return at an early hour to their families, to

sleep well afterwards, and to rise next morning refreshed, without being unfitted for the labours of the day. Thus, too, greater means were afforded for the exercise of that truly Masonic virtue, charity. Several other brethren addressed the members briefly in the course of the evening, and after a most pleasant social meeting, in the course of which due honours to the newly initiated brother were not forgotten, the party broke up before ten o'clock.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

"OPERA DI CAMERA."

Mr. German Reed, to whom the English public are already indebted for very many genial entertainments, is about to produce an *Opera Di Camera*;—namely, a work of simple dramatic form, and requiring for its execution a limited number of vocalists, with the accompaniment of a pianoforte, a species of entertainment very popular on the Continent. Should the experiment succeed great advantages are also likely to be derived by our rising vocalists from the production of this class of musical entertainment; for, though there undoubtedly exist among us many young singers of considerable skill, who possess voices of excellent quality, the opportunities hitherto afforded for the display of their talent have been so few, that many accomplished artists have been condemned to comparative obscurity, whose abilities amply qualified them to contribute, in a high degree, to the intellectual enjoyment of the musical world. The first work of the kind, to be produced on Monday next, will be entitled *Jessy Lea*, and is the joint production of Mr. John Oxenford and Mr. G. A. Macfarren. The combination of two such distinguished names is an assurance that the highest talent has been selected for the inauguration of, it is hoped, a new era, in our musical annals. The artistes engaged for the experiment are Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Poole, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Whiffin, whilst Mr. Walter Macfarren will preside at the pianoforte. Whilst wishing Mr. Reed every success in his new enterprise, we hope that we are not altogether to lose the delightful entertainments of himself, his accomplished wife, and Mr. Parry.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty left Balmoral on Tuesday on her return to Windsor, where, with the younger members of the Royal family, she arrived on Wednesday. The Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse took their departure from the Highlands on the previous day, but their Royal Highnesses halted at Edinburgh, where they remained for the night. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Prussia are apparently prolonging their stay in Scotland. Their Royal Highnesses left Aberdeen on Monday for Gordon Castle, Elgin, on a visit to the Duke of Richmond. It is semi-officially announced that the Princess of Wales may be expected to become a mother in March next. The Prince of Wales and Prince Christian of Denmark visited Newmarket on Tuesday to see the Cambridgeshire Stakes run for. The Prince of Wales has accepted the Presidentship of the Society of Arts, an office held by the late Prince Consort. In a letter to the Council, his Royal Highness says he trusts that as their president he "may be better able to promote that great and beneficent object which his dear father had at heart, and in which he was so zealously supported by the Society."

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of London continues to be very high. Small-pox declines but slowly; the other fatal diseases maintain their predominance. The deaths last week amounted to 1216, which is 58 beyond the amount given by the calculated average of the last ten years. To counterbalance the mortality it appears that the birth-rate is also high: 1951 children were born last week, which is 62 above the estimated average.—Earl Powis has been elected High Steward of the University of Cambridge in room of the late Lord Lyndhurst.

His lordship was elected without opposition.—At the meeting of the Central Relief Committee, Mr. Farnall announced that a further decrease of 1862 had taken place in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the cotton manufacturing districts.—The *Gazette* contains a dispatch of General Cameron, from New Zealand, acknowledging the assistance received from the naval force under Captain Sullivan, R.N., Commander Mayne, R.N., and Deputy Quartermaster Greaves, in the recent operations in New Zealand. The same *Gazette* notifies that the French have proclaimed a blockade of the ports in the Mexican Gulf, with the exception of Vera Cruz, Tampico, and two or three others.—The foundation-stone of the Wedgwood institute at Burslem—an institution designed to include a school of art, a museum, a free library, and a reading-room—was laid by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday. The right hon. gentleman delivered an elaborate address on the occasion, in which he eloquently expounded the lesson of Wedgwood's remarkable life, and urged a more thorough association of art with utility, more especially in ceramic manufactures.—At a meeting for distribution of prizes to volunteers at Liverpool Mr. Laird was present, and referred to his connection with the *Alabama*. He denied that that vessel had escaped; she left Liverpool in the broad daylight; and it was admitted both by Lord Palmerston and Sir Roundell Palmer, that there was nothing in the affidavits laid before them to stop the ship except the evidence of a sailor named Passmore, which Mr. Laird had the highest authority for believing to be false. Touching slightly on the question of the rams, Mr. Laird said that Lord Russell might not find it so easy a matter as he supposed to change the state of the law; but however that might be, he claimed that while the law remained as it was it ought to be obeyed by the Government as well as by private individuals.—Mr. Bright, in a letter to a friend in New York, expresses a hope that the Americans will see that "everything is not bad in England." He roundly asserts that "there is cause" for the frantic rage of the Northerners against this country; but on the other hand, he trusts that they will not forget that Mr. Laird's rams are not to be permitted to "go out on their piratical career," that "Mason, the Southern envoy," has left London in disgust, that the Government has stood firm against the French proposals of mediation and intervention, and that "its conduct in some respects contrasts favourably with that of the Emperor of the French."—The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has had two "public breakfasts," one in London on Friday, the 23rd inst., and another in Manchester on Saturday. At both these gatherings the rev. gentleman made speeches. He told his London friends that after his labours in the provinces he found that his voice had completely given way, and he was alarmed at the possibility of being obliged to give up his Exeter Hall engagement. One morning, however, he "spoke to himself," and then happily discovered that his "voice was as clear as a whistle." He was thus enabled to resume his speech making, and although "some might say that his recovery was owing to the remedies he adopted, he was disposed to think that in their use he had the direct interposition of the Almighty."—Information has just reached us that the Government has stopped the work which was being carried on on board one of the rams in Messrs. Laird's yard. A number of men are thus thrown out of employment.—The regulations under the new London Police Act are about to be brought into immediate operation, so far at least as the omnibus traffic is concerned. The aldermen have announced their resolution to enforce penalties on all omnibuses that crawl through the City, which all City travellers by these vehicles know to be one of their most frequent sins, and very annoying to the passengers. The time-

keepers are henceforth to be under the direct control of the police. It is satisfactory to observe that the large omnibus proprietors have signified their concurrence in the regulations, and their desire to aid the authorities in putting them in force to the utmost of their power.—Archbishop M'Hale has brought to the repentant stool one of the most violent of Irish patriots. "Father" Lavelle, "impelled by a sense of duty," and "acting under obedience," has published a letter, in which he expresses regret for having penned the words, "Were I the unjustly evicted, either I or the landlord should fall." The sentence was very naturally interpreted as an encouragement to the Irish peasantry to shoot their landlords, but the rev. gentleman explains that he did not mean to give any such advice; he abhors assassination, and he "merely declared a determination of his own, in a certain contingency, to act in self defence." He further does penance for the part he took in the ridiculous affair of M'Manus's bones, and announces that, in compliance with the mandate of the Archbishop, he has broken off his connection with the "Brotherhood of St. Patrick." Again, he admits that he has "written some things too strong in language, at least for a minister of the Most High;" and, finally, he "submits all his writings and speeches to the judgment of the Holy See."—A few days ago, the abandonment was announced of the ship *Sebastian Cabot* by the master and crew, their coming on board the *Archipelago*, their being persuaded to return to the ship when she was taken in tow by the other, the parting of the two by stress of weather, and the final arrival of the *Sebastian Cabot* at Waterford. We now learn that the owners of the other vessel, the *Archipelago*, of Shields, have made a claim for salvage on the vessel and cargo to the extent of £100,000, or half her estimated value. In the meantime the Board of Trade has ordered a court of inquiry into the conduct of the master in abandoning the ship.—At the Central Criminal Court John Blackburn, who pleaded guilty to five charges of burglary, was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude; and Elizabeth Masters, found guilty of stealing property from railway stations, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.—The fearful colliery explosion at Morfa, near Swansea, and the consequent loss of life, will be fresh in the minds of our readers. A subscription was set on foot to provide for the families of the survivors; but as soon as this was ascertained Messrs. Vivian and Son, the lessees of the pit, made known that they, along with Mr. Talbot, the proprietor, were prepared to take the whole burden of the support of the widows and children upon themselves. The generous conduct of course renders the appeal to the public unnecessary, and it has been withdrawn.—A barbarous murder has taken place in the county of Tipperary. A farmer named Kelly, living near the town of Borrisokane, has been found lying dead in a pool of blood a little way from the high road. His skull had been battered in with stones.—A painful case has been investigated before a coroner's jury. A poor woman, named James, after enduring great privations, went to the house of a friend, declaring that "she had come there to die." She was suffering from consumption, and an application was made to the workhouse authorities for medical assistance. No notice was taken of this application at the time, but in the evening the medical officer of the parish (Bethnal Green) visited the sufferer, and wrote a note to the relieving officers, intimating that Mrs. James was "in a delirious state from privations and distress," and advising that she should at once be admitted into the infirmary. No assistance of any kind, however, was afforded to the woman, who, in the course of a day or two, died. The surgeon who made the *post mortem* examination stated that the deceased "must have been suffering from want of food for longer than some weeks," and the jury strongly censured the conduct of the relieving officers of Bethnal Green.—On Wednesday week, a woman named Roberts, residing at a place called Willow, in the neighbourhood of Bath, made a furious attack upon some men who had been "tensing" her. One of them she severely wounded with a reaping hook. She then appears to have given chase to a man named Haines, who is said to have taken no part in the annoyance offered to her. Haines fell, and while on the ground, he received a wound which, in the course of a few minutes, proved fatal. Roberts is in custody.—Sir Hugh Nugent, a youth of about 18, was out shooting at Stoke-by-Nayland, in Suffolk, the other day, when his gun, which he was holding by the muzzle and in the act of handing to a friend, accidentally exploded. The charge entered his side, inflicting a wound which must have proved almost instantane-

ously fatal.—Three men, named Knowlden, Oxford, and Dron, were on Wednesday each sentenced, at the Central Criminal Court, to eighteen months' hard labour, for an offence which merits signal punishment. With the assistance of a fourth person, who has managed to keep out of the way, they got up a sham Life Assurance Association, and by a system of specious puffing induced a number of poor people to insure in the "office." It is not difficult to guess what became of the money paid as premiums. The "Association" was advertised as having a paid-up capital of £5000, but a claim for £24, for a death, brought the whole affair to a standstill.—Sarah Emily Mitchell has been tried for the murder of her child. It may be remembered that she was living as the mistress of a Mr. Chappell in apartments in Marylebone. She was jealous of Mr. Chappell, and on the 31st of July, being left alone with her child, she stabbed it—so severely that it afterwards died—and cut her own throat. The defence was insanity, and the jury, believing it, returned a verdict of not guilty.—To rob a judge in open day in the public streets is surely the height of thievish impudence. Such an offence was, however, committed on Wednesday. Mr. Judge Payne was passing along Fleet-street, when at the corner of Fetter-lane two young fellows set upon him and stole his watch. The robbery was seen by numbers of people, and the thieves were chased, but they got clear off.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The semi-official journals of Paris seem to have been instructed to continue their complaints of English and Austrian hesitation respecting the Polish question, and their vaunts of the efficaciousness of the measures—of whose nature they do not give us the least inkling—which the French government has recommended to the Cabinets of London and Vienna.—The Italian Chambers are summoned to meet on the 17th of November.—From Bucharest we learn that the Chambers of the Danubian Principalities are summoned to meet on the 15th proximo, and that a new Cabinet has been formed.—The Conference of Ministers of the German Sovereigns who approved the Emperor Francis Joseph's proposals of federal reform, terminated on Saturday at Nuremberg; and the result of their deliberations is "said to be satisfactory to the participants."—The *Journal de St. Petersburg* denies that there is any truth in the statement that the Russian Ambassador had threatened the Turkish Government with war in case it should recognise the Polish insurgents as belligerents; and adds that there is nothing in the situation of Russia and Turkey to justify such a report. The *Breslau Gazette* says that the fire at the Hotel de Ville at Warsaw has destroyed all the archives of the secret police since 1831. The insurgents have captured a Russian convoy at Palawy, on the Vistula. Intelligence from Warsaw states that General Berg has ordered that no passport for abroad shall be henceforth delivered. Forty members of the municipality of Warsaw have been arrested, and a secret printing establishment of the National Government discovered. New bands of insurgents are reported to have entered the country.

AMERICA.—Interesting advices have been brought by the *Europe* from Boston and Halifax. Previous accounts had informed us that General Lee was endeavouring to turn the flank of the Federal army, and we now learn that he crossed the Rapidan on the 8th inst. A sharp cavalry engagement, in which the Federals were defeated, occurred on the 10th inst. near Robertson's river; and subsequently General Meade retired to the north bank of the Rappahannock, whence on or about the 13th inst. he continued his retreat by way of Manassas to Fairfax Court House, where he seems to have established his headquarters on the 15th inst. During these movements his right flank appears to have been constantly menaced by the Confederates, and his rear was entangled in frequent engagements of a more or less serious kind. In these engagements the Federal cavalry is admitted to have suffered severely; but it is asserted that the retreat was effected in good order, that the Confederates also sustained heavy losses, and that General Meade's second corps, which formed the rear-guard of his army, not only repulsed an attack of the pursuing Confederates on the 14th inst. at Bristow's Station, but captured five guns, two colours, and 450 prisoners. Up to the date of the latest New York telegram, the 17th inst., there had been no "general engagement" in Virginia, and the hostile armies confronted each other; but on the 16th inst. General Hill's Confederate corps was reported to have marched from General Meade's front in the direction of Leesburg—thus seemingly continuing the endeavour to turn the right flank of the Federal army. There was a rumour that

during these operations General Lee had been reinforced by General Longstreet's corps, re-called from the south-west after it had contributed to win the battle of Chicamauga. That rumour may probably enough have been unfounded; but at all events there was no evidence whatever that General Bragg was suspending or relaxing his endeavours to compel General Rosecrans to attack him in his entrenched position or retreat on Nashville. His cavalry had been actively operating in General Rosecrans's rear on the railways by which he communicated with Nashville and Memphis; and it was even asserted that, in consequence of their activity, none of the reinforcements from the West had yet reached Chattanooga. It was likewise rumoured that General Burnside's communications were intercepted, and that General Bragg had completely isolated him from General Rosecrans. It was, however, also stated that General Burnside had been successful in a sharp action with a considerable body of Confederates at Blue Spring. It was affirmed that on the 11th inst. all was ready for a general attack on the defences of Charleston; but at the date of the latest telegrams none was known to have been made, and it was even said that Charleston harbour was "effectually closed against the entrance of the iron-clads." The attack on the Federal frigate *Ironsides*, of which we have already had some intelligence, had been made by a torpedo vessel, and had inflicted more or less damage on her. A New York telegram dated the evening of the 17th inst., a few hours later than the latest despatch conveyed to us by the *Europa*, has been brought by the *North American* from Quebec. There was no fresh news from Virginia; but it had been officially announced that the Confederate army had not crossed the Potomac. President Lincoln had called for 300,000 volunteers.

INDIA, CHINA, &c.—There is nothing of much importance in the Calcutta news brought by the overland mail. The Hong Kong papers supply us with full details of the attack of the British fleet on Kagosima. The Japanese practised their usual cunning to delay the attack and to make their preparations against it. In this they were foiled, and though they fought well they were signally defeated. Besides the loss of the two gallant officers, Captain Josling and Commander Wilmot, we had 11 killed and 50 wounded. The Prince of Chosew has taken possession of the forts on the south side of the Straits of Shimonaki, thereby holding the key to the inland sea. There is no news of importance from Peking. Major Gordon was manœuvring against the rebels. It is rumoured that Burgevine's force was to be led against Ningpo, the prospect of looting that city being more favourable than fighting Major Gordon at Shanghai. The European consuls have remonstrated with the military mandarin at Shanghai against his proclamation offering a reward of £1000 for the person of Burgevine, "dead or alive," as against treaty stipulations. The mandarin replied at some length to the protest, and concluded by refusing to withdraw the proclamation.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. M. (LANCASHIRE).—Under the circumstances mentioned, there being no English P.M.'s in the lodge, and the W.M. and his two Wardens being forced to leave in discharge of their military duties, the Irish P.M., being a member of the lodge, may discharge the duties of Master. You cannot, however, elect him to that office, he having served the office of Warden in an English lodge without a dispensation, which we have no doubt would be readily granted.

B. B.—The will of the Master in his appointments is omnipotent. If he wishes to set aside a Secretary, and no other brother will perform the duties, whilst the W.M. is determined not to make the reappointment, he has no alternative but to perform the duties himself, there being no doubt that his successor will reinstate the brother thus temporarily set aside. Under the circumstances, we don't augur for the W.M. a very happy year of office.

J. J.—Bro. —, Esq. is simply ridiculous, the same as Mr. —, Esq.

LODGE 600.—AN OLD MASON.—Received too late for our present number.

BRO. RICHE GORDON's kind communication has been received, and shall be attended to.