

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1864.

GRAND LODGE FOR AUSTRALIA.

The *Melbourne Masonic Journal* brings us a communication from the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland (through the Grand Secretary), to Bro. Standish, the Provincial Grand Master of Victoria, on the subject of the proposed Grand Lodge of Victoria. It will be seen that this document, which we subjoin, takes almost precisely the same view with regard to the proposed new Grand Lodge as that which we enunciated some time since, and it is rather curious that our article appears almost simultaneously in the columns of our Melbourne contemporary, with the letter of the Grand Master. His Lordship expresses regret that the Directors should have taken so unadvised a course as to agitate for the new Grand Lodge, believing that, "so far from enhancing the position of Masonry in Victoria, the formation of an independent Grand Lodge in that colony would tend to lower it and bring it into disrepute. The course proposed to be taken by the brethren in Victoria might, with equal propriety, be taken in New Zealand, New South Wales, Tasmania, and other colonies, and thus there might be a Grand Lodge in each." That it is injudicious for the Freemasons of Victoria yet to look for the formation of a Grand Lodge we agree, and also that it would, at first, tend to weaken rather than strengthen their position; yet, withal, we cannot hide from ourselves the truth that the time must come, and that probably in the life-time of many of the present members, when each of the districts named by his Lordship will have its own Grand Lodge—his Lordship throughout the whole of his letter altogether ignoring the great principle on which the new Grand Lodge is proposed to be founded, viz., that of getting rid of three conflicting jurisdictions, England, Scotland, and Ireland, with different laws and regulations within one colony, nay, within the same town, as evidenced in the case of Melbourne, where they jostle over one another in most admired confusion, the whole of which might have been prevented by a little arrangement between the three parent Grand Lodges in the first instance. And, after all, we are not persuaded that there would be any greater inconsistency in there being separate Grand Lodges for New Zealand, New South Wales, and Tasmania, than there is for England, Ireland, and Scotland.

The Grand Master refutes the idea that large sums are remitted to this country for the benefit of the Grand Lodge of England, and shows clearly, as we indicated in our former articles, that these remittances barely pay expenses. "The only payment made to the Grand Lodge of England being seven shillings

and sixpence for each member initiated, which payment includes the Grand Lodge certificate; and that, in fact, the total receipts from Victoria in twenty-two years has been £1,888, or about £63 per annum, arising from forty lodges, the majority of which, however, are, of course, but of recent constitution. His Lordship then proceeds to say, "It is perfectly true that the Grand Lodge of England has a very large fund at its disposal for the relief of brethren in distress, but it is entirely maintained by the brethren here, although brethren from the Colonies are freely relieved from it, though they in no way contribute to maintain it. The same remark holds good of our Charities; and there is nothing to prevent the brethren of Victoria and other Colonies having such Charities of their own."

Upon this, the *Masonic Journal*, in an able article advocating the necessity of establishing Charities in connection with the Order in Australia, admits that £63 per annum would go very little way in their support. But there is another question which will arise, and which we would put to our Australian brethren, How far would that sum go to support a proper establishment for a Grand Secretary's office? And though, as the Grand Master says, "The pecuniary benefit arising to the Grand Lodge of England from its lodges in the Colonies would not weigh for one instant with either the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in determining the advisability or otherwise of colonial lodges maintaining their allegiance," the brethren may rest assured that they must increase their strength from five to tenfold before they will be in a proper position to maintain an independent Grand Lodge; and when that time comes we are certain Grand Lodge will raise no obstacle to their securing their own Grand Lodge, but, as we have before said, will wish them God speed with their enterprise.

The Grand Master says, "The Grand Master did undoubtedly in a graceful manner recognise the Grand Lodge of Canada, but the circumstances there were widely different. There had been put forward grounds of complaint which do not exist in the case of Victoria." The complaint, let it be remembered, was that communications from the lodges in the Colony did not meet with proper attention at home; and the complaint was alike made from the lodges under the jurisdiction of England, Ireland, and Scotland. We have amended the complaint, have the other Grand Lodges done the same? We fear not. It was the Irish Lodges that first raised the flag of independence in Canada, on the ground we have just stated, which at that time found a ready echo in the English Lodges. It is again in Victoria the Irish Lodges that are foremost in the movement, and they have put forward the old complaint, but that complaint finds no echo from the English Lodges—though

we believe it does from the Scotch—for amongst all his faults no one will accuse Bro. Gray Clarke from a want of attention to the correspondence of his office, if sometimes he does not write a little more than may be altogether discreet and desirable.

The Grand Master truly says:—"He has no legal means, and does not desire any, to compel the allegiance of those who desire to secede. He can only trust to their fidelity—to their obligations—and to their honour as men." But we cannot but feel that this appeal to obligations and honour sounds somewhat sadly when put in juxtaposition with the closing paragraph of the letter, which we think so far as regards the greater part of it, had been better omitted. "Finally, the Grand Master begs that you, as the District Grand Master, will give no countenance or support to the contemplated movement for the formation of an independent Grand Lodge of Victoria; but urges you to stimulate all good Masons to dis-countenance it, enjoining you to animate them to preserve their fidelity, and to use every means which a kindly Masonic spirit can dictate, to bring back those who are progressing in a wrong direction. But that failing, you are to put in force against them all the powers with which you are armed by the "Book of Constitutions," as the representative of the Grand Master, in the full confidence that you will have the support both of the Grand Master and of the Grand Lodge of England." Certainly the latter sentence looks too much like a threat to find a place in an argumentative letter—as these powers are very doubtful, so far as we read the "Book of Constitutions"—and we are sure that no harshness will find a response in the Grand Lodge of England, that will not be speedily put down by the good sense of the majority of its members. We see that, acting on the letter, the Provincial Grand Master has forbidden the discussion of the subject in "open lodge," and here we must express our opinion that he is wrong, as nothing tends to injure a cause so much as the endeavour to prevent its being fully discussed and ventilated in the most open matter—with such discussion may an apparent grievance become dispersed, which quietly brooded over, may assume an importance—the result of which it is impossible to foresee.

The following is the letter of the M.W. Grand Master:—

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.
July 16th, 1863.

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—By command of the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, I have the honour to inform you that he has very carefully considered your letter of the 24th of April last, with its enclosures, and the report of the proceedings that took place on the 18th of April, at the Duke of Rothsay Hotel, Melbourne, and I am to express to you how deeply his lordship regrets to hear of the very ill-advised steps taken by a few of the brethren in Victoria.

The Grand Master is of opinion that so far from enhancing the position of Masonry in Victoria, the formation of an independent Grand Lodge in that colony would tend to lower it and bring it into disrepute. The course proposed to be taken by the brethren in Victoria might, with equal propriety, be taken in New Zealand, New South Wales, Tasmania, and other colonies, and thus there might be a Grand Lodge in each. Nothing in the Grand Master's opinion is more mischievous, nothing tends more certainly to lower the character and influence of Freemasonry, and nothing leads more to destroy the universality of our degrees than the multiplication of Grand Lodges.

The Grand Master believes that the complaint that large sums are remitted to this country, and thus that Masonry is impoverished in Victoria, is unfounded: the only payment made to the Grand Lodge of England being seven shillings and sixpence for each member initiated, which payment includes the Grand Lodge certificate.

It is perfectly true that the Grand Lodge of England has a very large fund at its disposal for the relief of brethren in distress, but it is entirely maintained by the brethren here, although brethren from the colonies are freely relieved from it, though they in no way contribute to maintain it. The same remark holds good of our charities; and there is nothing to prevent the brethren of Victoria and other colonies having such charities of their own.

The pecuniary benefit arising to the Grand Lodge of England from its lodges in the colonies would not weigh for one instant with either the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in determining the advisability or otherwise of colonial lodges maintaining their allegiance.

The Grand Master did undoubtedly in a graceful manner recognise the Grand Lodge of Canada, but the circumstances there were widely different. There had been put forward grounds of complaint which do not exist in the case of Victoria; and in that case, where a complaint in reference to fees—similar to that alleged by the brethren in Victoria—was made, the Grand Master disposed of it by showing that the sum total paid by the lodges in Canada was utterly insignificant.

The Grand Master observes that the sum total received from Victoria has amounted, during twenty-two years, to less than £1,400.*

He desires to observe that the power of electing their own Grand Master is one of very doubtful advantage in newly-formed Grand Lodges, and leads not unfrequently to great internal division and dissension.

He has no legal means, and does not desire any, to compel the allegiance of those who desire to secede. He can only trust to their fidelity—to their obligations—and to their honour as men. They, and especially all Masters and Past Masters amongst them, have solemnly sworn to support and uphold the Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Master trusts that this contemplated step has only been joined in by a few of the unthinking members of lodges, for he cannot believe that right-minded and honourable men, who have reflected upon the subject, will be found willing to join it.

The Grand Master does not deny that circumstances may arise where lodges in distant colonies may, from their distance, their number, their antiquity, and other causes, be justified in asking to be permitted to found an independent Grand Lodge; but he is entirely of opinion that no such causes exist in Victoria, and he is quite satisfied that so far from any advantage or honour being derived from it, it must end in disaster

Finally, the Grand Master begs that you, as the District Grand Master, will give no countenance or support to the contemplated movement for the formation of an independent Grand Lodge of Victoria, but urges you to stimulate all good Masons to discountenance it, enjoining you to animate them to preserve their fidelity, and to use every means which a kindly Masonic spirit can dictate, to bring back those who are progressing in a wrong direction. But that failing, you are to put in force against them all the powers with which you are armed by the "Book of Constitutions," as the representative of the Grand Master, in the full confidence that you will have the support both of the Grand Master and of the Grand Lodge of England.

I have the honour to be, Right Worshipful Sir, your faithful servant and brother,

WM. GRAY CLARKE, G.S.

Fred. C. Standish, Esq.,
Provincial Grand Master of Victoria,
Melbourne.

* The following Returns show the total amount paid by each Lodge to the Grand Lodge of England, during the past twenty-two years, referred to in the above letter:—

LODGES IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALASIA.

Date of Warrant.	No.	Place of Meeting.	Payments to Grand Lodge.
			£ s. d.
April 2, 1841 ...	697	Melbourne	228 11 6
July 4, 1846 ...	773	Melbourne	87 10 0
Oct. 13, 1847 ...	801	Geelong	104 13 0
June 19, 1850 ...	841	Portland	34 14 0
May 15, 1854 ...	917	Melbourne, Saint Kilda	55 3 0
July 31, " ...	921	Williamstown ...	13 1 0
Oct. 24, " ...	924	Sandhurst	106 5 0
Sept. 25, 1855 ...	956	Ballaarat	92 12 0
Dec. 3, 1856 ...	993	Castlemaine	68 18 6
Aug. 25, 1857 ...	1015	Ballaarat	20 0 0
Do., " ...	1016	Emerald Hill	18 15 0
Oct. 2, " ...	1018	Daylesford	10 10 0
Do., " ...	1019	Ballaarat	21 5 0
Do., " ...	1020	Hawthorn	12 5 0
Dec. 1, " ...	1029	Collingwood	33 8 0
Do., " ...	1030	Beechworth	53 19 0
Do., " ...	1031	Melbourne	20 7 6
May 17, 1858 ...	1046	Ballaarat East ...	18 0 0
Do., " ...	1047	Maldon	23 17 6
Do., " ...	1048	Williamstown ...	17 15 0
Do., " ...	1049	Melbourne	12 0 0
Do., " ...	1050	Gisborne	20 0 0
July 2, " ...	1054	East Collingwood..	28 9 0
Nov. 13, " ...	1064	Castlemaine	13 17 6
Dec. 21, " ...	1070	Sandridge	35 7 6
Do., " ...	1071	Maryborough	21 17 6
Do., " ...	1072	Sandhurst	37 2 6
June 2, 1859 ...	1093	Richmond	25 2 6
June 20, " ...	1095	Tarngower	20 10 0
Sept. 21, " ...	1100	Kyneton	10 12 6
Do., " ...	1101	Creswick	17 7 6
Nov. 27, 1860 ...	1145	Heathcote	23 10 0
Do., " ...	1147	Collingwood ...	5 5 0
Do., " ...	1148	Kilmore	14 12 6
Oct. 21, 1861 ...	1187	Merino	10 5 0
Nov. 23, " ...	1196	Schnapper Point...	5 5 0
Do., " ...	1197	Warrnambool.....	14 17 6
April 24, 1862 ...	1217	Inglewood	20 2 6
Aug. 23, " ...	1224	Woodend	5 5 0
Sept. 20, " ...	1232	South Yarra, Mel- bourne.....	5 5 0
			1,888 4 0

FREEMASONRY, CONSIDERED IN ITS RELATIONS TO MORAL SCIENCL.

By BRO. W. SINCOCK, MELBOURNE.

Mariners Lodge (No. 1049), E.C.

"A subject worthy the attention of the Christian and the man of science. It includes a pure system of ethics, and develops the philosophy of mind, at the same that it recommends and encourages social recreation."—Oliver's "Theocratic Philosophy of Freemasonry."

At the present time, when speculative Masonry is making rapid strides, and is, notwithstanding, so little understood, that lectures are delivered to the uninitiated, and manuals published, professing to admit them to a complete knowledge of its profound mysteries, as if it was likely that men, however fond of notoriety, would disregard the most sacred obligations, and reveal what they had solemnly sworn to conceal, it may be desirable to direct attention to what is justly considered the main body of Masonry:—Its beautiful system of morality, educational tendency, and theocratical teaching.

Those who rightly prize whatever promotes the spread of piety and virtue, will rejoice at the existence of such an institution, and the initiated themselves will find a pleasure in tracing the outlines of ethical science, and perceiving that not only, as they are fully aware, does every emblem and every ceremony possess a moral significance, but that the whole system of Freemasonry forms a complete body of theoretical and practical ethics.

In endeavouring thus to lay bare the foundation, and exhibit the scientific superstructure of Masonry, I shall set aside those spurious rituals pretending to contain full descriptions of the machinery of the Craft, and regard the society as "blending science with morals, uniting benevolence with philosophy, and as displaying an example of fraternal union, which is sought in vain amidst other scenes, in these times of religious and political excitement."

The legitimate lectures of the three degrees contain the pure morality and philosophy of Freemasonry, and form a storehouse of knowledge for the advanced and accomplished Mason. Fully to explore the history and antiquities of the materials laid up here, as well as thoroughly to master their contents, in addition to the routine business and lectures of the lodge, is a worthy occupation for the leisure of the Mason possessed of the necessary industry and ability.

It cannot be expected that so vast a subject can be fairly treated within the limits of a short essay. A mere outline is all that can here be presented to the reader; and if this should convince him that there is more in Masonry than has ever before been dreamt of in his philosophy, the end of the writer will have been accomplished.

The three parts into which this subject will be divided will not exactly correspond with the three lectures in their order. Sometimes a particular moral law will be found in one division and sometimes in another. The Entered Apprentice may be considered as the threshold of knowledge—a mere learner in the school of moral science. The Fellow Craft, a labourer as well as learner, adding to his morality, intellectual attainments. Whilst the Master Mason may be regarded as having arrived at a higher knowledge, the knowledge of himself; his relations to the Deity and his destiny, and as now become qualified to be a teacher and guide in the paths of rectitude. Throughout the whole series, however, much may be already done in the way of generalisation, moral, intellectual, and psychological truths are so intermingled that it will be better to arrange them according to a particular system, when their mutual dependence and completeness will at once become evident, their beauty and order duly appreciated.

Let us now proceed to the investigation of what is understood by moral science, as defined by a professor

of moral philosophy, and afterwards consider Masonry in its moral, intellectual, and devotional aspects, and we shall not fail to observe its perfect agreement with scientific requirements according to one of the latest treatises on moral science.

1. Ethics, or moral philosophy, being the science of moral law, and law, meaning a form of expression denoting either a mode of existence or an order of sequence, moral law is a form of expression denoting an order of sequence established between the moral quality of actions and their results. Ethics is the science which classifies and illustrates moral law.

2. A moral action is the voluntary action of an intelligent agent, who is capable of distinguishing between right and wrong.

3. The moral quality of an action does not belong to the outward act, nor to the conception of this act, nor to the resolution to carry that conception into effect, but to the intention or design with which all this is done.

4. We derive our notion of the moral qualities of actions in the following manner:—

I. We stand in such relations to the several beings with which we are connected, that some of them, as soon as they are conceived, suggest to us the idea of moral obligation.

II. Our relations to our *fellowmen* suggest this conviction, in a limited and restricted sense, corresponding to the idea of general or essential equality.

III. The relation in which we stand to the Deity suggests the conviction of universal and unlimited love and obedience. This binds us to proper dispositions towards Him; and, also, to such dispositions towards His creatures as *He shall appoint*.

IV. Hence, our duties to men are enforced by a twofold obligation; first, because of our relations to man as man; and secondly, because of our relation to man as being, with ourselves, a *creature of God*.

V. And hence an act which is performed in obedience to our obligations to man may be *virtuous*; but it is not *pious*, unless it also be performed in obedience to our obligations to God.

VI. And hence we see that two things are necessary in order to constitute any being a moral agent. They are, first, that he possess an intellectual power, by which he can understand the relation in which he stands to the beings by whom he is surrounded; secondly, that he possess a moral power by which the feeling of obligation is suggested to him, as soon as the relation in which he stands is understood. This is sufficient to render him a moral agent. He is *accountable*, just in proportion to the opportunity which he has enjoyed for acquiring a knowledge of the relations in which he stands, and of the manner in which his obligations are to be discharged.

These preliminary observations on ethics, from "Wayland's Moral Science," serve to introduce the subject of conscience, or the moral sense, the existence of which faculty is clearly acknowledged in the Masonic system. His self-convincing conscience and God's Word must try and approve his acts of piety and virtue, as an operative mason tries a perfect ashler or squared stone with square and compasses. How beautifully the conscience is here likened to a pair of compasses we shall perceive, on reading, in the work just quoted, a description of the office of the conscience. "In relation to passion or appetite, and interest or self-love, both impulsive faculties, the office of conscience is to restrain our appetites within such *limits* that the gratification of them will injure neither ourselves nor others; and so to govern our self-love that we shall act in obedience to that law which *limits* the pursuit of happiness so that the happiness of others shall not be interfered with."

The Holy Scriptures, or volume of the Sacred Law, sometimes termed God's Word is highly venerated by all true Masons. This holy book "constitutes the furniture of the pedestal." The study of its pages is recom-

mended as being "the unerring standard of truth and justice" by which to try all their actions and regulate their conduct.

So far we have treated of theoretical ethics only. Let us now pass to practical ethics, which we may comprehend under two heads—reciprocity and benevolence.

Reciprocity includes justice, veracity, filial piety, temperance, and civil duties—as allegiance, patriotism, &c. Justice may be further divided into four subjects, as it relates to the property, reputation, character, or liberty of our neighbour. Benevolence includes brotherly love and relief.

Every one of these duties is inculcated in a clear and pleasing style, and in such a manner as to create a lasting impression on the mind. The cardinal virtues—temperance, prudence, fortitude, and justice—are particularly expatiated on. Patriotism is enjoined, and the preservation of health recommended to be studied. It will thus be seen that every relative duty has its place. Natural equality, mutual dependence, subordination of rank and fortune to honour and virtue, the due appointment of time, labour, perseverance, innocence, friendship, charity, and her sister mercy, secrecy, fidelity, and obedience to authority, are all in turn assisted on as being necessary to complete the character of an upright man and a genuine good Mason.

Intellectual power, it may be remembered, is necessary to moral agency, and we will now proceed to the cultivation of the intellect, and enumerate those studies specially recommended to Freemasons. Generally speaking, the highest education is to be sought, and every study attainable, without neglect of ordinary social duties. Nature and science—the works of the Great Architect—and the laws He has imposed on them; the seven liberal arts and sciences—grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry with architecture, music, and astronomy—of all these, Masons believe geometry to be the first and noblest of the sciences. "By geometry, we may curiously trace nature through her various windings to her most concealed recesses. By it we may discover the power, the wisdom, and the goodness of the Grand Artificer of the Universe, and view with amazing delight the beautiful proportions which connect and grace this vast machine."

The ancient Masonic literature, illustrating the lecture, traditions, and usages of Freemasons, is chiefly composed of the Bible, Josephus, Plato, Jamblichus' Life of Pythagoras, and the history of the ancient Egyptians. All these are to receive a due share of attention from him who is anxious to perfect himself in the knowledge of the mystic art.

Besides moral and intellectual cultivation, the devotional spirit is also to be fostered. The omniscience, justice, and other attributes of the Deity are, in various modes, brought before the notice of Masons; also, trust in God, and submission to His decrees, humility, self-knowledge, daily prayer, godliness, faith, hope, and charity.

Death is kept in view, and the doctrines of a resurrection to a future life—where rewards or punishments await us as we have obeyed or disregarded the Divine commands—are taught in the clearest manner, so as to make an indelible impression on the mind.

Masonry thus constitutes a complete system of moral and social science, by which, after the heart and intellect have been trained and duly exercised in useful labour, her disciple is instructed to contemplate and prepare for that solemn hour, when "Death will have his prey," and consoles him then with the prospect of immortality.

In conclusion, I would ask the detractors of our venerable order, in the eloquent language of Bro. Moore, of Exeter, "If Freemasonry instils into the mind the sacred precepts of justice, honour, and mercy, as found in that sacred volume, which, in her lodges is never closed; if she continually appeals to that book, not for the purposes of polemical controversy, or the discussion

of mere doctrinal subtleties, but as the rule and guide of all our actions; if still, under the guidance of the principles of moral truth, she directs the minds of her votaries to the cultivation of the liberal arts and sciences, to the improvement of those wondrous faculties with which God has endowed the beings formed after His own image, that they may thereby be the better enabled to show forth His glory, and promote the good of their fellow-creatures; if the objects of Freemasonry are to purify the mind of man from every malignant passion, and to prepare it for the reception of truth and virtue, and all this only as a means of instruction how to meet that last awful change of his inevitable destiny; and if, by these gradations, his eyes are eventually fixed on the sublime truths of revealed religion—if all these things be so, and well-instructed brethren who read this, know that they are true, then has Freemasonry, in all ages, been a boon to man, and is still a means of blessing him. Its origin, Divine, because founded on Divine precepts; its practice benevolent, because its principles are those of universal charity; it aids and cherishes religion where it meets her, and imitates her actions where she is not."

"Vivat! vivat! et in aeternum vivat."
—*Melbourne Masonic Journal.*

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

GRAND PATRON OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

In an old newspaper of 1794, I met with a paragraph, which says:—"The society of Grand and Royal Arch Masons, held their anniversary at Freemason's Tavern. The meeting was respectable, at which his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, patron of the Order, presided. The day passed with the utmost conviviality and harmony." I, in my ignorance, thought that a prince of the Royal Family was only a Grand Patron of the Craft, but it appears he could also be Grand Patron of the Royal Arch. Are any other instances known? One piece of information derived from the above is, that the late King William IV. was a Royal Arch Mason. In what chapter was he exalted?—TRIPLE TAU.

A FEW OLD SCRAPS.

In looking over my Masonic cuttings, scraps, and miscellaneas, gathered from various sources, I thought the accompanying would prove acceptable to some of my brother Freemasons, through your columns.—Ex. Ex.

A Discourse delivered before St. John's Lodge, No. II. of Newbern, in America, on the Festival of St. John the Baptist, June 24th, 1789.—By FRANCOIS XAVIER MARTIN.

"Sermo oritur, non de villis, domibusve alienis;
—sed quod magis ad nos

Pertinent, et nescire malum est.

HORACE.

"Masonry is a select association of men, professing to live in brotherly-love, to smooth to each other the rugged paths of adversity, and to keep a most inviolable secrecy on certain parts of their Institution.

"I have said 'A select Association.'

"In any auditory, but the one I address, the epithet might excite a smile. It behoves to inquire, whether this ridicule would be grounded? That, if any deficiency on our own part authorize it, the effect may be more easily prevented from a better knowledge of the cause.

"If this selection be not perfect, as the purity of the Institution requires, the imperfections can only proceed from two causes: the admission of unworthy persons, and the degeneracy of the members. Each has been foreseen, and guarded against, by the framers of our constitution.

"With regard to admission. A strict inquiry into the moral character of the candidate is an indispensable prelude; the opinion of every member is appealed to; and their unanimous approbation being the condition

without which none can obtain admission, measures have been adopted to prevent the suffrages from being controverted, biassed, or embarrassed; and lastly, the trials which precede the initiation are to evince that the future member is possessed of that courage and fortitude of mind, which are necessary to keep a secret, and practice the characteristic virtues of this Divine Institution. In examining how careful our predecessors have been in framing and handing down to us this mode of admission, let us be filled with a salutary anxiety to prevent any unjustifiable neglect on our part from overturning the work of their prudence. Finally, it may be a consoling reflection, that if the selection be not as perfect as the purity of the Institution would demand, it will be found as much so as the universality of its plan can admit of; if the necessary allowance be made for the imperfection of all mundane establishments.

"With regard to the degeneracy of the members, they are men, and, as such, liable to err. But a more intimate intercourse with persons of virtuous principles—their being constantly employed in the same work with such frequent lessons of morality—the anxiety of preserving their reputation—which they must feel in a more exquisite degree, as on it depends that of a society of worthy persons—will retain them within the bounds of their duty—and proper admonitions, from their brothers or superiors, bring them back, should they happen to recede. When those lenient means prove ineffectual, suitable correction is resorted to. Then if the delinquent prove refractory, expulsion puts it out of his power to injure any longer the character of the Craft.

"Masons profess 'To live in brotherly love, and to smooth to each other the rugged paths of adversity.'

"'To live in brotherly love.' In this Masonry only requires stricter observance of what natural and revealed religion proscribes.

"'To smooth to each other the rugged paths of adversity,' is but a natural consequence of brotherly love. If there be a period in man's life wherein he is more entitled than in any other to demand from his fellow-creatures the observance of that command of God, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,' it is in the hour of distress. Our predecessors at first united principally the better to afford to the distressed that relief which aggregate bodies can procure more amply than individuals. Seldom (perhaps I ought to say, never) was the assistance of a lodge unsuccessfully implored, when the applicant had not rendered himself unworthy of it.

"Lastly. Masons profess 'To keep the most inviolable secrecy on certain parts of their institution.' Taciturnity has always been their characteristic virtue. In the early ages of the world, the professors of all sciences required it from their disciples, and Solomon forbade the workman he employed to impart the secrets of their art to their apprentices, until, by a long probation, they had proved themselves worthy of being further advanced.

"The ignorant, whose jealousy generally reviles what they do not understand, have vainly endeavoured to make this fraternity the object of their ridicule. But malice and envy must be silent, when, on the list of the votaries of Masonry, appear the names of the greatest and best of men in all countries.

"In Europe, over the Masons in that part of the world, presided a Frederick.*

"In America, in the hour of trial, when God afflicted us with the scourge of war, there appeared in the East, a Warren † the Grand Master of the Masons of Massachusetts. He fought, and nobly fell, the first martyr to Columbian freedom! In Pennsylvania, the enlightened sage, ‡ of whom it has been said, 'Eripuit celo fulmen, sceptrumque tyrannis.'§ His services in the cabinet, and

* Frederick, King of Prussia.

† Dr. Joseph Warren, the celebrated orator, slain upon the heights of Charlestown, June 17, 1775.

‡ Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

§ "Who snatched celestial fire, and broke the oppressor's spear."

at foreign courts, have evinced his wisdom and patriotism. Were it necessary to produce an instance of one who united a Warren's bravery, and a Franklin's wisdom, the Lodge of Virginia can boast of *him*,* who needs not be named. God, in His mercy, gave him to this land—to defend it in war, to govern it in peace.

"Having thus examined what Masonry is, we find it to be a chosen assemblage of worthy persons, united for the most philanthropic purposes, and cannot but conclude, as I have advanced in the beginning of this discourse, that it is the most ancient and most useful of all sublunary institutions. May we not conjecture, from its present flourishing state, that it will be the most lasting? It bids fair 'to endure till time shall be no more.'

"But in vain is an institution holy, if the members be profane. Let not the foregoing observations produce in us a sterile admiration; but let them stimulate us to be operative, as we are speculative Masons. Let the apprentices cherish the practice of the lessons they receive. Let an heroic fortitude distinguish the Craftsmen. May those who have presumed to make further advancements, endeavour to attain that degree of perfection, of which human nature is capable. So that, when our works shall be examined by our Supreme Master, the Architect of all Worlds, the square of his probation fitting easy thereupon, we may receive that reward which this world giveth not."—From the *American Museum*, 1790.

Significant Description of Freemasonry.

Mr. Arnold, in his Dutch Dictionary, under the word "Freemasonry," says, that it is "a Moral Order, instituted by virtuous men, with the praiseworthy design of recalling to our remembrance the most sublime truths, in the midst of the most innocent and sociable pleasures, founded on liberality, brotherly love, and charity."

A Prayer at Initiation.

Glorious Architect of Heaven and earth, we beseech Thee to bless our present undertaking, and to grant that this our friend may become a faithful brother, and that he, and all of us may live as men, duly considering the important ends for which Thy goodness has created us. Give us, O God, wisdom to contrive in all our doings,—strength to support us under all difficulties, and beauty to adorn those heavenly mansion where Thy honour dwelleth: and grant that we may be firmly united with brotherly love, and in all dealings with the world may do justice to all men, love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee our God, and that at last an entrance may be administered unto us into the lodge of perfect happiness, O great Jehovah. Amen.

Address to Freemasons.

To stretch forth your hands to assist a brother whenever it is in your power—to be always ready to go any where to serve him—to offer up your warmest petitions for his welfare—to open your breasts and hearts to him—to assist him with your best council and advice—to soothe the anguish of his soul, and betray no confidence he reposes in you—to support him with your authority—to use your utmost endeavours to prevent him from falling—to relieve his wants as far as you are able, without injuring yourselves or your families—in short, mutually to support and assist each other, and earnestly to promote one another's interests, are duties which (well you know) are incumbent upon you? But do these duties always influence you? Are they not too often forgotten?—your worthy brethren too frequently neglected, and the stranger preferred to those of your own household? ye are connected by solemn promises: Let those always be so remembered as to direct your actions; for then, and then only, will you preserve consciences void of offence, and prepare that firm cement of utility and affection, which time will have no power to destroy. The privileges of Masonry have been made too

common; they have been bestowed upon the worthless and the wicked, and the reputation of the society has been injured. Good and true men, not immoral or scandalous, but of good report, ought only to be honoured with them; and every Mason should be particularly careful to recommend none as candidates for our mysteries, but such whose characters will answer this description."

A HINT FOR MUSICAL BRETHEREN.

[The Irish are naturally a musical people, and it is in no way surprising that they should cultivate the art as sedulously as they do. This spirit has extended itself into the Craft, and as it is desirable a like feeling should be cultivated here; as a hint for musical brethren to act upon, we cannot do better than print the very excellent rules and regulations adopted to render part singing more popular in Dublin, believing it only requires a similar institution to make it more welcome in our own lodges.]

"The Masonic Glee Union.

"At a meeting held at the Freemasons' Hall, on the 25th of November, 1863, the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master in the chair, it was proposed by Bro. Thomas E. Beatty, M.D., seconded by Bro. Thomas A. Jones, and resolved:—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting that the formation of a Masonic Society for the cultivation of concerted vocal music, would be attended with advantage to the Masonic fraternity."

"Proposed by Bro. John A. Baker, seconded by Bro. John Rigby:—

"That a committee, consisting of the brethren now present, be appointed to take the necessary measures for the formation of such a society, and to draw up a code of rules for its management; and that Bro. Samuel B. Oldham be requested to act as Secretary."

"In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, the committee have drawn up the following as the proposed rules for the management of the society:—

I.

"That the society shall be denominated the 'Masonic Glee Union.'

II.

"That the object of the society shall be the cultivation of Concerted Vocal Music.

III.

"That the meetings of the society shall be held each Saturday from the 1st of November to the 30th of June, commencing each evening at eight o'clock precisely, and terminating at ten o'clock.

IV.

"That the society shall consist of performing, non-performing, and honorary members. Professional brethren alone to be eligible for the latter.

V.

"That the M.W. the Grand Master of the Masonic body in Ireland shall be *ex-officio* the patron of the society, and the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master the President.

VI.

"That the annual subscription of each member, whether performing or non-performing, shall be 10s., payable in advance on the 1st of November in each year.

VII.

"That any person wishing to become a member of the society shall be proposed and seconded at an ordinary meeting of the society, and shall be balloted for on that day fortnight; one black bean in five to exclude. No ballot to take place unless at least eleven members be present.

VIII.

"That the entire management of the society shall be vested in a committee, consisting of the Patron, President, Conductor, Secretary, and Treasurer, and five other

* General Washington.

members of the society, to be elected annually by ballot, on the first Saturday in January.

IX.

"That none but members shall be admitted to the practice meetings of the society, but the committee shall have power to arrange for occasional open nights, not exceeding four in the season, to which brethren will be admissible as visitors on tickets, obtained through members only.

X.

"That the Treasurer's accounts, duly audited, shall be laid before the members at the first meeting in January.

XI.

"That no rule of the society shall be altered, or new rule added, without at least a fortnight's notice of the proposed alteration being given."

VOLTAIRE AND FREEMASONRY.

In answer to "Zeta," it is *folly* which Voltaire ascribed to the propagators of Freemasonry. There is a misprint in the article communicated by me, Notes and Queries, page 375, of the last volume of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. "Foris" should be read "fous." "Zeta" professes to be versed in the French language, but he does not seem to have very great power of conjectural emendation.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MASONIC UNION.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—On reading your otherwise admirable report of the most interesting proceedings on the occasion of the opening of the new hall of the "Masonic Union, Limited," under the auspices of the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar, I much feared that misunderstanding would be excited in the minds of some Sir Knts. and others, who, from reading the account of the proposition and response by Sir Knt. Ridgway and myself, would be led to believe that an occurrence of an unpleasant nature had taken place at the close of a memorable and most agreeable and successful meeting, which might threaten discord between members of a body now happily as united as ever, and, I believe, daily increasing in numbers, wealth, and importance. Unfortunately my fears have been realised, as evidenced by the letter in your columns of the 9th inst., signed "A Young Provincial Brother, No. 2." My recollection may be at fault, or I may have attached to Sir Knt. Ridgway's observations a meaning other than that which you thought them calculated to convey. I have, however, spoken to many present on the 9th of December last, and they unanimously agree with me that in Sir Knt. Ridgway's language or manner there was nothing antagonistic to the best interests of the Order of Knights Templar, or that could be offensive to, or unpopular with, any assembly under its banners.

Sir Knt. Ridgway was desirous of paying me a compliment (doubtless entirely undeserved) in connection with the work that day brought to an issue. The chairman ruled that this was travelling out of the record, but kindly, and, as I believe, cordially concurred in the compliment in another shape. This difference in feeling and opinion upon an unimportant subject led to a very slight discussion, and most unquestionably, if I did use any words which might be construed as objecting to the "interruptions" of Sir Knt. Ridgway, they were intended as altogether friendly and jocular. My attempts at wit may perhaps be of a ponderous and sombre character, and as I fancy they generally turn out to be failures, it will be for the better if I altogether abandon them for the future, and confine myself exclusively to the serious line of business.

I am perfectly well aware how competent Sir Knt. Ridgway is to maintain his own cause, to support his own opinions, and to defend himself against any attack or misrepresentations, with neither of which do I charge you or the author of the most excellent report in question. Since I have had the pleasure of his acquaintance, no essential difference of opinion has ever occurred between us, though we have often discussed questions of importance in connection with various orders and degrees of Masonry in which it is my happiness to meet him; therefore it is that I am anxious to correct any erroneous impression as to expressions made use of by him while favourably noticing any poor exertions or services of mine.

And now, Sir, if I have not exhausted your patience with a too lengthy dissertation on a private matter, I will just beg permission and space to refer to the points of public importance alluded to by your correspondent. I feel sure this brother writes in a spirit of friendliness and of well-wishing to the cause of Masonry generally, but I do not like his indiscriminate censure of the Supreme Masonic Jurisdictions. Where we have sworn allegiance, let us be leal and true, and take the proper and constitutional means of reforming such abuses as may be proved to exist. There are many things in the relations between the ruling powers of the orders and degrees not recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England which, in the opinions of a large number of influential members, are eminently unsatisfactory, but a wholesale denunciation in print will not tend to rectify them, nor will the application of such epithets as "tomfooleries" exclude from "Blue, Arch, or Knightly degrees" any practices thus characterised. Representation of the provinces in our governing assemblies is extremely desirable, and may be considerably extended if the same zeal which breathes in your correspondent's language is exhibited in act by him and the "hundreds of good men and true who pant for relief."

I do not intend the slightest reference in anything I have written to the United Grand Lodge of England, in whose affairs I feel a strong interest, though from its deliberations I withdrew nearly three years since; but I am sure that if our "Young Provincial Brother, No. 2" will write privately to the Grand Vice-Chancellor of the Templars, to the Secretary-General of the Supreme Grand Council, to myself, any and every suggestion he or his friends may urge with a view to improvement, will be submitted to the various executives with which we are connected, and will be carefully considered.

I cannot close this letter without adding the expression of my earnest wish to that contained in your leading article of Saturday last, that friendly and peaceful counsels may guide all the members of our time-honoured Institution, in all its branches, that whatever may be the differing value we attach to this Order or that degree, we may at least endeavour to cultivate social amenities, and to live in unity and brotherly love—remembering that the keystone of our structure is *Charity*.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours very fraternally,

FREDK. BINCKES.

Masonic Union Limited, 14, Bedford-row, W.C.,
12th January, 1864.

THE GLAMORGAN LODGE AND ITS RE-INITIATION.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Having in a former communication expressed an intention of reporting this unlawful proceeding to the higher Masonic authorities, allow me to explain to you, and to any of your numerous readers who may be looking for the *dénouement* of this most extraordinary affair, my reasons for forbearing to adopt a course which I am convinced must have insured

a severe penalty upon the lodge (however well merited), and might have involved absolute erasure.

To be as brief as possible. In the first place, the lodge unanimously voted certain *addenda* to the minutes, recording the "re-initiation," which made those minutes "substantially and materially" correspond with the report contained in your number of November 14th, which report, although not communicated by your regular correspondent, was *vouched* for by him.

In the second place, a so-called vote of censure upon the unknown brother who reported the proceedings to your *MAGAZINE* (*never legally carried*) was, by a like unanimous vote of the lodge, ordered to be *erased* from the minute book.

Thirdly, the W.M., in a characteristically honest and straightforward manner, admitted, from the chair of the lodge, that a "mistake" had been committed—which, I may add, would never have occurred had the W.M. followed the dictates of his own judgment (invariably, in my experience, a very sound one), instead of allowing himself to be influenced by a coterie of P.M.'s, altogether unamenable for his conduct in the chair.

In the fourth and last place, a much-respected Past Master (at present holding the third official capacity in the province) proposed "That the fees received from the re-initiated brother be refunded," which proposition was carried with two dissentients.

The W.M. having thus gracefully admitted a Masonic error, and the lodge having determined that the ill-gotten funds should be disgorged, I conceive the "double initiation" is, as far as possible, morally and virtually cancelled; and I can, therefore, see no good object to be gained, or end to be obtained, by bringing down upon the lodge a severe censure or a still more serious penalty for a transaction they have allowed to be both ill-advised and illegal. On the other hand, I trust the unenviable notoriety this unprecedented proceeding has attained, will convince certain brethren that, although the season may be pantomimic, jugglery and Freemasonry are altogether incompatible.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
CORRESPONDENT.

Cardiff, January 13th, 1864.

THE GRAND LODGE, ALPINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I never was more astonished in my whole life than on reading the paragraph relating to Switzerland, contained in your leading article in No. 236 of your *MAGAZINE*. Considering that the Grand Lodge of England has a representative at the Grand Lodge, Alpina, and that the last Grand Lodge has a representative in London, it might have been expected that application would have been made to either or both of those brethren, before incriminating a sister Grand Lodge in such an unparalleled way.

Allow me to declare that passage in your article as a most unjustifiable calumny. In all that regards the Grand Lodge, Alpina, or her members, there is not one word of truth.

The Grand Lodge, Alpina has had nothing to do with the building or lottery in question; but has, on the contrary, caused a stringent examination to be made into the proceedings of the individual lodge referred to, as alleged against them by certain newspapers.

The report of the Grand Lodge Commissioners will be shortly printed. As soon as I receive it I will not fail to forward to you the information it will contain; but I must request you to give this article a prominent place in your next number.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
R. J. S.

Berne, 11th January, 1864.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—The brethren of this old-established lodge met at six o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, the 5th inst., for the purpose of the installation of the W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Rackstraw, Bro. Conesdine being the installed W.M. Bro. Poulton, the S.W., then took his place in that position, and, in the absence of Bro. Stevens, who was prevented from attending by indisposition, Bro. Willey, the J.D., performed the duties of office as J.W. Bros. S. and E. Corte were the J.D. and I.G. Mr. Hillary Albert (a foreign gentleman) was initiated into the first degree, and Bro. Willis was progressed to the second degree. The brethren then retired to refreshment. The routine toasts were proposed in a style that lost nothing in the hands of the W.M. In returning thanks for his health being proposed, Bro. Rackstraw informed the brethren that he had been a Mason over forty years, that his love for it had "grown with his growth and strengthened with his strength," and whenever he could be of service to Masonry it was his greatest pride and delight to exert his energies in its behoof. This lodge is very strong in its attendance of Past Masters, of whom there were upon this occasion no less than eleven present, viz., Bros. Rackstraw, Lee, Valentine, Burton, Woods, Boring, Perryman, Friend, Young, Abbott, and Warr, the I.P.M. The visitors were Bros. Joseph Smith, P.G.P., who was initiated in this lodge; W. Greaves, of the Enoch (No. 11); W. Forsyth, of the Royal Albert; Purdy, of the Finsbury (No. 821); and Charles Sloman, which last brother, in conjunction with Bros. H. Buckland and Nell, greatly entertained the assemblage with specimens of most admirable vocalisation.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern, to non-confirm part of the minutes of the previous meeting, so far as the election of the S.W. to the chair for the ensuing year, he having through unavoidable circumstances resigned. A ballot was taken, when Bro. Swan, J.W., was elected, and was installed on Wednesday last.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 172).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, the 5th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern, and as usual was very numerous attended. Bro. Jabez Hogg, W.M., presided, supported by his officers, P.M.'s Kennedy, Emmens, Jackson, Booth, George Garton, and Booth, and the following visitors:—Bros. Tomkins, W.M. Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2); Greenwood, Prov. G. Sec. for Surrey, and P.M. 211; Shaboe, P.M. 554; Clark, 8; Binckes, P.M. 10; Masterman, 11; How, 95; W. H. Davis, 95; Peter Bicker Carter, 95; Allison, 98; Day, P.M. 101; Swanston, 91; C. Fish, 91; Blackburn, P.M. 145; Sisson, 101; Wilson, 183; Blackburn, P.M. 889; King, 321; De Peckh, 343; Davis, 190; and Mills, 813. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read, Mr. Payne presented himself as a candidate, and was impressively initiated by the W.M. into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. The next business was to install Bro. Davis, the W.M. elect, into the chair of K.S., as W.M. for the ensuing year. The new W.M. having received the customary honours, the addresses were delivered by Bro. Emmens, P.M. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Corben, S.W.; Green, J.W.; Dixson, S.D.; Sallust, J.D.; King, I.G.; Mausfield and Walker, Stewards; Masterman, Dir. of Cers.; and C. T. Spright, Tyler. A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Hogg, as a small mark of esteem entertained by the brethren of him for his services during the past year. It bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. Jabez Hogg by the Old Concord Lodge (No. 172), as a mark of esteem for his able services while presiding as W.M. Jan. 5, 1864." Bro. Hogg returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and said he should ever look with pride upon that token of the goodwill of the brethren, and of the happy hours he had spent in the Old Concord Lodge.—The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, to which about 80 sat down. It was furnished in Bros. Shrewsbury and Elkington's best style. After the cloth had been drawn, the W. MASTER gave "The Queen and Craft," which was followed by the National Anthem, sung by Miss Woollans, who made her *debut* as a vocalist on this

occasion, and Bros. Woollams, George Forde, and Vernon, Bro. Wilson presiding at the pianoforte.—The other Masonic toasts having been given, the W. MASTER said the next toast he had to propose was that of Bro. Payne, who had that evening been initiated into the Old Concord Lodge. To him, as Master, it was a great pleasure to see him initiated in the Old Concord Lodge, and he trusted he would never regret the step he had taken in Freemasonry.—Bro. PAYNE briefly returned thanks for his admission amongst them, and hoped he should prove a worthy member of their ancient and honourable society.—The W. MASTER said the next toast he had to propose was always a most gratifying one to every member of the Old Concord Lodge, as it was that of the visitors, and most grateful and happy was he to see so many present on that festive occasion. He gave “The Health of the Visitors,” and coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Tomkins, W.M., of the Lodge of Antiquity.—Bro. TOMKINS acknowledged the toast on behalf of the visitors.—Bro. HOGG, I.P.M., in giving “The Health of the W.M. elect, Bro. Davis,” said he now felt and knew that in their W.M. in the chair they had got the right man in the right place, for their work would be done to their satisfaction. From his great experience in Freemasonry, and having been W.M. of another lodge he was quite up to work of any kind either in or out of the lodge, and he hoped he would have a prosperous year. Bro. Davis was a man who was highly esteemed in public and private life, and after a successful year of office, he hoped would attain that happy position at which he (Bro. Hogg) had arrived that night. It was a great satisfaction to him to know that the members would be in the hands of so esteemed a Master, and he trusted he would enjoy long life and happiness.—The W. MASTER said he rose with great diffidence, after the very kind manner in which Bro. Hogg had proposed his health, and for the cordial way in which the brethren had responded to the toast. It was, indeed, difficult for him to say anything of himself, but he could not refrain from thanking them most heartily for the way in which they had drunk his health. He must say, he entered the chair with some diffidence, from a knowledge of the excellent Masters they had had in the Old Concord Lodge. At any rate, he promised them to do his best to emulate the worthy Masons who had preceded him in that chair, and he should trust to the indulgence of the brethren if he should be found deficient. He had now arrived at the proud position which he had long coveted, and wishing the brethren long life and prosperity, he hoped they might all arrive at the chair in which he was that evening placed. The W.M. now wished to claim the attention of the brethren while he proposed the next toast, which was one always well received by Masons, as it was a toast that every good Mason had at heart. When he told them that the toast was that of charity, he felt sure it would find a response in every Mason’s breast, for they never met at the festive board without thinking of their Masonic Charities. He was happy to say that at their annual festivals the Old Concord Lodge never wanted a steward to represent them on such occasions. He proposed “Success to their Masonic Charities,” coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Binckes.—Bro. BINCKES said it was a great satisfaction to him that their worthy W.M. should have brought the toast of the Masonic Charities under the notice of the brethren at that early period of the evening, and to excite their feelings on behalf of those noble institutions on that convivial occasion; but they should bear in mind that all their brethren were not so happy as they were who were sitting round that festive board. In thinking of the Masonic Charities, it reminded him of the Ancient Egyptians, who always kept a skeleton in their houses to remind them of their mortality, so ought they never to forget those who might want their assistance, for although they might be that day in prosperity, there was no telling how soon they might fall into adversity, and be glad to become recipients of their charities. He believed that those institutions were progressing in favour with the Craft; and, indeed, he might say that they were not only making gradual but wonderful progress. He believed that the Craft had 25,000 subscribing members, many of them being resident in the colonies, and in the past year the charities had received something like £17,000. If an analysis could be made, he believed it would be shown from the report which he should soon make, that these receipts were contributed by not more than 1,000 persons, whilst a large number of Masons had not contributed anything towards them. He did not say this with reproach, but he said that the large number who had contributed had their sympathy with the great object they have at heart. Their in-

stitutions provided for the children of both sexes, and gave to them an education equal to that which they would have received had their parents been alive; whilst the parents themselves, who in their prosperity had supported their institutions, if adversity should overtake them, were received into their asylums or relieved from those funds to which they had themselves contributed. Therefore, taking all those things into consideration, it was no less than their duty to do all they could to show to the world that Freemasonry was something more than a name. When anyone was introduced into Freemasonry he ought at once to lay the foundation of those Charities which afforded homes and maintenance for those who were not able to provide them for themselves. In Freemasonry they could boast they had institutions not behind any other society for they had their schools and their asylums, which were making progress, advancing year by year, by the support of such lodges as he then had the honour to address. Some lodges had not subscribed a single shilling to any one of them, but the Old Concord Lodge had subscribed to them all, and the question was not whether they should send a steward to their festivals, but which of their members should have the honour of representing it on such occasions. He thanked them cordially for the manner in which they had responded to the toast of the Masonic Charities. (Hear, hear.)—The W. MASTER then gave “The P.M.’s of the Lodge,” coupling with the toast “The Health of their Immediate P.M., Bro. Hogg.”—Bro. HOGG, P.M., said after the very eloquent way in which Bro. Waters had responded to this toast during the past year, he could only feebly express his thanks to them for this toast, or for their mark of favour in the jewel he then wore upon his breast. He had earnestly tried to do his best, and he should look upon that mark of their favour as the brightest treasure he could possess, and as a proof of the kind and brotherly feeling expressed towards him by the Old Concord Lodge. He wished them many happy new years, and that they might continue to meet as they had done all, in concord and harmony.—The W. MASTER said, although they had drunk the toast of the P.M.’s of the Old Concord Lodge, he was pleased to see amongst them their worthy Chaplain, Bro. Laughlin, from whom they always received such good advice. He proposed “The Health of Bro. Laughlin, P.M., and Chaplain of the Lodge.”—Bro. the Rev. J. W. LAUGHLIN said, although he appeared amongst them in a double capacity, he did not intend to inflict upon them a double speech, for he had no wish to commit a double suicide. They had already drunk his health as P.M. of the lodge, and therefore he should at once proceed to that which was the most germane to the toast. It was fortunate for him that a considerable portion of his speech had been anticipated by Bro. Binckes, who had dilated on the excellence of their Masonic Charities. It would be unnecessary for him to bring them under the notice of their newly-initiated brother, and he would only add that he was most anxious for the prosperity of the Boys’ School, which was a most valuable charity, and as they were then engaged in an immense work, it would require all the assistance the Craft could give to carry it into effect. Their W.M. had said that he gave them good advice, and that advice to them was to carry out the sacred principles of Freemasonry, for in it was contained the sublime hope after death of resurrection and eternity, which was the only light that was left to illumine their mortal career. He could assure their newly-initiated brother that every word of Freemasonry was consistent with the Sacred Law, and that every word which the W.M. uttered in going through their ceremonies would find an echo in his own heart of those principles which must guide them in their passage from this world to eternity. A knowledge of Freemasonry was coeval with the creation of the world, for the First Great Architect of all was God himself, who said, “Let there be light and there was light.” From the first Freemasonry was employed as a science, in which they all rejoiced, until it reached its culminating point in the Christian era. No system had existed so long as Freemasonry, for its basis was sound, and was supported by those noble columns of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Their endeavour was to carry out those great principles as revealed to them in the Sacred Law, to love their neighbour as themselves, and more especially those who were of the household of faith. Their newly-initiated brother would find himself amongst a body of men who endeavoured to carry out religion in their transactions of everyday life, taking care that in their passage through this world they did not lose the blessings of eternal life. There was something in Freemasonry which was grand, good, and full in itself, and the more fully it was carried out the more good would

be done. If there were some who only attended the lodge for a few minutes and afterwards sat down to a banquet, they might be inclined to say that Freemasonry was only a sham, but the sham was not with Freemasonry but with themselves. He had said before, that during the many years he had been amongst Freemasons he had never seen, or did he imagine that there existed anything that was contrary to the law of God or the best interests of their fellow creatures, and, therefore, he could not sit down without recording his testimony in favour of that which was nearly as dear to him as life itself. (Cheers).—Some other toasts were given, and the evening was spent in the most complete harmony, being very materially assisted by the musical performances of Bros. Woollams, Wilson, George Forde, and Vernon, and Miss Woollams, a young lady of great promise, to whom reference has already been made.

EUPHRATES LODGE (No. 212).—This lodge held its monthly meeting at the Masons' Arms Tavern, Basinghall-street, on Tuesday, the 5th inst. The lodge was opened in due form by Bro. C. Sinclair, W.M., who, after the minutes of the previous lodge were confirmed, initiated Mr. Henry Moore into the mysteries of the Order; and passed into the Fellow Craft's Degree, Bros. Nugent, Chaple, and Miller. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. S. Watkins, who had been elected on the former lodge night, was installed into the chair, which ceremony was ably and efficiently conducted by Bro. I. Saqui. The new W.M. appointed Bros. Banister, S.W.; Seager J.W.; Stern, S.D.; Stanger, J.D.; Dobson, Wine Steward; Tuchmann, I.G.; Klamm, Treas.; Coverley, Sec. The brethren retired to a sumptuous banquet, prepared in Bro. Nuttmann's usual *recherche* style, and then presented Bro. Sinclair, P.M., with a gold Past Master's jewel and a superbly chased silver tankard, with a suitable inscription, to mark their appreciation of his services during his year of office, to which he returned his acknowledgment in a neat speech, the usual toasts being responded to. The evening was spent amidst the greatest hilarity, and several most excellent songs, accompanied by the pianoforte, conducted by Bros. Saqui and Davis in their usual efficient manner, after which the lodge closed in the most perfect peace, harmony, and brotherly love.

CRYSTAL PALACE LODGE (No. 742).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, Jan. 7th, in the saloon of the Crystal Palace, in consequence of a large amount of business to be disposed of. Bro. E. J. Oliver, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. R. W. Smith, Purbrook, Thompson, and Palmer, P.M.'s, and several visitors, amongst whom were Bro. Udall, P.G.D.; Bro. Patten, P.G.D., and Secretary of the Girls' School; Bros. Henry Thompson, W.M., 177; Lascelles, P.M., 72; Nicholson, P.M., 171; Hammond, S.W. 201, &c. After the lodge had been opened, and the minutes read by Bro. Stuart, who acted *pro. tem.* as Secretary, the lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bros. Cox, Collings, and Powell, were questioned as to their proficiency in the science, and their answers being considered to be satisfactory, they withdrew. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and they were respectively raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The next business was the passing of Bro. Swift to the second degree. The lodge then resumed to the first degree, when it was announced that the following gentlemen were in attendance as candidates for initiation:—Mr. J. Aldons Mays, Mr. George Herbert Bridge, Mr. S. T. Robinson, Mr. William Taylor, and Mr. George Leach. They were successively introduced, and in due form initiated into the privileges of ancient Freemasonry by the W.M., in a very able and painstaking manner. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the large saloon for refreshment, which was served up in Bro. Strange's best style. The cloth having been drawn, the W.M. gave "The Queen and the Craft," a toast which was very cordially responded to, followed by the National Anthem. The health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zeland, and that of the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, received all due honours, the latter toast being coupled with the names of Bros. Udall and Patten, Past Grand Officers.—Bro. UDALL, in returning thanks on behalf of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers, said he could assure the brethren that their D.G.M., as a good Mason, had only the welfare of the Craft at heart, and it was a matter of surprise how he could spare so large an amount of his time to Freemasonry when they considered the important duties he had to attend to in the Government. He thanked them for the kind way in which they had drunk to the healths of the Grand Officers, wishing them happiness and perpetuity to their lodge, and long life to its members.—The W.

MASTER said the next toast he had to propose was always a pleasing one—it was their "Masonic Charities." Most of the brethren who were then present knew sufficiently what had been done by them in the way of charity. Bro. Udall, who was present, he believed was connected with all of them. He was vice president of them, and a liberal supporter of the Aged Freemasons' Asylum and the Boys' and Girls' Schools. He was also happy to say that they had that night amongst their visitors Bro. Patten, the Secretary of the Girls' School. He believed that the Girls' School was generally well supported by Masons—perhaps rather better than for the Boys, but both charities were well taken care of and attended to. Unfortunately they had two cases in connection with their own lodge, and the brethren were naturally anxious to support their late Bro. Wood's children, a boy and girl, and obtain for them admission into their schools. He gave the toast of "The Masonic Charities," and with it "The Healths of Bros. Udall and Patten."—The toast was well received.—Bro. UDALL said it was very pleasant for him to have to return thanks for the charities with which for the greater part of his life he had been associated, and which belonged to their noble Order. He should return thanks for two of their charities, leaving Bro. Patten to acknowledge the toast on behalf of the Girls' School. He should first thank them on the part of the Aged Freemasons' Asylum, the festival for which took place on the 27th of this month, and he hoped the brethren of the lodge would come forward and support their own steward at that festival. This year, by rather a strange coincidence, the festival would take place on the birthday of the Duke of Sussex, and he hoped that by a good subscription on that occasion they would be able to admit all those candidates who had been long knocking at their door. As for the Boys' School, they had lately put in the foundation for the new building, by which they would provide accommodation for 120 boys and a school room and dining room for 200. On that occasion he asked them to come forward and support that institution, for there was an anomaly in Masonic Charities that was to be found in no other institution, and that was that they had more girls in their schools than boys. He should like to see 180 boys in the school, and should be quite satisfied to keep the girls to 100 in number. He, therefore, asked them to support their charities, and knowing the good they had done he could speak with confidence for the future.—Bro. PATTEN said he had a very easy task to perform, not having to solicit them for a steward, as they had already one in Bro. Thompson, and he trusted the brethren would support him at the festival for the Girls' School. That being his first visit to the Crystal Palace Lodge, he might say the children in the Girls' School were limited to 80 children, causing an expenditure of £1,500, but as they had now accommodation for 20 more they had anticipated the liberality of the Craft by taking in 10 more, which cause an additional outlay of £600. It was to the Craft they must look, and if they did not give them the money they could not take in 10 more children, which they desired to do to make up the number to 100. If they were, on the other hand, well supported, they should be happy to build a new wing to take in 20 more. As Bro. Thompson would represent the lodge as their steward on the 11th of May, he hoped the brethren would support him as they had done Bro. Smith on a former occasion.—Bro. H. T. THOMPSON, I.P.M., said it was most pleasing to have to rise for the purpose of proposing the health of the W.M. of the Crystal Palace Lodge, who had now presided over them for the third or fourth time. They all knew his merits, and at that lodge of emergency he had great pleasure in proposing his health. The toast was very cordially received.—The W. MASTER thanked the brethren for the kind way in which they had drunk his health, and said if he had given them satisfaction that was a source of great pride to him, and drank the health of all the brethren in return.—The W. MASTER said the next toast was a pleasing one to him as W.M. of the lodge, which was "The Health of their Brother Initiates," and congratulated them upon their entrance into Freemasonry in the Crystal Palace Lodge.—The newly-initiated brethren severally returned thanks for the honour conferred upon them.—"The Health of the Visitors" was then given and responded to. Some other toasts were given, and as time and trains wait for no man or men, the brethren adjourned at an early hour.

ROSE OF DENMARK LODGE (No. 975).—The third regular meeting of this lodge was held at the White Hart, Barnes, on the 9th inst. The business consisted of one initiation, two passings, and two raisings. The lodge having been duly closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet under the presidency of Bro.

Little, S.W., in the absence, through illness, of Bro. J. Smith, W.M. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, with the addition of the "Prince and Princess of Wales," coupled with the health of the young bud from the "Rose of Denmark," in allusion to the auspicious birth of a Prince on the 8th inst. On the health of the initiate being proposed, Bro. Barnes expressed himself highly sensible of the honour of being received into Freemasonry, and more especially into the Rose of Denmark Lodge where so many of his friends were around him. Bro. Sisson, W.M. 903, responded for the visitors. Bro. Little for the W.M. and himself, regretting the unavoidable absence of Bro. Smith. Bro. Farnfield, J.W., for the officers, Bro. H. Potter, as Treas., and Bro. H. G. Buss, as Sec. After a very happy evening, the Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close. Visitors:—Bros. Sisson, W.M. 903; W. Watson, P.M., P.G.S.; C. Lee, P.M. 9; W. Rackstraw, P.M. 9; C. Chard, 907; and Miller, 780.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

CHESTER.—*Cestrian Lodge* (No. 425).—The annual festival of St. John's Day was celebrated by this lodge on Wednesday, the 30th ult. The lodge was held at the Green Dragon Hotel, when, according to custom, the W.M. for the year, Bro. Mawdsley, was installed in office, as were the various officers whom he had appointed, as follows:—Bros. T. Wilcock, S.V.; F. Butt, J.W.; John Trevor, S.D.; W. C. Hunt, J.D.; E. Minshull, Treas.; C. Cuzner, Sec.; and Hugh Roberts, I.G. The brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was laid out in the Corn Exchange, at five o'clock. Colonel the Hon. Wellington Cotton, D. Prov. G.M., took the chair, and among those present were Bros. Mawdsley, Cozner, T. Wilcock, Thos. Truss, F. Butt, C. D. Butt, Dr. M'Ewen, J. D. Weaver, Charles Dutton, J. Trevor, W. C. Hunt, E. G. Willoughby, D. M'Gregor, Arthur Dickson, H. Roberts, J. Huxley, jun., W. Butler, S. Brown, J. Catherall, H. R. Bainbridge, T. Dean, J. Dunstan, D. G. Acocks, A. Banks, A. F. Watt, and H. Platt.—After the removal of the cloth, the CHAIRMAN proposed the usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts.—Bro. WILLOUGHBY then, in eulogistic terms, proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master, the Lord Viscount Combermere."—Colonel COTTON returned thanks. The interests of Masonry, he said, were always uppermost in his father's mind, and as they knew, it was principally owing to his exertions that it had arrived at its present state of perfection in this country. He had only yesterday received a letter from Lord Combermere, asking him to have a full account of the meeting, and he could assure them that the Craft had not lost the place which it had always held in the affection of their Provincial Grand Master. (Cheers.) He would only, in conclusion, express his sincere wish that he would continue to hold that high office for many many years to come. (Loud cheers.)—Bro. BUTLER proposed "The Health of Colonel Cotton." They were all extremely grateful to him for so kindly fulfilling the duties which the increasing years of his venerable and esteemed father precluded him from attempting. The manner in which their chairman had gone through the duties of St. John's Day on that and on previous occasions had commended him to the admiration of all present, and his name was deeply seated in the affections of all the brethren of the lodge. (Cheers.)—The D. Prov. G. MASTER, in responding, said he did not know till recently that a Mason's son could be initiated at the age of eighteen, but as he found that was the case, he was anxious that his son, who was equally desirous to join them, should be admitted to the Craft. (Cheers.) Their family had been for more than 150 years connected with Masonry, and it would be something to say that there were three generations of them members of that lodge. (Cheers.) If it would be convenient for them to arrange for the ceremony to be performed next spring, he trusted his father would be able to be present on the occasion. (Cheers.)—Bro. J. TREVOR proposed "The Health of Lady Combermere."—The D. Prov. G. MASTER, in appropriate terms, responded, observing that her ladyship was deserving of the regard of all Masons, if for no other reason, for the devoted attention she paid to Lord Combermere. (Cheers.) The D. Prov. G.M. proposed "The Master and Officers of the Cestrian Lodge for the ensuing year." He had been greatly struck that day with the manner in which the

duties of the day had been performed, and especially with the way in which the beautiful ceremony of opening and closing the lodge had been done. He had never seen it better done in England.—Bro. MAWDSLEY returned thanks.—Several other toasts were given and responded to before the D. Prov. G. MASTER proposed "To our Next Merry Meeting," when the company broke up.—The proceedings of the evening were much enlivened by some excellent songs sung by Bros. Cuzner and C. D. Butt.

Lodge of Independence (No. 721).—At the monthly meeting of this lodge, on the 29th ult., Lord Richard Grosvenor, P.G.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

DEVONSHIRE.

SIDMOUTH.—*Lodge Perseverance* (No. 164).—The festival of St. John the Evangelist, was celebrated by the members of this ancient lodge, on Wednesday, the 6th inst. The lodge was close-tiled at the hour of high twelve, the business to be attended to being rather heavy, including two raisings, the installation of the W.M. elect, and the initiation of a candidate. Lodge being opened in due form, the W.M., Bro. Crocker, proceeded to raise two brethren to the sublime degree of M.M., the charge to the newly-raised brethren being impressively given by Bro. Gundry, who then took the chair for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. B. T. Hodge (*this being the third time that the choice of the brethren has fallen upon him*). This ceremony having been performed according to ancient usage, and the officers for the ensuing year invested, the lodge being opened in the first degree, the candidate was balloted for, and the result declared to be unanimously in his favour, he was then admitted, and solemnly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, the lecture on the tracing-board being admirably delivered by Bro. Bastin. The brethren next adjourned to an excellent banquet, prepared by Bro. Witt. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, that of the D. Prov. G.M. and Prov. G. Officers being responded to by Bro. Crocker, as Prov. G. Chap. He regretted the probability of his being compelled to sever his connection with Lodge Perseverance—circumstances occurring to lead him to change his present residence. He trusted, however, that he might be so placed as still to be able to attend its meetings, and again on many occasions like the present, meet the brethren, with whom he had been so long identified, around the festive board. The toasts, Bro. and Mrs. Witt, the newly-initiated, our visiting brethren, and the newly-raised brethren, were severally responded to by Bro. Witt, T. K. Were, B. Bastin, S. Cummings, and E. H. Crate. The company, though not so numerous as could have been wished, passed a pleasant evening, and separated in peace and harmony. The following were appointed officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. W. F. Crocker, P.M. and Chap.; B. Butler, S.W.; J. Godfrey, J.W.; J. Mortimer, Treas.; E. H. Crate, S.D.; S. Cummings, J.D.; J. Northcott, I.G.; G. Butler, Tyler. Visiting brethren present—Bros. Gundry, Bampffield, and Sutton, Fortescue Lodge, Honiton; B. Bastin, Sun Lodge (No. 106), Exmouth.

PLYMOUTH.—*Lodge Fortitude* (No. 105).—The annual banquet of this lodge was held at the lodge room, Prince George Hotel, East Stonehouse, on Wednesday, the 9th ult., when there were about forty members present. The dinner was a most excellent one. The attendance was also numerous, and in every respect the banquet did very great credit to Bro. Haslewood, the worthy host of the Prince George. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Thuell, and the vice-chair by the S.W. Bro. Stoneham; the J.W., Bro. Ash, also presided in the South. The W.M. was supported by the Immediate P.M., Bro. Rodda, Prov. G. Reg.; and Past Masters R. R. Rodd, P. Prov. G. Reg.; Jew; J. Rowe, P. Prov. G. Treas.; J. Killingly (of Heavitree), P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Nettleton, Chapman, Phillips, P. Prov. G. Treas.; Franklyn, and Jackman. After dinner the customary loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed. "The Queen and the Craft" was given in a very appropriate manner by the W.M. "The Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland," was also proposed from the chair, as was also the toast of "The Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon."

The next toast was given by Bro. RODDA, P.M., P. Prov. G. Reg., who said he rose to propose the health of a brother beloved and venerated by every Freemason in this large and populous province. The popular talents of the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. were well known, not only in this province, where

he ruled with so much honour to himself, and with so much delight and satisfaction to the brethren, but in every part of the kingdom where Freemasonry was known, and most cheerfully had he employed those talents for the benefit of their excellent institution. Gifted with a pleasing voice, a ready utterance, and effective elocution, as well as felicity of illustration only equalled by few, they found in him an able advocate and a zealous defender of their ancient principles whenever they were assailed by the evil aspersions of the "cowan." (Cheers.) In fact he was a gem in the diadem of Masonry, and was well worthy the high encomiums which the Very High and Eminent Deputy G.M. of the Masonic Knights Templars passed on him in Grand Conclave on the 11th day of December last. Speaking of the success of the Order of Knights Templars, and giving a meed of praise to several deserving Sir Knights, Col. Vernon said, "To no one were they more indebted than to their estimable and beloved Senior Provincial Grand Commander, the Rev. Sir Knut. Hayshe, not only for his interest in Masonic Templary, but for the eloquence with which he spoke to every heart. The Grand Conclave ought to be proud of having such a Grand Commander, and thank him for his efforts." (Cheers.) This eulogy was received with rapturous applause by a hundred Sir Knights present. (Cheers.) Stainless in character and reputation, honoured by thousands beyond the pale of their royal Order, whose rites and ceremonies, great charitable institutions, and general interests it had been the object of his solicitude ever to promote, he lived embalmed in the heart of every good Mason, and he (Bro. Rodd) hoped and prayed that they should live to see him in their assemblies for many years yet to come. They might rest assured, whenever it should please the Grand Architect of the Universe to summon him from this sub-lunary lodge to the Grand Lodge above, this province would lose a gem of priceless worth (cheers), and he would go down to the grave followed by the profound regret, the heartfelt admiration, and the ardent respect of all who knew him. (Applause.) One word more, and he had done. Let them say of him—

"Cherished within our hearts thy name shall dwell,

Urging us onward in our heart sublime

To deeds of greatness like some potent spell

That leaves its impress on the path of time.

Would that we each could imitate thy zeal,

That fervent ardour of fraternal love

That binds the Mason to his brother's weal,

And links his hopes with holier joys above,

And bids his heavenward aim, its full fruition prove."

Assist me then to drink to "The Health of the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., the Rev. John Hayshe, M.A., First Grand Chaplain of the United Grand Lodge of England."

The toast was received with loud applause, and drunk with great enthusiasm.

Bro. ROWE, P.M. and Sec., then proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and said that Lodge Fortitude had been favoured with a succession of excellent Masters, and he thought that on no previous occasion were they happier in their selection than on the present. He then spoke highly of the working abilities of the W.M., Thuell, and of the attention that he had given to the duties of all the offices through which he had passed.

This toast was properly acknowledged by the W. MASTER, who concluded by proposing "The Health of the Immediate Past Master," in which he highly eulogised Bro. Rodda for the admirable manner in which he had carried out the duties of the chair during the past year.

The toast was enthusiastically received.

Bro. RODDA, P.M., having appropriately replied, the toast of "The Senior and Junior Wardens" was given in very suitable terms by Bro. Chapman, P.M. and Treas., and was duly responded to by those officers.

Bro. KILLINGLY, P.M., then proposed "The Treasurer," which was acknowledged by Bro. CHAPMAN.

Bro. NETTLETON, P.M., then rose, with the permission of the W.M., to propose "The Health of their excellent Secretary, Bro. James Rowe, P.M. and P. Prov. G. Tyler," a toast which he was sure would be received with the warmest acclamation. (Loud cheers.) He happened to be one of the seven who resuscitated the lodge fourteen years since. He remembered that Bro. Rowe said that he would do all he possibly could to bring the lodge into repute, and most justly had he performed that promise. In him they had had one of the best Secretaries that the Order could boast of, and it gave him the greatest satisfac-

tion to pin to his bosom a gold Centenary Jewel, which his brethren had subscribed for, asking his acceptance of it from them as a small token of their estimation of his worth. (Loud applause.)

Bro. ROWE, in reply, expressed the pride he should feel in wearing the jewel. He said it was true that he had devoted his energies and attention to the welfare of the lodge. It had always been dear to him from associating with many old and valued friends and brethren, and he was proud of it, when he saw it so favourably contrasted with others. In the course of his speech, he referred to the figure of Fortitude on the centenary jewel, and said there was a peculiar value attached to it, which the brethren, generally, were not aware of, arising from its being the favourite seal of the great Lord Nelson. This was proved in a letter written by one of the officers who served with Lord Nelson, who, in a letter to a friend (which Bro. Rowe read), said, "I have endeavoured to procure you some little relic of Nelson. It occurred to me to get the impression of the seal worn by that great man in Sir John Jervis's action, on the 14th February, 1790, when he so gallantly boarded the *Sax Josef*, of 120 guns. It represents the figure of 'Fortitude.'" Bro. Rowe concluded by saying that he should wear the jewel as a lasting monitor, not to retrograde, but to advance.

A number of other toasts were proposed and drunk, after which the lodge was closed, the brethren separating at an early hour, after having spent a very happy festival.

DURHAM.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge* (No. 774).—The brethren of this lodge assembled at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 7th inst., for the purpose of assisting at the installation of Bro. James Groves, the W.M. elect, who had been chosen for the third time for the important office in the Craft which he now holds. Bro. George Moore, P.M., officiated on the occasion, and duly installed the W.M., who then proceeded to appoint and invest the following as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. R. B. Huntley, I.P.M., and Treas.; Emma Holmes, S.W.; Robert Inglis, J.W.; W. Donald, Sec.; W. J. Sivewright, S.D.; A. Nathan, J.D.; Hill, I.G.; W. Mowbray, Tyler; W. Brown, and Stockell, Stewards; and S. Armstrong, Dir. of Cers. The banquet, in celebration of St. John the Evangelist, was afterwards held at the King's Head Hotel, when about 20 of the brethren sat down to a repast, which, it is sufficient to say, was served up in Mr. Smith's very best style. The cloth having been drawn, the Chairman proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were responded to with all that cordiality so eminently characteristic of the Craft. Amongst the principal toasts were "The Health and Prosperity of the St. Helen's Lodge," proposed by Bro. Rank, W.M., of No. 1066; "The Harbour of Refuge Lodge," proposed by Bro. Holmes, S.W., responded to by Bro. George Kirk; "The Present Officers," to which Dr. Inglis, J.W., replied; "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Bro. T. J. Cackett, who briefly acknowledged the toast; and "Our Absent Brethren," proposed by the W.M., who alluded in terms of kindly remembrance to Bro. Cunningham, and to Bro. John Sutcliffe, the late W.M., and founder of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge. The brethren broke up at a comparatively early hour, after having spent the evening, which had been enlivened by songs and recitations in that harmony and good fellowship which ever distinguishes the fraternity.

SUNDERLAND.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 80).—The brethren met to celebrate the Festival of St. John, on Tuesday, January 5th, 1864, at the Queen's Hotel, Fawcett-street. About fifty sat down to a splendid banquet, served in a style that reflected great credit on the host, Bro. G. Shiel. The lodge felt honoured by the presence of Bro. Henry Fenwick, M.P. and D. Prov. G.M., who took the right of the W.M., Bro. A. Skilling, who occupied the chair. At the head of the table sat a numerous array of P.M.'s, whose names we must not omit to mention, viz.:—Bros. W. H. Crookes, Prov. G.S.; J. Crosby; M. Douglas, A. Hislop, T. Elwon, and D. Clark. The immediate P.M., Bro. John Graham, being unavoidably absent, the W.M. had the able support of Bro. R. Saugster, S.W., who filled the vice-chair on the occasion. Full justice having been done to the more substantial viands, the toasts went round in rapid and pleasing succession. Due honour was given to the Grand and Provincial Officers, but the toast of the evening was "The Health of Bro. Henry Fenwick, D. Prov. G.M." The toast was given by the W.M., who, with well-merited compliment pointed to the able manner in which the D. Prov. G.M. per-

formed the duties of his office, the devoted attention he paid to the Craft, and the high estimation in which he was held by every good Mason. These remarks were cordially endorsed by all present, as testified by the plaudits with which they were received. The D. Prov. G.M. responded in a neat and impressive speech, in which he stated that while there were Masonic interests to promote, and a few angular excrescences to remove, his solicitude for the welfare of the Craft would always induce him to lend a helping hand; he thanked the brethren for the honour they had done him. Bro. W. H. Crookes gave the "Masonic Charities" in his usual effective manner, and enumerated many instances where aged brethren and the sons and daughters of Freemasons had been benefitted by the charitable institutions of the Order, and which established a claim to continued support. Bro. R. Sangster gave "Our Absent Brethren," which was most feelingly and ably rendered. Many excellent songs were sung during the evening, with an original song from the Secretary, to commemorate the birth of a son and heir at "South-hill," the residence of Bro. Henry Fenwick, M.P.:

Freemason's all think it a merit,
To sing with a jubilant air,
The praise of the pencil and skirrit,
The plumb-rule, the compass, and square;
But what I now wish you to do, is
To sing, with a hearty good will,
In praise of that emblem, the Lewis,*
And the Lewis that's born at South-hill.

An emblem of strength is the Lewis,
So powerful the grip that it holds,
And the stronger and firmer it too is
The greater the weight it enfolds;
And thus will the virtues and graces,
As through his young bosom they thrill,
Be grasp'd and held firm in their places
By the Lewis that's born at South-hill.

O, soon may the mantle fall o'er him
Of him whose affection he'll claim,
With such an example before him
'T will light up his pathway to fame.
May honour and duty direct him,
And wisdom her precepts instill;
While the All-seeing Eye shall protect him,
The Lewis that's born at South-hill.

When the floor of the temple he paces
(I speak with prophetic power),
And the rights of the Craft he embraces,
Like a Lewis he'll hold them secure;
He'll hold fast the faith of a *Hiram*
And emulate *Tubal-Cain's* skill,
As a Mason the world shall admire him,
The Lewis that's born at South-hill.

The whole of the proceedings were conducted harmoniously and closed in due form.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

COWES.—*Medina Lodge* (No. 35).—The members of this old-established and flourishing lodge met at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 12th inst., for the purpose of installing the W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened in the first and second degree by Bro. Thos. Osborn, P.M., when Bro. Samuel Matthews was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The chair was then taken by Bro. T. W. Faulkner, P.M. The W.M. elect was then presented by Bro. Thos. Osborn, when the Secretary, Bro. J. R. Dawson, P.M., was called upon to read the ancient charges and regulations to the W.M. elect prior to installation, which he did. A board of installed Masters was then formed, consisting of Bros. T. W. Faulkner, J. R. Dawson, J. W. Devereux, E. B. Deacon, G. H. Cooke, T. Osborn, and Thos. Harling. The presiding officer, Bro. T. W. Faulkner, then proceeded to instal Bro. S. W. Way, the late S.W., in the chair of K. S. Upon the readmission of the members, Bro. T. W. Faulkner continued, according to ancient custom, to deliver the proper addresses, which he did in his usual excellent style. The appointment of officers followed, Bro. S. W. Way

having been pleased to appoint Bros. G. H. Cooke, P.M.; S. H. Harris, S.W.; Chas. Airs, J.W.; T. W. Faulkner, Treas.; J. R. Dawson, Sec.; G. F. Sutton, S.D.; Edward Triggs, J.D.; Thos. Giles, I.G.; Charles Sarl and C. F. Bishop, Stewards; and John Scriven, Tyler. The brethren then adjourned to Bro. Jones's, Gloster Hotel, to a splendid banquet, where the evening was spent in harmony and good-fellowship.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*Lodge of Perfect Friendship* (No. 376).—The members of this lodge celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist on Monday evening, the 28th ult., at the Great White Horse Hotel. The dinner, provided by Bro. Henry Guiver, was all that could be desired. The chair was occupied by the W.M. for the year, Bro. H. Luff, supported by Bros. G. Turner, S.W.; J. A. Pettit, jun., J.W.; R. N. S. Greene, S.D.; Elliston, J.D.; Findley, Dir. of Cers.; Read, I.G. There were also present, Bros. Franks, P.M., Sec. 376; Rev. R. N. Sanderson, Prov. G. Chap.; S. B. King, I.P.M.; Pitchers, P.M.; Richmond, W.M. 225; Randall, P.M.; Crispin, P.M.; Deck, P.M. 114; N. Tracy, P.M.; J. A. Pettit, P.M.; J. Davy, E. T. Read, W. H. Moore, J. H. Staddon, A. Read, C. W. Godball (225), Morfey, H. Knights, Jas. Godball, Champ, E. C. Tidd, H. G. Churchman, &c.

Upon the removal of the cloth, the W. MASTER gave in succession "The Queen," "The G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland," "The D.G.M., the Earl de Grey and Ripon," "The Prov. G.M. of Suffolk, Col. A. S. Adair," all of which were honoured in truly Masonic style.

The W. MASTER next proposed "The Past and Present Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Pitcher. (Masonic honours.)

Bro. PITCHER briefly acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the officers of the province.

Next followed from the chair "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," uniting with it the name of Bro. Deck, of the British Union Lodge. (Honours.)

Bro. DECK, in reply, said he had been 46 years connected with Masonry; his heart was in Masonry, and he felt the greatest love and esteem for the Craft. He thanked the brethren sincerely for the compliment. He wished the Lodge of Perfect Friendship every success, and trusted it would continue to prosper and increase in numbers. (Applause.)

Bro. RICHMOND, W.M. 225, also briefly responded.

The W. MASTER, in appropriate terms, gave "The Health of the I.P.M., Bro. S. B. King," which was most cordially received by the brethren.

Bro. KING said he had been selected by the brethren to fill the W.M. chair for the third time. It was an honour of which any brother might well feel justly proud. He could assure them he felt it most keenly, for to be W.M. of the Perfect Friendship Lodge was no mean position. (Hear, hear.) Their approbation was all he asked for, and if he had won that he was amply repaid for all the labour and attention which might have been called forth during the period he held that exalted office. He thanked them most sincerely for the very flattering compliment they had paid him, and trusted the Perfect Friendship Lodge would continue to flourish to the end of all time. (Applause.)

The I.P. MASTER shortly afterwards rose to propose a toast, which he should call the toast of the evening; that was "The Health of their W.M." (Applause.) He was sure they had placed a brother in that position who had the interest of the Perfect Friendship Lodge at heart; and of this he was assured no exertion would be spared by him faithfully to carry out all that pertained to so high and honourable a position; (hear, hear), and he hoped the brethren would all rally round him. The selection of Bro. Luff showed that the brethren of the lodge entertained for him very high respect. He called upon them to drink, as Masons, the toast of their W.M. (Masonic honours.)

The W. MASTER was cordially received on rising to reply. He said he accepted with pleasure this cordial mark of their esteem and respect. He had the interest of the Perfect Friendship Lodge at heart. He respected it more than any lodge in the province. Whilst he occupied that chair, he could assure them that he would never take the part of one brother to the detriment and injury of another. (Hear, hear.) He hoped to carry out the duties of his office to their satisfaction, and he trusted in course of time to be equal with Bro. King, who had filled that

* In symbolical language "Lewis" signifies the son of a Mason.

chair no less than three times. He hoped, in discharging his duties, he should not carry with him the ill-will of any brother. His aim would be to give satisfaction and pleasure to all. He could only hope that they would be harmonious and friendly in all they did, and that the Perfect Friendship Lodge might carry out its name. He had no doubt the Lodge would succeed and prosper. It was a bye-word in the province that in the Perfect Friendship Lodge Masonry was carried out as it should be. He would conclude by proposing "The Healths of the S.W. and J.W." Bro. Turner had kindly consented to take the position of S.W. at his (the W.M.'s) special request, and he felt that Bro. Turner would carry out the duties as they ought to be. He felt also that the J.W. would do his utmost to discharge his duties properly. (Drank with honours.)

Bro. TURNER, in responding, said he hoped to be able to discharge the duties of his office with satisfaction to the brethren and credit to himself. (Hear, hear.) He trusted the position of S.W. would never be tarnished by any act of his. They all desired to see the lodge prosper and to forget and forgive. He thanked the brethren most heartily for the cordiality with which the toast had been received.

Bro. A. PETTIT briefly replied. He said nothing should be wanting on his part to promote the interest of the Perfect Friendship Lodge, and he hoped to be able to carry out the duties of his office with satisfaction both to the brethren and himself.

The W. MASTER next gave "The Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. Sanderson," and said he did not think there was another lodge in the province which could boast of a brother holding so high and honourable an office. (Full honours.)

Bro. SANDERSON, in reply, said he had been amongst them for some time, and with the Perfect Friendship Lodge many pleasant memories were associated; and he hoped to be spared to have the same pleasant hours to look forward to as were called to mind on the present occasion. (Hear, hear.) It was six years that night since he first came amongst them, and he sincerely hoped that it might not be by any means the last. (Hear.) He sincerely wished Masonry every success. (Applause.)

The W. MASTER next gave "The Health of the Treasurer, Bro. Mills," who had held that office for some years. (Applause.)

Bro. MILLS, after thanking the brethren for the compliment, said there was a chiel among them taking notes, and he supposed he'd print 'em. (Hear, hear.) As far as he was concerned, he must say that he strongly objected to any remarks which he might make being made use of in the local newspapers, however eulogistic the terms might be in which they were worded by the reporter. He did not like to see anything which took place in that room carried forth to the popular world. (Cries of question.) Last week he saw in a paragraph of the lodge proceedings that a mark had been placed against his name as Treasurer, and the name omitted. [A voice: "It was at your own request."] He acknowledged that he did not object to such a distinction, and his friend, Bro. Tidd, might do as he liked about inserting his name. But as he said before, he strongly objected to Masonic matters being published. [A voice: "That is only your opinion."] He might be single in this matter, but he felt sure he was not. (Question.) He hoped his name would not go before the public in connection with the lodge, and he must object to his friend writing down any of the speeches. (Cries of Order, and No, no.) He did not think Masonry was a matter which ought to be puffed up in the newspapers. [A voice: "It is not puffed up, but you are."] He thought publishing speeches ought to be put an end to at once. (No, no.) He could only say with regard to the toast, that he had endeavoured to discharge the duties of his office satisfactorily. (Hear, hear.)

The W. MASTER proposed "The Health of the Secretary, Bro. Franks." (Drunk with full honours.)

Bro. FRANKS briefly responded, thanking the brethren for the cordial reception they had given the toast.

The PROV. G. CHAPLAIN proposed, in eulogistic terms, "The Health of an old Mason, the Director of Ceremonies, Bro. Findley." (Loud applause.)

Bro. FINDLEY warmly expressed his thanks to the brethren for the kind manner in which the toast of his health had been received.

The W. MASTER proposed "The Senior and Junior Deacon, and Inner Guard," which toast was suitably acknowledged by Bros. Green, Elliston, and Read.

Next followed "The P.M.'s," uniting with the toast the name of Bro. Pitcher.

Bro. PITCHER responded.

The W. MASTER gave, as the last toast of the evening, "The Masonic Press," coupling with that toast the names of Bros. Tidd and Knight. (Applause.) Bro. Tidd, he considered, was placed in a very unpleasant position. (Hear, hear.) For some brethren were in favour of the reports of Masonic proceedings being published, whilst some appeared to be against it. He thought they were under some obligation to Bro. Tidd for so kindly undertaking to notice their meetings so that they might appear in "THE MAGAZINE," and in the newspapers. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Tidd had mentioned the matter to him, stating it was his intention to bring it before the next lodge. He thought, to say the least of it, Bro. Tidd was entitled to be treated with courtesy. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in proposing "The Press." (Drunk with honours.)

Bro. E. C. TIDD, in responding to the toast, said this was neither the time nor the place to discuss the matter. It was clear that the Treasurer of the Perfect Friendship, Bro. Mills, had expressed his desire that his name should not appear in the published proceedings of the lodge. But he did not think Bro. Mills was justified in using such discourtesy to the Masonic brethren by stating that he did not wish his name to appear with a lot of "tag-rag and bob-tail." He considered such expressions were quite uncalled for, unjustifiable, and an insult to the brethren. (Hear, hear.) He (Bro. Tidd) was not a paid servant of the lodge; what he did he did voluntarily, and at the express request of a large number of the Masonic brethren. (Hear, hear.) Masonic proceedings were reported throughout the kingdom, and he was sure the brethren in the province would bear him out when he said that he had published nothing that could be found fault with. (Applause.) He had not been treated with common courtesy by Bro. Mills; and as to his name being published, he did not consider that Bro. Mills would be disgraced by seeing his name in the local papers or MAGAZINE placed side by side with any member of the Perfect Friendship Lodge. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He had intimated to the W.M. that he intended to bring the matter before the next lodge, and he would therefore leave any further remarks upon the subject until then. Though he was willing to abide by the decision of the lodge, still he did not feel inclined to forgo any of those privileges which he felt he possessed as a member of the public press. (Applause.)

Bro. HENRY KNIGHTS briefly responded.

The lodge was then closed in harmony.

Lodge of St. Luke (No. 225).—The Festival of St. John was celebrated by the members of this lodge of Free and Accepted Masons on Wednesday evening, December 30th, at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Brook-street, Ipswich. At five o'clock the brethren sat down to partake of a first-class dinner, well supplied by Bro. C. W. Godball. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Richmond, supported by the S.W. and J.W., Bros. Davy and Westgate; the Rev. R. N. Sanderson, Prov. G. Chap.; W. C. Randall, P.M.; S. B. King, P.M. 376; R. Cade; Jas. Godball, sen.; Turner, I.P.M. 225; Brackenridge; Snell; Barker, Sec. 225; J. Godball, jun.; W. Flory, I.G. 225; E. C. Tidd, Peck, &c.—The desert and wines having been put upon the table, the W.M. gave "The Queen," "The Prince of Wales," "The Earl of Zetland," "The Earl de Grey and Ripon," "The Prov. G.M., Col. Adair," and "The Prov. G. Officers," all of which were drunk with full Masonic honours.—The PROV. G. CHAPLAIN replied. He said it had not been very much of late that the Prov. G. Officers had met, but they had endeavoured to perform their several duties to the satisfaction of the province and of their own consciences. For himself he begged to thank the lodge for the great hospitality they had shown him that evening. He sincerely wished the W.M. every prosperity during his year of office. (Applause.)—The W. MASTER proposed "The Health of the I.P.M., Bro. Turner," who, he said, had set an example to young Masons for the creditable manner in which he had fulfilled the duties during the time he occupied that chair. He sincerely hoped he would be prosperous in all his undertakings in life. (Hear, hear.)—Bro. TURNER briefly acknowledged the compliment.—The PROV. G. CHAPLAIN proposed, in very suitable terms, the toast of "The W.M. of St. Luke's." He said Bro. Richmond was one of his oldest Masonic friends in Ipswich. He had frequent opportunities of seeing him in Masonry, and he must say that he never saw anything but what a Mason ought to see. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the brethren would support Bro. Richmond in that chair, and he

felt fully convinced that he would never be found to fail in his duty to his lodge. (Full honours.)—The W. MASTER, in returning thanks, said it was now some twenty years ago since he had been passed into Masonry, and it was the third time he had been selected by his brethren to fill the chair he then occupied. He hoped at the expiration of his year of office to resign it with no little credit to himself and to their entire satisfaction. (Hear.) The W. MASTER shortly afterwards rose and proposed "The P.M.'s. of St. Luke's, Bros. Clarke, Randall, and Cade." (Honours.)—Bro. R. CADE responded. He could only hope that he might be spared to be as good a Mason as Bro. Clarke. —Next followed the toast of "The Senior Warden of the Lodge, Bro. Davy."—Bro. DAVY said he thanked the brethren most sincerely for the compliment they had paid him. When he first entered Masonry he made up his mind to give heart and soul to the cause. He had endeavoured to do his duty in any office he had been called upon to fill; and if he failed in the proper performance of any duty, it should not arise from any want of willingness on his part. (Hear, hear.) If he succeeded, it would afford him very great pleasure to receive their approval. (Hear, hear.)—The W. MASTER then gave "The Junior Warden Bro. Westgate." (Applause.)—Bro. WESTGATE said no effort, should be wanting on his part faithfully to discharge the duties in the office which the brethren had called upon him to fill. (Applause.)—The W. MASTER again rose and gave "The Health of the Treasurer, Bro. Snell," who had been a Mason for thirty-four years.—Bro. SNELL replied.—Then followed "The Secretary;" "The Lodges in the Province;" "The Visiting Brethren," which were duly honoured.—Bros. J. HEAD and KING replied on behalf of the Lodges "Perfect Friendship" and "The Prince of Wales."—The toasts of "Inner Guard, Bro. Flory," and "The Treasurer, Bro. Robertson," followed, and the proceedings, which were of a very harmonious and agreeable character, were brought to a close.—During the evening some excellent and appropriate songs were given by the brethren, and Bro. Jas. Godball, jun., played some first-class pianoforte selections.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

CHORLEY.—*Ellesmere Lodge* (No. 730).—Wednesday, the 6th instant, being the evening fixed for a sermon in aid of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, by Bro. the Rev. A. A. O'Neill, J.W. and Chap. of 730, the lodge was opened in due form by Bros. G. Hoult, P.M., as W.M.; Dr. Rigby, S.W.; and Rev. A. A. O'Neill, J.W. Bro. J. Decham being a candidate to be passed to the second degree, answered the usual questions to the satisfaction of the brethren, and retired with the test of merit. The lodge having been raised to the second degree, the candidate was admitted and passed to the F.C. by Bro. G. Hoult, P.M. The lodge having been lowered, was adjourned from labour, and the brethren attended at St. George's Church in full Masonic dress, for which a dispensation had been obtained. The prayers having been read by the Rev. J. Stock, the Chaplain of the lodge then ascended the pulpit, and delivered a very eloquent discourse, which was listened to with marked attention. The text was Romans xiii., 10. After having fully explained the words, and urged the necessity of religion, he concluded with a pressing invitation to exercise "That love, the very bond of peace and all virtue, by which they might be found to be living stones in that house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." After the collection the brethren returned to the lodge, and enjoyed the good catering of Bro. Stott. We may mention among those present Bros. L. Anyon, W.M.; G. Hoult, P.M.; H. Hibbert, P.M. and Treas. 730; Captain Eastham, 314, Preston, and Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers. for West Lancashire; and John Brandwood, P.M. 348. After an evening spent in good-fellowship, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony at ten p.m.

WIGAN.—*Lodge of Antiquity* (No. 178).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 28th ult., for the transaction of business and the celebration of the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. The lodge was duly opened in the first degree at four p.m., and Bros. Halliwell and Gerrard were regularly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bros. Byron and Jameson were passed, in the usual manner, to the degree of Fellow Craft. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, when Bro Pickering was re-installed W.M. for the ensuing year. He appointed the following brethren his officers:—Bros. W. Woods, S.W.; J. Lamb, J.W.; J. Hurst, Sec.; R. A. Farrington, S.D.; J. Gaskell, J.D.; L. R. Rowbottom, I.G.; T. J. Heaton, I.P.M.; W. Leech and T.

Fairhurst, Stewards. Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., was the I.M., and the ceremonies of the lodge were conducted by him in his usual imposing and truly Masonic style. As the lodge was closed down, the W.M. was formally saluted by the various degrees of the Craft. The J.W. then called the brethren from labour to refreshment. A sumptuous banquet, including every delicacy of the season, had been prepared by Bro. Whiteside, and the tables were adorned with vases of the choicest and rarest flowers furnished by Bros. Scott and Hurst. The W.M. occupied the chair, and was supported by Bros. Wright, Prov. J.G.W. East Lancashire; Hamer, Prov. G. Treas.; Rigby, S.W. 730; Needham, W.M. 220; Watson, P.M. 220, and others. After the removal of the cloth, the W.M. proposed "The Queen." He said that it gave him great pleasure in proposing the health of Her Majesty, who might literally be termed the key-stone of the Royal Arch. He could not say more in her favour than the brethren already knew, she had been a pattern daughter and wife, and is now a pattern mother, and is known as such in every household in the kingdom. He was sure she was a Mason in her heart, for by her actions she had evinced and continues to prove to all her subjects that her heart is as full of love and charity as ever religion and Masonry could make a heart. He expressed a joy that the sadness of death had passed from her, and was glad, both as a Mason and as an Englishman, to welcome her again into the pleasures and duties of a public life. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm and full Masonic honours. A verse of the National Anthem was sung by the brethren, Bro. J. Gaskell accompanying the same on the piano. "The Prince and Princess of Wales" was then given by the W.M., who stated that it was evident that the Prince was walking in his great and noble father's footsteps. It would be very gratifying to the nation that the heir apparent to the throne would be as eminent for the high tone of his morality as the high position he held in society, and he would doubtless thereby secure to himself the respect, esteem, and love of the entire nation. He hoped that we should soon number him among the brethren, and he was sure that both the Prince and the Craft would be mutually benefited by the union of Royalty with Masonry. As to the eminent lady he had chosen to walk the path of life with him, he was certain she would copy the example of her royal mother-in-law. She was known among her own people by her kindness and tender heartedness, and was much beloved by them; and he could say that English men and women could evince kindness and cordiality second to none in the world, and hoped that in proportion as she found these administered to her she would be led to regard this, her adopted country, a second home. "The Prince and Princess of Wales, England's future King and Queen," was drunk with acclamation. The brethren sang "God Bless the Prince of Wales," again assisted by Bro. J. Gaskell on the piano. The W.M., on proposing "The Earl of Zetland, the M.W.G.M. of England," expatiated in glowing terms on the great good the noble earl had rendered to the Craft. He remarked that his services could only be thoroughly appreciated by those who knew the onus of the office he filled. He had discharged the duties of his office in a noble manner, which could only be done by a noble man possessing a noble soul. He called upon the brethren to drink the toast in a bumper, accompanied with the highest honours which Masons could salute their highest officer. The following toasts were then proposed by the W.M., and drank with the usual Masonic honours:—"The Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.D.G.M.," "Le Gendre N. Starkie, R.W. Prov. G.M. West Lancashire," "Sir T. G. Hesketh, Bart., M.P., R.W.D. Prov. G.M. West Lancashire." Bro. Hamer then gave "The Worshipful Master of 178" in appropriate terms, which was drunk with the honours according to ancient usage, and was facetiously responded to. "The Visiting Brethren," and "The Officers, Principal and Assistant," were next toasted, drank, and fittingly responded to. Bro. Dr. Rigby, of Chorley, gave "The West Lancashire Educational Institution," and advocated its claims in terms of telling eloquence. After "The Poor Distressed Masons" had been given, the brethren were called from refreshment to labour, and the lodge being duly closed separated with the exchange of mutual good wishes.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Athol Lodge* (No. 74).—This lodge held its anniversary meeting on Wednesday, the 7th inst. Bro. Charles Lee was installed into the chair in a very admirable manner by Bro. George Hudson, P.M. The W.M. appointed his officers during the evening. Three gentlemen were initiated into

Masonry by Bro. Thomas Bragg, the retiring W.M. In this lodge during the past year thirty-five gentlemen have been initiated into Freemasonry, and about 140 brethren are subscribing members. After the business was concluded, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Horley. The W.M. was supported by Bro. Chas. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Bros. Major Allison, of Sunderland; E. Yates, F. Prov. S.W., Stafford; Bros. Haselor, Bristol, Capt. Ballock, Capt. M'Innis, Whittal, Whitehead, and several other visiting brethren, and on the left by Bros. Thos. Bragg, P.M.; M'Cracken, Geo. Hudson, John Pursall, Vaughan, P.M.'s; Penn, Treas., &c. Several loyal Masonic toasts were given, and the evening passed off in the most agreeable manner.

COVENTRY.—*Trinity Lodge* (No. 254).—The members of this lodge held their annual meeting on Thursday, the 31st ult., for the installation of Master and appointment of Officers. Bro. Charles Reid, W.M., was again placed in the chair, and appointed his Officers; after which the brethren, about forty in number, adjourned to a very excellent banquet, prepared by Bro. Hall, at the Castle Hotel, Coventry. The W.M. was supported on his right by Bro. Charles W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. C. Bliss, Bursell, and other visiting brethren. The usual loyal toasts were given, after which the W.M. proposed the M.W. the Grand Master, the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge of England. Bro. Elkington, Prov. G.S.B., responded, after which the health of the Prov. G.M., Lord Leigh, was proposed. This was followed by the health of the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Elkington, and the Provincial Grand Officers. Bro. Elkington replied in a truly Masonic speech, and called upon Bro. Thomas Clarke to respond for the Provincial Grand Lodge. The health of the W.M. and other toasts followed. The evening was spent in the most pleasant manner. During the evening there was some excellent singing.

ROYAL ARCH.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*Caledonian Chapter* (No. 204).—This chapter met on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at the Masonic Lodge-rooms, Cross-street, when Comp. R. H. Edge, Z., exalted Bros. P. Paterson, Cheetham and Crumpsall (No. 645); Ignaz Schlesinger, Yarborough (No. 633); Austin Shellard, Affability, (No. 317); and Thomas Richards, Caledonian (No. 204). The next meeting of this flourishing chapter will be on Wednesday, January 20th. Business—Installation of officers and exaltations.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT CALVARY ENCAMPMENT.—This encampment held a meeting at the new grand hall of the Masonic Union Company, No. 14, Bedford-row, on Friday, the 8th inst., at four o'clock. Present: Sir Knts. William Stuart, M.E. and S. Grand Master, honorary member of the encampment; C. Swan, E.C. and A.G.D.C.; Binckes, E.C. elect as 1st Captain; Wallace, as 2nd Captain; L. Lemanski, Treas. and G.S.B.; H. J. Thompson, Sec. and P.G. Aide-de-Camp; J. H. Grice, Prelate; W. Paas, Expert; M. H. Shuttleworth, G.V.C. and D.C.; Knt. Comps. Stillwell, as Herald; and Thompson, jun., and W. Lean, as Captains of Lines; Sir Knts. Elliott, P.E.C. and P.G.H.; Purdy, P.E.C. and P.G.B.B.; Brackstone Baker, P.E.C. and P.G. Standard Bearer; H. W. Spratt, P.G. Captain; W. J. Meynott, G.D.C. and P.E.C. Faith and Fidelity; and several other Knights. The arch of steel was formed, and the Grand Master entered the hall, preceded by the Grand Banner Bearer and Grand Sword Bearer, and having taken his seat on the dais to the right of the E.C., the encampment was then opened in due form; and the M.E. and S. Grand Master saluted with Templar honours, and the minutes of the preceding meetings having been read and confirmed, none of the candidates for installation mentioned in the summons being in attendance, Sir Knt. Fredk. Binckes, E.C. elect, was presented by P.E.C. Sir Knt. Elliot, and having been duly installed by the Eminent Commander, Sir Knt. C. Swan, took his seat upon the throne, and was duly proclaimed by the Heralds and saluted by the

Knights present. The E.C. then appointed the officers for the ensuing year: Sir Knt. C. Swan, P.E.C. Prelate; Knt. Comps. Rev. J. H. Grice, 1st Captain; W. Paas, 2nd Captain; Sir Knts. P.E.C. L. Lemanski, Treas.; P.E.C. H. J. Thompson, Reg.; Knt. Comps. W. S. Wallace, Expert; E. S. Stillwell, 1st Aide-de-Camp; H. J. W. Thompson, 2nd Aide-de-Camp; W. Lean, 1st Captain of Lines; J. Stohwasser, 2nd Captain of Lines; W. Strachan, 1st Herald; G. Tedder, 2nd Herald; J. Hoare, Equerry. The E.C., before proceeding to close the encampment, had one subject to bring to the notice of the Sir Knights present, which he considered of importance, which he had already privately mentioned to the Grand Master, who had signified his approval, and upon which he was anxious to gather the opinion not only of the members of this encampment, but also of the Sir Knights who had honoured them with their presence as visitors. The next regular meeting of the encampment would be held on the 11th of March, the anniversary of the execution of Jacques de Molay, the Grand Master of the Order at the time of its suppression in 1313, an event to which this encampment gave marked prominence, and which, now that they had the means and accommodation they fortunately possessed, he was desirous of commemorating in a more solemn manner than had hitherto been done. He proposed a commemoration service, the details of which would be considered, and, as their E.C., to read an original paper appropriate to the occasion, which he did not suppose would be anything attractive in itself, but which he would prepare in the hope of stimulating others with greater ability to follow his example. He purposed to invite the presence and co-operation of the members of the London encampments, and would take care that the members of provincial encampments should have the opportunity of attending, should convenience permit, as he hoped in many instances it would, his object being to secure as large an attendance as possible. There being no further business before the encampment, it was closed in ancient form with solemn prayer, and the Knights adjourned to the banquet room, where a repast was supplied, which, with the wines, fully supported the reputation the caterer, Bro. Fennell, has established since the building has been opened.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

MECHANICS LODGE (No. 245).—The usual monthly meeting was held on December 28th, when Bro. Durell was installed as W.M. for a second year. Owing to numerous Christmas engagements of the members, the annual banquet was deferred. This took place at Bro. Ainslie's, on Thursday, January 7th. Including visitors, thirty-three brethren sat down to a most excellent dinner, which was highly creditable to the host. After the cloth was drawn, the usual toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince of Wales and Royal Family," "The Earl of Zetland and Grand Lodge of England," were duly honoured. The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the M.W. the Prov. G.M., Bro. Hammond," who briefly acknowledged the compliment, and called on the brethren to do especial honour to the W.M. with all the sincerest and earnestness which he merited. as having done his duty with so much zeal as to lead to his appointment a second time.—Bro. DURELL replied in suitable terms, and expressed his gratification at again holding the high position, which was complete evidence that he had obtained the confidence and approbation of the lodge, for otherwise some other brother would have been chosen to fill this important post, at the same time stating his determination not to relax in his efforts for the promotion of the interests committed to his charge. He concluded by reminding the brethren that this was a memorable day to the lodge, completing its jubilee, just half a century having elapsed since its foundation. A duty, therefore, devolved on the present members, to be piously mindful of those to whom the lodge owed its existence, none of them now surviving, though they could boast of several who had belonged to it a great portion of the time; he, therefore, proposed "The Immortal Memory of the Founders of the Mechanics' Lodge," which was responded to in silence, without the Masonic formalities accorded to all the other toasts which related to the Craft.—The next toast given was that of the "W.M.'s of the Province," which having been cordially honoured, Bro. Dr. HOPKINS replied. He regretted the absence of all the other brethren who presided over the respective

Jodges, as he found himself alone, supported only by Bro. M. Gallichan, whose term of office had recently expired, but who had a just claim to their respect, since he was acting as W.M. for his successor, the distance of whose residence made it impossible for him often to attend. Bro. Hopkins had no doubt that all the Masters had been invited like himself, but were prevented from acceptance by unavoidable circumstances. He especially apologised for the absence of his esteemed friend and brother, John Durell, under whom he had the pleasure of serving in the Césarée Lodge, and who was so attentive, not only to every duty, but to every courtesy in Masonry, that the members of the Mechanics' Lodge might rest assured that he would have responded to their hospitable call if it had been possible. Masons recognised the pre-eminent duty of obedience, and could appreciate it wherever found. Most of those present, according to the peculiar arrangements of Jersey, were occasionally summoned for military service, and in that capacity, as well as in the Craft, they were taught that obedience was a chief qualification, for without it no efficiency could be attained; moreover, Masons recognised the obligation to display a love of one's native country, the defence of which against unlawful aggression was enjoined on all. Thus, then, he pleaded excuse for Bro. Durell, who was at that moment answering to the call of his superiors in military service. Bro. Dr. Hopkins thanked the W.M. and Officers for their kindness in inviting him to this annual gathering, which he at once determined to attend if possible, though recently suffering from indisposition, if only in response to the support given to him as W.M. of the young lodge of St. Aubin's, by the attendance of most of the members in a body on a recent occasion, as well as to show his appreciation of the Masonic unity and good feeling existing among the brethren of No. 245. He rejoiced in its prosperity, and the increase of its numbers, a sure sign of zealous exertions and efficient management on the part of the W.M. and officers. He also thanked them for the cordial reception which was accorded to him, and for the liberality and hospitality which had been so abundantly manifested in the style of the entertainment. He reminded the brethren that the province had just experienced a great loss in the removal from it of one of its brightest ornaments and consistent supporters, in the person of the Rev. Bro. De la Mare, Prov. G. Chap., who had won golden opinions on all sides. Personally, Bro. Hopkins felt that he had lost a very dear friend and brother, who was also chaplain of the lodge over which he had the honour to preside, and in that capacity had rendered him most eminent services. He regarded the appointment of such an officer as a most desirable one for every lodge, since it not only exercised a beneficial influence in exhorting, rebuking, and giving a serious tone to all the proceedings, which was not inconsistent with cheerfulness, but afforded evidence to the external world that there was something solemn and sacred in the professions of Freemasonry, and furnished a guarantee for decorum and propriety. He called to the recollection of the brethren the farewell discourse recently delivered from the pulpit of All Saints' Church by the Rev. Chaplain, to which many of those present had listened with so much attention; and alluded to the banquet given to him on the next evening, announcing also that the sermon and the addresses delivered on the other occasion were now published, so that each one might revive the impressions then produced, possess a memento of their absent brother, and in private ponder over his parting words. Bro. Dr. Hopkins concluded, with permission from the chair, by proposing "The Health, Prosperity, and Happiness of Bro. the Rev. F. De la Mare," to which a hearty response was given.—On the proposition of the W. MASTER, honour was afterwards accorded to the Past Masters of the lodge, with especial reference to Bro. Kingsnorth, a most valuable assistance and support to the chair, who briefly acknowledged the compliment; also to the Officers, responded to in few words by the Senior and Junior Wardens; as well as to others to whom the lodge has been indebted for eminent services.—Bro. PROSSEK, of the Yarborough Lodge, gave a straightforward and manly address on the importance of Masonic harmony, which he had great delight in seeing so fully manifested in the Mechanics' Lodge, which he had not visited for a long period. There were cases in which he could testify by experience that such was not the prevailing sentiment, where indeed disunion was the rule, and therefore he could the more highly appreciate the unanimity and good feeling that existed here, which was to him a great treat and truly refreshing. He enlarged on the universality of Freemasonry, and the importance of the duties the brethren

owe to each other, especially that of mutual kindness, of doing as they would be done by. He appealed to the visitors for corroboration of the intimate union and courteous feeling exhibited among the members of this lodge, and called upon them to join him in the toast of "Prosperity to No. 245," in which he was efficiently supported.—As a final toast, the W.M. gave the host and hostess, whose liberality in providing for the comfort and enjoyment of the brethren, had been signally displayed.—Bro. Ainslie having been sent for, the compliment was communicated to him. In reply, he heartily thanked the brethren, at the same time he felt that an apology was due from him, since he had been called upon to provide for twenty only, and found thirty-three present. He was, therefore, gratified by this token of satisfaction, though he would have done much better had he anticipated so large an attendance. The W.M. assured him that all were much pleased at the efforts he had made, and that the provision would have been most ample even had the guests been still more numerous.—Another hour having been spent in social intercourse, and some excellent songs having been given, all departed before eleven o'clock, conscious that a most enjoyable evening had been spent.

CHINA.

SHANGHAI.—Lodge of Assiduity (No. 832).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place on the 21st November. Present—P.M.'s Bros. Thorne and Gould, and as officers for the evening, Bros. Nutt, W.M.; Johnston, S.W.; Jamieson, J.W.; Gordon, S.D.; Parker, J.D. The ceremony of passing being concluded, the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th sections of the Second Lecture were worked by Bros. Thorne and Gould. Prior to closing, Bro. Gould, at the instance of Bro. Thorne, was elected to fill the office of Preceptor, resigned by the latter brother on account of approaching departure for England.

Obituary.

BRO. ROBERT C. TAYLOR.

(From the Melbourne Masonic Journal.)

One of those tragical events which occasionally occur to alarm and appal every well-regulated mind, disturbed the serenity of Kyneton, Victoria, on Saturday, Oct. 13th, for, in both the local journals which appeared that morning, the awful intelligence was made known that our brother, Robert Crofton Taylor, Superintendent of Police for the Kyneton District, had come to an untimely end the evening previous; and, on making close inquiry, we found that the unfortunate deceased arrived at his residence at the Police Paddock about twenty minutes to eleven o'clock the evening previous (Friday), where he found Mrs. Taylor at work, who, after sitting with him for a short time, retired to her own room, and immediately after heard him to call out, "Shaw, (the name of the orderly) bring me my revolver." This was done, it being a common practice for the deceased to examine his fire arms previous to retiring to rest. Within a few minutes after this he had some conversation with the nursemaid, shortly after which a dull, dead sound, not at all resembling the report of a pistol, was heard by Mrs. Taylor, Annie Kelly (the nursemaid), and Orderly Shaw. Mrs. Taylor, thinking it to be the mere trying a cap, took no notice of it, but soon after, going into the room, she found her husband seated by the fire, and blood trickling from his forehead. She gave the alarm, and medical assistance was sent for. Bro. Dr. Geary and Dr. McMillan were very quickly in attendance, but alas! found the vital spark had taken its everlasting flight. Upon examining the revolver, it was found that the whole of the chambers were discharged; but for further particulars I refer you to the report of the inquest which is truly and faithfully given in the accompanying copy of the *Observer*, the verdict being:—"The cause of death: injuries received from the accidental discharge of a revolver, the ball passing through the head." This fearful end of our departed brother we trust will have a beneficial effect on the mind of every good and upright Mason, teaching him how frail is the thread of his existence, and leading him to square his life so that when the Great Architect of the Universe calls him to pass through the valley of the shadow of death, he may be prepared to enter the Grand Lodge above, were all is order, harmony, and peace.

The funeral took place on Monday, at three p.m. The W.M., Bro. J. G. Sands, having summoned an emergency lodge, the brethren of the Zetland Lodge (789, late 1100), of which deceased was a member, assembled at two p.m. in the lodge-room, which was hung in deep mourning. The lodge having been raised to the sublime degree, the W.M. read that portion of the solemn and beautiful service appointed to be read in the lodge. This was done in a most impressive manner, and was highly appreciated by the members of and visiting brethren at the lodge. This being finished, the procession left the lodge and proceeded to the police station (where the body lay).

The clothing of each brother was deep mourning, with aprons trimmed with black crape, white gloves, and carrying a sprig of acacia. Having reached the police station, the brethren filed to the right and left, facing inwards, forming an avenue through which the firing party of police presently slowly marched. The Masonic procession then re-formed in the above order and immediately followed preceding the hearse, an escort of the Prince of Wales volunteer light-horse accompanied the cortège, which, after the hearse, consisted of mourning coaches, private carriages, horseman, and members of the police force on foot. On arriving at the cemetery, the Masonic body reversed the order of procession, the W.M. following immediately after the clergyman (Rev. G. O. Vance), who read the Church of England service; and on reaching the grave the brethren surrounded it, the stewards forming an arch with their wands. After the church service was finished, our W.M. read in a most effective and solemn manner the remaining portion of the Masonic funeral ritual, the brethren giving the responses in excellent time and order. The white lamb-skin and sprigs of acacia having been dropped into the grave, and three volleys having been fired, the procession re-formed, and proceeded to the lodge-room. The lodge was then reduced to the first degree, and closed in order, harmony, and brotherly love.

The whole of the proceedings at this mournful ceremony were characterised with a degree of solemnity which we are assured powerfully impressed the minds of the outside world, and we trust will lead the sceptical, to see that there is something more attached to our noble Craft than mere form and ceremony, and we also trust will have the beneficial effect of making our brethren better men and better Masons.

We cannot speak too highly of the admirable manner in which Bro. Robert Burton, J.W., arranged and conducted the whole of the proceedings; it would occupy too much of your space to describe the coffin, which, as also the trappings of the horses, were decorated with the symbols of our Order, in a most judicious manner. It must, however, be very gratifying to him to know that his exertions to give satisfaction are duly appreciated by his brethren.

The Graces fix'd their dear abode,
Within her lovely breast;
No angry passions dar'd intrude,
Or could disturb her rest.

Shall then Eliza seek the tomb,
And from our world be torn;
And not the Muse amid the gloom,
One wreath hang on her urn?

Ah, no! forbid sweet memory,
To let her shade depart,
Without the passing tear and sigh,
The language of the heart.

Mild candour, weeping o'er her urn,
(Methinks I hear the voice)
"Tho' for the loss my cause must mourn,
Yet thou shalt e'er rejoice.

"With dear delight I call'd thee mine,
And led thee on to youth;
Thy spirit bent before the shrine
Of everlasting truth.

"Quick as the lightning's sudden glare,
Shoots thro' an Eastern sky,
So did the angel touch the Fair,
And whisper'd she must die.

"Meek as the flow'ret bends its head,
Before the zephyr's breath,
So bow'd Eliza, gentle maid,
Nor fear'd thy summons, Death.

"Religion from the mournful tomb
Shall raise each weeping eye,
To trace the flying spirit home,
Unto its native sky."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The retirement of the Court for the Christmas holidays, has been interrupted by the safe delivery of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of a son, which took place at nine o'clock on the morning of the 8th, at Frogmore—her Royal Highness having been on the ice watching her husband and his friends playing hockey until about five o'clock in the afternoon. Her Majesty was telegraphed to, and, with the Princesses Helena and Beatrice, arrived on Saturday at Windsor from Osborne. Her Majesty spent the greater part of each day with the Princess until Wednesday, when she returned to Osborne—the Princess and infant Prince having progressed most favourably. Prince Arthur visited the Queen on Tuesday.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—In addition to the usual weekly return of the births and deaths of the metropolis the quarterly return of deaths has been published. From the first it appears that the late intense frost has added considerably to the mortality; the deaths for last week being 1798, which is an increase of 279 over the corrected average of the last ten years. The main cause of death in these instances was disease of the respiratory organs. The births were 1916, which is rather under the average. The mortality for the quarter is rather below the quarter of last year, but both are considerably higher.

Poetry.

SWEET IS THE ROSE-BUD TO THE VIEW.

Sweet is the rose-bud to the view,
As opening in the morn;
Its leaf bespangl'd with the dew,
And harmless is its thorn.

Such was Eliza, lovely maid!
A Rose without a thorn!
Pure as the dew-drop on its head,
Upon a vernal moru.

Sweet are the balmy, spicy gales
That breathe o'er Arab's coast;
Enchanting Love reigns in its vales,
And forms its greatest boast.

Yet sweeter far Eliza's mind,
Than Arab's spicy groves;
'Twas Sensibility refin'd,
The seat of all the Loves.

than in the autumn quarter of 1861.—On the 2nd of this month, 136,719 persons were receiving parochial relief in the unions included in Mr. Farnall's weekly report. As compared with the previous week, this shows an increase of 2,830; but when compared with the corresponding week of last year, we find that a decrease of 117,381 has taken place in the twelve months.—We have to announce the death of the Bishop of Ely. His lordship died late on Thursday, the 7th inst.—Dr. Stanley has been installed into the office of Dean of Westminster.—A proclamation has been issued summoning Parliament to meet for the despatch of business on the 4th of next month.—The Rifle Conference held its first meeting in the hall of King's College, Mr Forster, M.P., presiding. After an introductory address from Captain Macgregor, the chairman of the committee, the business was formally opened, and three papers read on the preliminary arrangements of rifle matches. A long and animated discussion followed the reading of the papers.—Mr. Massey has addressed a meeting of his constituents at Salford. The hon. gentlemen spoke chiefly on questions of foreign policy. He did not believe that the American Union could be re-established; he sympathised with the Poles, but was of opinion that they were unequal to the contest upon which they had entered; and with regard to the quarrel between Denmark and Germany, he could not see that it was the duty of England to interfere either on one side or the other, unless, indeed, on the outbreak of a war, fresh complications rendered a policy of non-intervention on our part impossible.—A very influential gathering of landowners and farmers of the Midland Counties has been held at Market Bosworth—under the presidency of Lord Howe—for the purpose of concerting measures for a more vigorous agitation in favour of the repeal of the malt tax. The meeting was unanimous in demanding the abolition of this impost, and it was resolved to memorialise the House of Commons on the subject. Mr. Packe, one of the members for South Leicestershire, could not attend the meeting, but he sent a letter, in which he ventured to tell the honest truth about the matter. The hon. gentlemen, like most other people, would be very glad to have the tax repealed, but how was it to be done? It produces some six millions sterling, and Mr. Packe thinks that the country would object to a shilling income tax; for that, in reality, is what the repeal of the malt tax means.—The *Globe* states that the Duke of Cambridge's memorandum on the Aldershot court martial will shortly be made public. Our contemporary gives a few hints as to the contents of the document. Colonel Crawley having been "fully and honourably acquitted" will of course be retained in command of the Inniskilling Dragoons, although, as our readers will remember, the Commander-in-Chief, in his memorandum on the Mihow court martial severely censured Colonel Crawley's conduct, and intimated that he remained at the head of his regiment only "on trial." But while this good fortune awaits Colonel Crawley, it will go hard with not a few of his officers. The *Globe*, in point of fact, states that the "anti-Crawley party" among the officers will have disappeared from the regiment before the publication of the next *Army List*.—The official inquiry into the stranding of the steamer *Anglia*, at Galway, which was instituted at Greenwich, has closed. Captain Prouse presented himself for examination, and stated the circumstances under which the stranding took place. Captain Harris, one of the commissioners, observed that the only error he could see in Captain Prouse's conduct was in attempting to take the vessel through such a narrow passage at night without a pilot. Mr. Traill, the other commissioner, concurred in this opinion, and stated he had great pleasure in returning Capt. Prouse his certificate of competency. The Capt. thanked the court and the proceedings termi-

nated.—A meeting of the National Shakespeare Committee was held on Tuesday, Mr. Godwin in the chair, at which, after a good deal of bickering, the address of the sub-committee to the English people explaining why and how the committee meant at this time of day to honour the memory of Shakespeare was rejected; and it was agreed that four members of that sub-committee should meet, with four gentlemen named by the meeting, to draw up a new one. Various other matters of detail were agreed to, and a programme of the grand things to be done on the 23rd of April next, Shakespeare's birthday, was submitted to the meeting and adopted.—It is reported that the Channel squadron, on its return from Madeira, will proceed to one of the Eastern ports, where it will await further orders.—The Court of Exchequer has given judgment in the case of the *Alexandra*. The Lord Chief Baron and Mr. Baron Bramwell were of an opinion that a new trial ought not to be granted, while Mr. Baron Channell and the junior Baron (Pigott) decided in favour of the application made in behalf of the Crown. Mr. Baron Pigott, however, as a matter of form, withdrew his judgment, and the rule for a new trial was therefore discharged. The Attorney-General gave notice of appeal.—The convict Townley has been removed from Derby to Bethlehem Hospital.—Luke Charles, the policeman, has suffered the last penalty of the law at Kirkdale.—The scene at the execution of Samuel Wright, and the excited efforts which had previously been made to obtain a commutation of the convict's sentence, prove how strongly the idea has seized the public mind that, after all, "there is one law for the rich and another for the poor." At the meetings that have been held on behalf of the wretched criminal, Townley's case has been again and again referred to; and the cries of "murder" that broke from the crowd, when Wright's body was seen suspended from the beam, showed clearly enough that Sir George Grey's recent conduct has, rightly or wrongly, produced a painful impression upon the minds of those who belong to the class from which Wright sprang.—A serious explosion took place last week at the City Gas Works, in Whitefriars. It appears that an accumulation of water under one of the gasholders in these extensive premises had become frozen, and one of the workmen placed a fire below to thaw it. This was done, but unfortunately the water was impregnated with gas, which, coming in contact with the fire, exploded, and caused great alarm and consternation in that thickly populated neighbourhood. Some of the workmen were scalded.—The great fire in the High-street of Birmingham, a short time ago, will not have been forgotten. It seems that some persons have been attempting to defraud the insurance companies by making false statements of the losses they sustained on that occasion, for a respectably-dressed man, named Lowden, carrying on business at Leicester, has been brought up before the magistrates on a charge of having, along with another man named Beeton, defrauded some fire insurance companies of the sum of £1,485. The prisoner was remanded in the hope that Beeton also would soon be in custody, when the charge will be fully gone into.—A dreadful accident has occurred at a coalpit near Dudley. While six men were being lowered down the shaft, a horse which had broken loose from one of the colliery stables ran towards the pit-mouth. Losing its foothold the animal fell down the shaft, striking the descending cage, which was precipitated to the bottom of the pit. The six men were killed.—A betting case has been tried in the Bail Court, before Mr. Justice Shee. The defendant urged that as betting was illegal the action would not lie; but the judge refused to take that view of the case; it was rather whether the defendant, having received £100 on behalf of the plaintiff—as plaintiff alleged—was bound to pay it over to him, it being

admitted on both sides that the money was earned by betting. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff.—The Liverpool magistrates have issued summonses against three of their townsmen, to answer the charge of enlisting sailors for the Confederate service. The charge relates to three men, who, it is said, they endeavoured to induce to go on board a Confederate frigate. Two of the gentlemen summoned carry on business as ship-store dealers and chandlers, and the third is a clerk in their employment.—The ten pirates charged with the murder of the captain and principal officers of the *Flowery Land*, on the high seas, have been again brought up before the magistrate at Bow-street, when the evidence of the boatswain and others of the crew who were on board the ship at the time, and who were coerced into navigating the ship to South America for the pirates, was taken, after which the prisoners were remanded.—The arts of peace, as well as those of war, seem to find favour with the 12th Regiment. Some time ago, Colonel Ponsoby, anxious that his men should spend their time in some rational way, suggested that they should set to work upon articles of various descriptions, and endeavour to get up an exhibition of the products of their skill and industry. The proposition was well received, and the result is now to be seen at the Rotunda in Dublin. The exhibitors include officers as well as men, and the collection comprises examples of "drawing, engineering, cabinet and carpenters' work, embroidery, and various other products." This very interesting industrial exhibition was opened on Tuesday, by the Lord Lieutenant.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The French police have arrested four Italians—Tambuco, Grocco, Imperatori, and Shico—who had recently arrived in Paris from Mulhouse. At these men's lodgings were found daggers, revolvers, air-guns, gunpowder, phosphorus, percussion caps, long fuses, and "Orsini bombs." A Lugano letter found on one of these men "compromises both himself, his companions, and the writer;" and it is said that another has made a complete confession of "the criminal object of their conspiracy." It is stated that the money for the conspirators was supplied by Mazzini.—The Italian Parliament, after some discussion, has resolved to accept the resignations of their seats tendered by Garibaldi and some other Radical members—resignations which are regarded as an ominous indication that the Italian "party of movement" has some scheme on foot.—The Italian Chamber of Deputies, after a debate of several days, have passed the bill for the suppression of brigandage by 150 to 46 votes. A lively discussion is going on in the Senate on the treaty of commerce with France.—The report of the committee appointed by the German Diet to consider the affair of Holstein declares that the treaty of London "is unfair in point of absolute justice, and illegal in its bearing upon the rights of nations, and fundamentally violates the rights of Germany and the Duchies."—The question whether, as the King of Denmark has not re-called the November constitution, the Prussian Cabinet will withdraw from the London treaty, was formally put to the Premier, in the Prussian Lower House. Count Bismarck, however, declared that he would not answer the question until the House should have come to a vote respecting the loan of £1,800,000 demanded by the Government, which the House has since refused. At the same time, members of the Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath are about to put questions for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Cabinet of Vienna is prepared to execute the resolution of the German Diet, whatever these resolutions may be; or whether it may, under certain circumstances, with or without concert with Prussia, refuse to obey the Diet's directions.—The latest telegrams relative to the Dano-German difficulty are of a more pacific character than of late.—

There is a rumour that a foretaste of the difficulties which will beset the wearer of the Greek Crown has already been afforded to King George by the refusal of several garrisons to recognise the authority of the new Commander-in-Chief of the Greek army.

INDIA AND JAPAN.—The principal subject in the news from India, brought by the Overland mail, is the hostilities with the hill tribes on the Punjaub frontier. The fighting has been very severe, and the serious nature of the wound received by General Chamberlain, in the fighting on the 20th November, and his consequent resignation of the command, is confirmed. Major General Garvock is the gallant general's successor.—A telegram from Bombay confirms the news of the successful termination of the expedition against the hill tribes on the Punjaub frontier. After two serious actions, in which the enemy suffered much loss, and the destruction of Mulka, the chief seat of the fanatics, the rebel tribes surrendered to our forces and sued for peace, which was granted, hostages being taken to ensure the due observance of their engagements. All our troops were returning to the plains. This is welcome news, and the whole of our Indian territories are again in a state of tranquillity.—The news from Japan is interesting. A combination had been formed of the two parties hostile to foreigners—those who were for the forcible and immediate and those who were for the gradual ejection of foreigners. The latter policy is to be adopted in the main, with a sprinkling of the former when the opportunity affords. Later advices say that Prince Susuma has resolved to make effort to secure the murderers of Mr. Richardson, and to pay due honour to his remains. The matter of chief interest from China is the relations of Major Gordon and Captain Sherard Osborn with the Chinese Government, from which it appears they are about to retire from the Chinese service.

AMERICA.—The *Australasian* has arrived with intelligence from New York to the 30th ult. All was quiet in Tennessee, and in Georgia the military movements were confined to raids and skirmishing. The Federals continue to throw shells into Charleston, and with their usual malignity shelled the city during nearly the whole of Christmas-day. In New Orleans the Free State men had held a convention, in which negroes were admitted to seats, and a coloured preacher opened the meeting with prayer. After a long delay the monster iron-clad vessel *Dictator* has been successfully launched at New York. The *Jura* has brought intelligence from New York to the 2nd inst. There is very little military news. In East Tennessee General Longstreet is reported to have gained a position capable of being strongly fortified and having open communications with North Carolina and Virginia, and thus necessitating the maintenance of a large Federal force to watch his movements. All was quiet in Georgia and Virginia, but it is said that the Confederate General Rosse had accomplished the ominous feat of making a complete circuit of General Meade's army. The Federals had sent three gunboats to Fort Jackson to suppress the mutiny of the black regiments.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- E. M.—We cannot allow your letter to appear in our columns.
 ROB.—Many thanks for your kind suggestions.
 E. V.—Your communication arrived too late for insertion in our last week's number.
 A. R.—Next week.