

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1864.

THE LATE BRO. GEORGE FEARNLEY, *M.D.*,
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SUPERINTENDENT OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Masonry and West Yorkshire have alike to deplore the lamented loss of this distinguished brother.

The news of his premature and sudden decease came as a sad shock to very many personal friends, and to all the Masons of his own province over whom he so lately bore rule; and now that the last sad honours have been paid to departed worth—now that the Provincial Grand Lodge and a large number of his Yorkshire brethren have followed him to his long last home—now that the void is felt, and his loss is realised, it may be well to sum up, in some few and feeble words, the Masonic career of him who was but so recently an active and able ruler of the Craft.

Dr. Fearnley was initiated into Masonry in the Lodge of Three Grand Principles, Dewsbury, then 251, now 208, on the 20th January, 1842. He served the office of Warden in 1843, was installed W.M. on the 20th December, 1844, and re-elected W.M. in 1845. He was exalted to the supreme degree of the Royal Arch on the 18th of December, 1843, and was appointed Prov. G. Steward in 1847.

In 1848, he was chosen by the Earl of Mexborough, then Provincial Grand Master, to be Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and on the death of Bro. Charles Lee, in 1856, he was installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

When, in 1858, Lord Mexborough died, and Lord Zetland appointed Lord de Grey and Ripon to succeed him, Bro. Fearnley was at once re-appointed to that important and distinguished post which he held up to the year of his death. He was also appointed, in 1858, the Provincial Grand Superintendent of West Yorkshire, and formed and presided over the first Provincial Grand Chapter. Bro. Fearnley was also Provincial Grand Commander of Masonic Knights Templar, and there exists in West Yorkshire both an encampment and lodge called after his name. In 1863, he was promoted by Lord Zetland to the high position of Senior Grand Deacon of England.

But not only was Dr. Fearnley distinguished as a Mason, he stood also very high in the opinion of his fellow citizens, and in his own honourable and valuable profession. An able and skilful medical man, he was an active and intelligent citizen. The first Mayor of Dewsbury, he was thrice elected to that office, and there can be but little doubt that his loss in all municipal and local affairs will be long and severely felt.

Dr. Fearnley will certainly be a missed man in Freemasonry, and in that province over which he has

held such great influence, especially for the last seven years. A good working Mason himself, thoroughly conversant with all the minutiae and technicalities of Masonic lore, he was also well read up in the traditional history and constitutional precedents of the Order. Hence he was ever ready—when cases, whether of discipline or decorum arose, as arise they will in a large province like West Yorkshire—to give to his brethren sound advice and pronounce a constitutional decision.

Under his genial rule—as well as under that of his predecessor, Bro. Chas. Lee—Masonry, in West Yorkshire, has flourished and expanded; new lodges have been formed, charitable efforts have been made, and a zeal for Masonry, and a desire to remove any obstructions to the progress of Masonry have characterised the Masons of that province.

Dr. Fearnley lived to see the completion of the movement made in support of the Boys' School, inaugurated last year, when he stood as Steward for the Festival—the noble sum of £1,500 was promised from the Province, which has been since paid to the Boys' School. His last Masonic appearance was, we believe, at a Provincial Grand Lodge of Emergency, the last week in December, at Dewsbury. His failing health and exhausted strength were then noticed by many of the brethren, with forebodings of alarm and deep regret.

At the Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Rotherham, he was unable to be present, and Bro. P. Murrell, Prov. G.W., officiated in his stead. He was then on his last bed of sickness, from which he never rose again. He died on Friday morning, January 8th, at one o'clock. Whoever may succeed him will have a hard task and a difficult duty to perform. Whatever may be the lot of the Craft in West Yorkshire, it will be long—very long—before there fades away from the memory of many warm friends and attached brethren the kindly greeting, the warm heart, the cheerful smile, and pleasant companionship of Bro. George Fearnley.

CLASSICAL THEOLOGY.—LXXII.

JUNO AND JANUARY.

Σηκος (Sekos), which word signifies a sheepfold, came to be used also in its meaning for the inside of the temple: and as the table of the altar is figurative of the sacrifice, or a part for the whole, so in course of time it designated the entire of the sacred edifice. Here, however, it is well to observe that temples were sub-divided into two parts, respectively named “the sacred and the profane.” This latter contained the “Peripanterion,” or tank or basin of consecrated water, with which all who were admitted to the sacrifice were sprinkled, and be-

yond which none that were "Bebelos," that is, profane, were allowed to pass. The other or sacred division, was called "Toeso;" but with regard to the vessel of holy water, Pollux says it was placed at the entrance of the "Adyton," the very inmost apartment of the temple, into which it was unlawful for any but the chief priest to enter; wherefore, sometimes, to distinguish it from the Βεβελος Τοπος (Bebelos Topos), it was styled *Ανακτοδον* (Anactoron.) As all things were thought to be particularly sacred to different gods, it was customary at first to dedicate the temples to the deities respectively—for instance, of woods, mountains, valleys, fields, in which places they were erected, and by streams and rivers; so, likewise, the Doric pillars were esteemed most acceptable and sacred to Jupiter, Mars, and Hercules; the Ionic to Apollo, Diana, and Bacchus; the Corinthian to Vesta the virgin, and to Juno. Yet, it is stated, in course of time, all these were occasionally used in the same temple, and also the same temple became sacred to many deities. These deities, as in other countries, were all thought to have been re-born, that is, like the Avatars of Vishnu, they had all appeared in the human form, not by a metamorphosis or metempsychosis, as that of Ashmedai,* or of that of the Delai Lama, but under their own various names, as of Parasu Rama, Rama Chandra, Krishna, and Budha. The medal mentioned by Saubertus (*Libro de Sacrificiis veter*), bore a Greek inscription, which may be thus rendered into English—"To Jupiter, the Sun, great Sarapis, and the deities co-existent in the same temple." We are also informed that Isis and Apis, Osiris, Butos, and Sothis cohabited in the same sacred edifice. So likewise in another we find Ceres, Bacchus, and Phœbus were joined. In another, as at Rome, to mention a few more instances, Jupiter, the great Capitulinus, Juno, and Minerva; in another, Venus and Cupid; in another, Castor and Pollux, and so on; Æsculapius and Apollo; the Sun and Moon; Mars and Venus; the Palatum Apollo; Latona and Diana; Zeus, Hera, and the Graces; and Orpheus, Herctules, and the Muses.

Some say that Zeus is not another name for Jupiter, nor was Hera the same divinity as Juno; still we cannot admit this to be so to any greater extent than were we to make the startling assertion that *Dieu* does not signify God in French, or that *Espiritu Santo*, in Spanish, does not mean the Holy Ghost. It was usual with the ancients when they came to the altar to pray to take hold of it, whence an altar was called by the Greeks *Αρα, ara, quasi, ansæ*, "taken hold of." It was also a custom in praying to lift up the hands towards heaven. "We do all lift our hands to

* The prince of the devils. See the traditions of Solomon, *vide* Talmud.

heaven," says Aristotle, "when we pray." So Euripides relates of Helena in her prayer to Juno, "We, great goddess, to thy starry throne extend our arms!"

It has been prettily surmised, with much ingenious probability, that the raising of the hands, pressed together upwards in pious supplication, first induced the idea of the original form of the Corinthian, or, more properly in fact, Ecclesiastic, or pointed arch, commonly styled the Gothic; and, therefore, deemed devotional, and, in its type, suitable to the construction of buildings consecrated to worship.

Hera, or Juno, we are told by some, was so distressed and violently out of humour at the personal imperfection of her son, Hephæstus, the deity of fire, that she obtained his banishment from heaven. Others, with no less disregard to sense, tell us, that the jealousy of Hera so exasperated Zeus that he hung her up by the heels to the derision of the Olympian gods, and on Hephæstus rescuing his mother from her shameful position and punishment, Zeus seized him by the feet and pitched him at one effort clearly out of his kingdom to the earth; where, after a nine day's fall, he descended on the Isle of Lemnos, with little or no more hurt than that of a broken leg. On the other hand, Homer tells us of Hephæstus proposing to his divine mother, the white armed and golden throned Hera, that he should be the cup bearer of the gods at the splendid court of Olympus, and that, to its great amusement, beginning with his regal mother, he poured out from the crystal bowl its rich ambrosia to all the assembled divinities.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE ACACIA.

Is there any peculiar meaning attached to the Sprig of Acacia, other than we hear in lodge? I was told it was a very curious herb, and several volumes might be written on it? Is this so?—H. B. F.—[There is no symbol more interesting to the Masonic student than the Sprig of Acacia, not only on account of its own peculiar import, but also because it introduces us to an extensive and delightful field of research; that, namely, which embraces the symbolism of sacred plants. In all the ancient systems of religion, and mysteries of initiation, there was always some one plant consecrated in the minds of the worshippers and participants, by a peculiar symbolism, and, therefore, held in extraordinary veneration as a sacred emblem. Thus the ivy was used in the mysteries of Dionysius, the myrtle in those of Ceres, the Erica in those of Osiris, and the lettuce in those of Adonis.

Before entering upon an examination of the symbolism of the acacia, it will be, perhaps, as well to identify the true plant which occupies so important a place in the ritual of Freemasonry. And here, in passing, we may be permitted to say that it is a very great error to designate the symbolic plant of Masonry by the name of "Cassia"—an error, which, undoubtedly, arose, originally, from the very common habit among illiterate people of sinking the sound of the letter A in the pronunciation of any word of which it forms the initial syllable. Just, for instance, as we constantly hear, in the conversation

of the uneducated, the words pothecary and prentice, for apothecary and apprentice, will we also find cassia used for acacia. Oliver's idea ("Landmarks," ii. 149), that cassia has, since the year 1730, been corrupted into acacia, is contrary to all etymological experience. Words are corrupted, not by lengthening, but by abbreviating them. The uneducated and the careless are always prone to cut off a syllable, not to add a new one. Unfortunately, however, this corruption of acacia into cassia has not always been confined to the illiterate; but the long employment of the corrupted form has at length introduced it, in some instances, among a few of our writers. Even the venerable Oliver, although well acquainted with the symbolism of the acacia, and having written most learnedly upon it, has, at times, allowed himself to use the objectionable corruption, unwittingly influenced, in all probability, by the too frequent adoption of the latter word in the lodges.

The cassia of the ancients, was, in fact, an ignoble plant, having no mystic meaning and no sacred character, and was never elevated to a higher function than that of being united, as Virgil informs us, with other odoriferous herbs in the formation of a garland—

"Violets pale,
The poppy's flush, and dill which scents the gale,
Cassia and Hyacinth, and daffodil,
With yellow marigold the chaplet fill."

—Virgil, "Eclog." ii. 49.

Alston says, that the "Cassia lignea of the ancients was the larger branches of the cinnamon tree, cut off with their bark and sent together to the druggists; their cassia fixtula, or syriax, was the same cinnamon in the bark only;" but Ruæus says that it also sometimes denoted the lavender, and sometimes the rosemary.

In Scripture the cassia is only three times mentioned (Exod. xxx. 24, Ezek. xxvii. 9, and Ps. xlv. 8); twice as the translation of the Hebrew word kiddah, and once as the rendering of ketziath, but always as referring to an aromatic plant which formed a constituent portion of some perfume. There is, indeed, strong reason for believing that the cassia is only another name for a coarser preparation of cinnamon, and it is also to be remarked that it did not grow in Palestine, but was imported from the East.

The acacia, on the contrary, was esteemed a sacred tree. It is the acacia vera of Tournefort, and the mimosa nilotica of Linnæus. It grew abundantly in the vicinity of Jerusalem, where it is still to be found, and is familiar to us all, in its modern uses at least, as the tree from which the gum arabic of commerce is obtained. Oliver, it is true, says, that "there is not the smallest trace of any tree of the kind growing so far north as Jerusalem" ("Landmarks" ii. 149); but this statement is refuted by the authority of Lieutenant Lynch, who saw it growing in great abundance at Jericho and still farther north ("Exped. to Dead Sea," p. 262). The Rabbi Joseph Schwarz, who is an excellent authority, says "The acacia (shittim) tree, al sunt, is found in Palestine of different varieties; it looks like the mulberry tree, attains a great height, and has a hard wood. The gum which is obtained from it is the gum arabic" ("Descriptive Geography and Historical Sketch of Palestine," p. 308). Schwarz was for sixteen years a resident of Palestine, and wrote from personal observation. The testimony of Lynch and Schwarz should, therefore, for ever settle the question of the existence of the acacia in Palestine.

The acacia, which in Scripture is always called shittah (Calmet, Parkhurst, Gesenius, Clarke, Shaw, and all the best authorities concur in saying that the otzi shittim, or shittim wood of Exodus, was the common acacia or mimosa nilotica of Linnæus), and in the plural shittim, was esteemed a sacred wood among the Hebrews. Of it Moses was ordered to make the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, the table for the shewbread, and the rest of the sacred furniture. Isaiah, in recounting the promises of God's mercy to the Israelites on their return

from the captivity, tells them, that among other things, He will plant in the wilderness for their relief and refreshment, the cedar, the acacia (or as it is rendered in our common version, the shittah), the fir, and other trees.

The first thing, then, that we notice in this symbol of the acacia, is that it had always been consecrated from among the other trees of the forest by the sacred purposes to which it was devoted. By the Jew, the tree from whose wood the sanctuary of the tabernacle and the holy ark had been constructed, would ever be viewed as more sacred than ordinary trees. The early Freemasons, therefore, very naturally appropriated this hallowed plant to the equally sacred purpose of a symbol, which was to teach an important Divine truth in all ages to come.

Having thus briefly disposed of the natural history of this plant, we now proceed to examine it in its symbolic relations.

First. The acacia, in the mythic system of Freemasonry, is pre-eminently the symbol of the immortality of the soul—that important doctrine—which it is the great design of the institution to teach. As the evanescent nature of the flower which "cometh forth and is cut down," reminds us of the transitory nature of human life, so the perpetual renovation of the evergreen plant, which uninterruptedly presents the appearance of youth and vigour, is aptly compared to that spiritual life in which the soul, freed from the corruptible companionship of the body, shall enjoy an eternal spring and an immortal youth. Hence, in the impressive funeral service of our Order, it is said that this evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By this we are reminded that we have an immortal part within us, which shall survive the grave, and which shall never die. And, again, in the closing sentence of the lecture of the third degree, the same sentiment is repeated; and we are told that by the evergreen and ever-living sprig, the Mason is strengthened with confidence and composure to look forward to a blessed immortality. Such an interpretation of the symbol is an easy and a natural one; it suggests itself at once to the least reflective mind; and, consequently, in some one form or another, is to be found existing in all ages and nations. It was an ancient custom, which is not, even now, altogether disused, for mourners to carry in their hands at funerals a sprig of some evergreen, generally the cedar or the cypress, and to deposit it in the grave of the deceased. According to Dalcho, the Hebrews always planted a sprig of acacia at the head of the grave of a departed friend. "This custom among the Hebrews arose from this circumstance. Agreeably to their laws, no dead bodies were allowed to be interred within the walls of the city; and as the coheens or priests were prohibited from crossing a grave, it was necessary to place marks thereon, that they might avoid them. For this purpose the acacia was used." ("Dalcho Oration," p. 27 Note). Of the existence of the custom, there can be no doubt, notwithstanding the denial or doubt of Dr. Oliver. Blount ("Travels in the Levant," p. 197) says, speaking of the Jewish burial customs, "those who bestow a marble stone over any [grave] have a hole a yard long and a foot wide, in which they plant an evergreen which seems to grow from the body and is carefully watched." Hasselquist ("Travels," p. 28), confirms his testimony. Potter tells us ("Antiquities of Greece," p. 569), that the ancient Greeks "had a custom of bedecking tombs with herbs and flowers." All sorts of purple and white flowers were acceptable to the dead, but principally the amaranth and the myrtle. The very name of the former of these plants, which signifies "never fading," would seem to indicate the true symbolic meaning of the usage, although archæologists have generally supposed it to be simply an exhibition of love on the part of the survivors. Ragon says, that the ancients substituted the acacia for all other plants, because they believed it to be incorruptible, and not liable to injury from the

attacks of any kind of insect or other animal, thus symbolising the incorruptible nature of the soul.

Hence we see the propriety of placing the sprig of acacia, as an emblem of immortality, among the symbols of that degree, all of whose ceremonies are intended to teach us the great truth, that "the life of man, regulated by morality, faith, and justice, will be rewarded at its closing hour by the prospect of eternal bliss" (Dr. Crucifix, MS. quoted by Oliver, "Landmarks," II., 2). So, therefore, says Dr. Oliver, when the Master Mason exclaims "My name is acacia," it is equivalent to saying, "I have been in the grave, I have triumphed over it by rising from the dead; and, being regenerated in the process, I have a claim to life everlasting."

The sprig of acacia then, in its most ordinary signification, presents itself to the Master Mason as a symbol of the immortality of the soul, being intended to remind him, by its evergreen and unchanging nature, of that better and spiritual part within us, which, as an emanation from the Grand Architect of the Universe, can never die. And as this is the most ordinary, the most generally accepted signification, so also it is the most important; for thus, as the peculiar symbol of immortality, it becomes the most appropriate to an order, all of whose teachings are intended to inculcate the great lesson that "life rises out of the grave." But incidental to this, the acacia has two other interpretations, which are well worth investigation.

Secondly, then, the acacia is a symbol of innocence. The symbolism here is of a peculiar and unusual character, depending not on any real analogy in the form or use of the symbol to the idea symbolised, but simply on a double or compound meaning of the word. For *acacia*, in the Greek language, signifies both the plant in question and the moral quality of innocence or purity of life. In this sense the symbol refers, primarily, to him over whose solitary grave the acacia was planted, and whose virtuous conduct, whose integrity of life, and fidelity to his trusts, have ever been presented as patterns to the Craft, and consequently to all Master Masons, who, by this interpretation of the symbol, are invited to emulate his example.

Hutchinson, when he comes to this signification of the symbol, thus enlarges on the interpretation: "We Masons, describing the deplorable estate of religion under the Jewish law, speak in figures:—'Her tomb was in the rubbish and filth cast forth of the Temple, and acacia wore its branches over her monument; *ακακια* being the Greek word for innocence, or being free from sin; implying that the sins and corruptions of the old law and devotees of the Jewish altar, had hidden religion from those who sought her, and she was only to be found where innocence survived, and under the banner of the divine lamb; and as to ourselves, professing that we were to be distinguished by our Acacy, or as true Acacians in our religious faith and tenets'" ("Spirit of Masonry," Lect. ix., p. 99).

Among the nations of antiquity it was common thus, by peculiar plants, to symbolise the virtues and other qualities of the mind. In many instances the symbolism has been lost to the moderns, but in others it has been retained is well understood even at the present day. Thus the olive was adopted as the symbol of peace, because, says Lee, "its oil is very useful in some way or other, in all arts manual which principally flourish in times of peace." ("The Temple of Solomon," ch. ix., p. 233.)

The quince among the Greeks was the symbol of love and happiness, and hence, by the laws of Solon, in Athenian marriages the bride and bridegroom were required to eat a quince together. It is probable that the quince derived this symbolism, like the acacia, from its name; for there seems to be some connection between the Greek word *κινδύμιος*, which means a quince, and the participle *κινδιδυ*, which signifies rejoicing, exulting.

The palm was the symbol of victory, and hence, in the

catacombs of Rome, the burial place of so many of the early Christians, the palm leaf is constantly found as an emblem of the Christian's triumph over sin and death.

The rosemary was a symbol of remembrance, and hence was used both at marriages and at funerals, the memory of the past being equally appropriate in both rites.

The parsley was consecrated to grief, and hence all the Greeks decked their tombs with it; and it was used to crown the conquerors in the Nemean games, which were of a funereal character.

But it is needless to multiply instances of this symbolism. In adopting the acacia as a symbol of innocence, Freemasonry has but extended the principle of an ancient and universal usage, which thus consecrated particular plants by a mystical meaning to the representation of particular virtues.

But, lastly, the acacia is to be considered as the symbol of initiation. This is by far the most interesting of its interpretations, and was, we have every reason to believe, the primary and original; the others being but incidental. It leads us at once to the investigation of that significant fact that in all the ancient initiations and religious mysteries, there was some plant peculiar to each, which was consecrated by its own esoteric meaning, and which occupied an important position in the celebration of the rites, so that the plant, whatever it might be, from its constant and prominent use in the ceremonies of initiation, came at length to be adopted as the symbol of that initiation.

A reference to some of these sacred plants—for such was the character they assumed—and an investigation of their symbolism will not, perhaps, be uninteresting or useless in connection with the subject.

In the mysteries of Adonis, which originated in the Phœnicia, and were afterwards transferred to Greece, the death and resurrection of Adonis was represented. A part of the legend accompanying these mysteries was, that when Adonis was slain by a wild boar, Venus laid out the body on a bed of lettuce. In memorial of this supposed fact, on the first day of the celebration when funeral rites were performed, lettuces were carried in procession, newly planted in shells of earth. Hence the lettuce became the sacred plant of the mysteries of Adonis.

The lotus was the sacred plant of the Brahminical rites of India, and was considered as a symbol of their elemental trinity—earth, water, and air—because, as an aquatic plant, it derived its nutriment from all of these elements combined, its roots being planted in the earth, its stem rising through the water, and its leaves exposed to the air. The Egyptians, who borrowed a large portion of their religious rites from the East, adopted the lotus, which was also indigenous to their country as a mystical plant, and made it the symbol of their initiation, or the birth into celestial light. Hence, as Champollion observes, they often on their monuments represented the god Phre, or the sun, as born within the expanded calyx of the lotus. The lotus bears a flower similar to that of the poppy, while its large tongue-shaped leaves float upon the surface of the water. As the Egyptians had remarked that the plant expands when the sun rises, and closes when it sets, they adopted it as the symbol of the sun; and as that luminary was the principal object of the popular worship, the lotus became in all their sacred rites a consecrated and mystical plant.

The Egyptians also selected the erica, or heath, as a sacred plant. The origin of the consecration of this plant presents us with a singular coincidence, that will be peculiarly interesting to the Masonic student. We are informed that there was a legend in the mysteries of Osiris, which related that Isis, when in search of the body of her murdered husband, discovered it interred at the brow of a hill near which an erica, or heath plant, grew; and hence, after the recovery of the body and resurrection of the god, when she established the mysteries to commemorate her loss and recovery, she adopted

the erica as a sacred plant, in memory of its having pointed out the spot where the mangled remains of Osiris were concealed. Ragon thus alludes to this mystical event: "Isis found the body of Osiris in the neighbourhood of Biblos, and near a tall plant called the erica. Oppressed with grief, she seated herself on the margin of a fountain, whose waters issued from a rock. This rock is the small hill mentioned in the ritual; the erica has been replaced by the acacia, and the grief of Isis has been changed for that of the fellow Crafts" ("Cours des Initiations," p. 151). It is singular, and perhaps significant, that the word eriko, in Greek *ερικυ*, whence erica is probably derived, means to break in pieces, to mangle.

The mistletoe was the sacred plant of Druidism. Its consecrated character was received from a legend of Scandinavian mythology, and which is thus related in the Edda, or sacred books:—The god Balder, the son of Odin, having dreamed that he was in some great danger of life, his mother, Friga, exacted an oath from all the creatures of the animal, the vegetable, and the mineral kingdom, that they would do no harm to her son. The mistletoe, contemptible from its size and weakness, was alone neglected, and of it no oath of immunity was demanded. Lok, the evil genius or god of Darkness, becoming acquainted with this fact, placed an arrow made of mistletoe, in the hands of Holder, the blind brother of Balder, on a certain day, when the gods were throwing missiles at him in sport, and wondering at their inability to do him injury with any arms with which they could attack him. But, being shot with the mistletoe arrow, it inflicted a fatal wound, and Balder died. Ever afterwards the mistletoe was revered as a sacred plant, consecrated to the powers of darkness; and annually it became an important rite among the Druids to proceed into the forest in search of the mistletoe, which, being found, was cut down by the Arch Druid, and its parts, after a solemn sacrifice, were distributed among the people. Claret ("Histoire Pittoresque des Religions," t. i, p. 217) very ingeniously remarks, that is evident in reference to the legend, that as Balder symbolises the Sun-god, and Lok darkness, this search for the mistletoe was intended to deprive the god of Darkness of the power of destroying the god of Light. And the distribution of the fragments of the mistletoe among their pious worshippers, was to assure them that henceforth a similar attempt of Lok would prove abortive, and he was thus deprived of the means of effecting his design. According to Toland ("Works," i. 74), the festival of searching, cutting, and consecrating the mistletoe, took place on the 10th of March, or New Year's day. "This," he says, "is the ceremony to which Virgil alludes, by his golden branch, in the sixth book of the *Æneid*." No doubt of it, for all these sacred plants had a common origin in some ancient and general idea.

The myrtle performed the same office of symbolism in the mysteries of Greece as the lotus did in Egypt, or the mistletoe among the Druids. The candidate in these initiations, was crowned with myrtle, because, according to the popular theology, the myrtle was sacred to Proserpine, the goddess of future life. Every classical scholar will remember the golden branch with which *Æneas* was supplied by the Sybil before proceeding on his journey to the infernal regions ("Under this branch is figured the wreath of myrtle, with which the initiated were crowned at the celebration of the mysteries." Warburton, "Divine Legation," vol. i, p. 299), a voyage which is now universally admitted to be a mythical representation of the ceremonies of initiation.

In all of these ancient mysteries, while the sacred plant was a symbol of initiation, the initiation itself was symbolic of the resurrection to a future life, and of the immortality of the soul. In this view, Freemasonry is to us now in the place of the ancient initiations, and the acacia is substituted for the lotus, the eric, the ivy, the mistletoe, and the myrtle. The lesson of wisdom is the

same, the medium of imparting it is all that has been changed.

Returning, then, to the acacia, we find that it is capable of three explanations. It is a symbol of immortality, of innocence, and of initiation. But these three significations are closely connected, and that connection must be observed, if we desire to obtain a just interpretation of the symbol. Thus, in this one symbol, we are taught that in the initiation of life, of which the initiation in the third degree is simply emblematic, innocence must for a time lie in the grave, at length, however, to be called, by the word of the Grand Master of the Universe, to a blissful immortality. Combine with this the recollection of the place where the sprig of acacia was planted, and which has been shown to be Mount Calvary, the place of the sepulture of Him who "brought life and immortality to light," and who, in Freemasonry is designated, as He is in Scripture, as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah;" and remember, too, that in the mystery of His death, the wood of the cross takes the place of the acacia, and in this little and apparently insignificant symbol, but which is really and truly the most important and significant one in Masonic science, we have a beautiful suggestion of all the mysteries of life and death, of time and eternity, of the present and of the future. Thus read (and thus all our symbols should be read), Freemasonry proves something more to its disciples than a mere social society or a charitable association. It becomes a "lamp to our feet," whose spiritual light shines on the darkness of the deathbed, and dissipates the gloomy shadows of the grave.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am a Centenarian Warrant, not suspended in a handsome glazed frame, as I am given to understand most of my brethren are, but immured in a small tin box, from which I am only occasionally withdrawn, to astonish the gaze of some newly-enlightened candidate. In consequence of the misconduct of my neighbour, the ballot-box, it is now some time since I have enjoyed even *that* privilege; and by what I gather from the proceedings I can overhear, I have reason to fear I have just been sentenced to six months' close confinement.

As a means of dispelling the *ennui* to which I am thus doomed, allow me, now and then, to narrate any little incident which may come under my notice. Your MAGAZINE, then, is in sad disgrace, because it tells the truth *too much*. Indeed, my friend, the minute-book, has recently taken a severe cold, in consequence of the frequent application of the paste pot, which has been freely used to immortalise your "reports," "articles," &c. I overheard an amusing discussion the other night; there was only a small lodge, but every member present had a resolution or an amendment to propose with regard to your bad conduct!—ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous, *i.e.*, from "silent contempt" to "action for libel." The only suggestion I did not hear was that your reports should be contradicted; and that proposition was not made, I suppose, only because no one had the temerity to make it. My members are forbidden, under some "billy-bo" of pains and penalties, to communicate to you "anything detrimental to the lodge," that is, they are not to *tell the truth*; but that will not prevent me from communicating any proceedings I may overhear as absurd, irregular, unconstitutional, illegal, and un-Masonic as some of late.

Your ill-used
CHARTER.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

Bro. A. W. Adair has been appointed Prov. G. Master of Somerset, the province having been for some time under the jurisdiction of the G. Reg.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The annual festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows was celebrated on Wednesday evening, in the Freemasons' Hall, and with the most satisfactory results. There were nearly 70 stewards representing different lodges, and some of them came from very distant parts of the kingdom. His Grace the Duke of St. Albans, Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire, presided, and at the cross table he was supported by Bros. Tomkins, Grand Treasurer; Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; G. W. Potter, P.G.D.; Symonds, P.G.D.; Patten, P.G.S.B. (Secretary to the Girls' School); Gray Clarke, Grand Sec.; Head, S.G.D.; Spiers, P.G.D.; Bridges, P.G.D.; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; G. F. Newmarch, D. Prov. G.M. for Gloucestershire; J. Smith, P.G. Purst.; Nutt, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Dickie, Assist. G. Purst.; F. Binckes, Secretary to the Boys' School, &c. There were upwards of 150 brethren present, and the gallery was crowded with elegantly attired ladies.

The banquet consisted as usual of every delicacy of the season, served up in Bro. Elkington's best style, and who personally superintended the whole of the arrangements, and was most solicitous that the comfort of every brother should be strictly attended to. After the dinner had been disposed of, and the cloth drawn, *grace was sung by the professional singers.*

The CHAIRMAN said he then rose to propose the first toast of the evening. He said that there was one illustrious person who was endeared to them all, as well for her public as for her domestic and private virtues. Her illustrious birth was ennobled by the higher qualities of her heart, and if they wanted an example they would find it in her who on so many occasions took the opportunity of dispensing her bounty, and relieving the aged and distressed. He concluded by giving "The Health of the Queen," with three times three.

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, followed by the National Anthem, the solo parts by Madame Rudersdorf and Miss Rebecca Isaacs.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the next toast, said he had yet to learn that Albert Edward Prince of Wales and the Princess of Wales were less popular since the addition which they had received at the commencement of the year to the Royal Family. Unfortunately, a conflict was threatened towards those who were nearly related to them in blood and in other ways, but he trusted that conflict would be averted. Should it, however, occur, and any member of their Royal Family should be placed in that unfortunate position of having to take part in it, he felt assured that no more stronger feeling of loyalty and support would be received from any class than from the Masonic Craft. He concluded by proposing "The Health of Albert Edward Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

The toast was drunk with great cheering.

The CHAIRMAN said he should not preface the next toast with any observations, as he knew that it was one that would always

be responded to throughout the Craft. It was "The Health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of Masons."

Drunk with loud applause.

The CHAIRMAN said the next toast was that of the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, who had been honoured by his Sovereign with the office of Secretary of State for War as well as being their Deputy Grand Master. He should give "The Deputy Grand Master and the Present and Past Grand Officers," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Tomkins, Grand Treasurer.

Bro. TOMKINS said he thanked their noble chairman sincerely for the kind compliment he had paid the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers, and could assure him that they were at all times anxious to promote the interests of the Charities and to carry out the suffrages of the Craft, and they thanked the brethren for the compliment they had paid them.

Miss Rebecca Isaacs then sung, in an exquisite style, Moore's well-known ballad, "The Meeting of the Waters," which was rapturously encored.

The CHAIRMAN rose to propose the toast of the evening, and said by the presence of the brethren there that evening, he concluded that they all wished success to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, and therefore he felt less difficulty, and need only use fewer words in proposing that toast. He must, however, ask their attention to a few statistics with which their worthy Secretary, Bro. Farnfield, had furnished him, in which he was informed that their Institution contained in it two separate funds, one of them being applied to the relief of aged Freemasons themselves, and the other to that of their widows. The fund for the aged Freemasons stood first in point of date, having been established in 1842. It was instituted in that year by his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, who then filled in the Craft that high position of W.M. Grand Master. Since that time as many as 202 aged Freemasons had been elected as recipients on the funds, and the total sum paid for them was £20,523 10s. After the election in May next, there would be as many as 76 male annuitants on their books, at an annual cost of £1,796. For this fund £500 was received annually from the Grand Lodge, and also £100 from the Grand Chapter. The balance of their income was made up from interest or funded property, from donations, and life subscriptions. At the present time, there were 27 approved candidates for the next election, and there were 8 others whose applications had not been decided upon. The Widows' Fund in connection with this Institution, was established in 1849, under the patronage of the Earl of Zetland, their present Grand Master. Since the establishment of that portion of the Institution, 77 widows had been recipients of the funds, and the sum paid to them was £3,196. After the election in May next, there would be 50 females who would receive an annual amount of £1,030. The permanent income of this part of the Institution was £800 annually from the Grand Lodge, and £50 from the Grand Chapter. The dividends from the funded property last year were £196 10s., making a total receipt of £546 10s., against an expenditure of £1,030, leaving a deficit of £483 10s., which, like the male annuitants, had to be made up out of the annual subscriptions. There were 22 approved candidates for the next election, and there were other candidates whose cases had not yet been decided by the committee. The Asylum was situated at Croydon, and he congratulated the Craft that it was paid for. There was besides a sustentation fund of £1,000, the interest of which was applied to the repairs of the buildings. Their Institution consisted, therefore, of two branches which they had met that day

to celebrate. They had the Institution for Aged Freemasons' and their Widows, but the funds of both were applied entirely to stated purposes. As the brethren whom he had addressed knew the benefits derived from these Institutions, he must apologise for the few words he then addressed to them. In all countries one of the most striking symptoms of civilisation was the amount of care which they manifested for the aged of their community. The committee came before them and asked them to support that Institution, and proud was he to see such an assembly to celebrate its anniversary, which had been well chosen, for the committee had chosen for it the birthday of the first person who suggested the Institution, the late Duke of Sussex. (Cheers.) As regarded old age, whatever literature they looked at, whether it was the ancient classics of Rome, Greece, or Troy, or the lectures of Cicero, there was throughout the whole a feeling of reverence towards it, and the Christian religion inculcated its blessings on all who cared for them. (Cheers.) He would not detain them longer on that subject, but would simply ask them to join with him in drinking "Success to the Royal Benevolent Institution of Aged Freemasons and their Widows," and might the funds which were collected be invested and continue to increase year by year, so as to afford the greatest benefits to the annuitants to whose relief they were to be applied.

The toast was drunk with three times three, and one cheer more.

Bro. FARNFIELD then read the list of subscriptions, and amongst the principal were the following:—Bro. Veevers, Prov. G. Purst. East Lancashire, £112 10s.; Bro. Newall, East Lancashire, £133 10s.; Bro. George F. Newmarch, D. Prov. G.M. Gloucestershire, £125; Bro. Gallway (176), £17 10s.; Bro. Yeates (23), £74 11s. 6d.; Bro. Chancellor (657), £67 5s.; Bro. Watts (201), £54 5s.; Bro. Berry (144), £17 18s.; Bro. Robinson (229), £105. The total amount declared being £2,376 3s. 6d.

The announcement was received with loud cheers.

Bro. FARNFIELD said that there were eleven lists to come in. (Renewed cheers.)

Bro. TOMPKINS, Grand Treasurer, proposed "The Health of their noble Chairman," and expressed their deep obligations to him for taking the chair at that celebration festival of one of their Charities. It was not the first time that he had done so, and he trusted that it would not be the last. It was one of the great features of the Craft, that it did so much good by bringing them together on such occasions as the present, and it more firmly cemented their social links when they found a noblemen feel such an interest in the Craft, and plead at their festivals on behalf of their Charities, whose object was to alleviate the distress of their poorer brethren. He asked the brethren to drink the "Health of the illustrious Chairman, his grace the Duke of St. Alban's." (Loud cheers.)

The Duke of ST. ALBANS said he thanked them most gratefully for the manner in which his health had been received, and for the way in which Bro. Tompkins had proposed it. He felt happy if he had done anything to promote this charity, and it was with feelings of pride he heard the list read out by the Secretary. There were some other lists to come in, and when they were added he thought the total sum received would amount to £2,500. For the honour they had conferred upon him he thanked them from the bottom of his heart, and he thought he could not now offer them a more appropriate toast than that of "The Health of the Right Hon. Lord Southampton, Past President, the Trustees, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Committee and Officers of the Institution." He believed they all had the welfare of their Institutions at heart, and he would not enter into the merits of each of them, but he thought they must all regret that Lord

Southampton should have had his house burnt down the other day. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Spiers.

Bro. SPIERS said he was taken rather by surprise, as he suddenly found himself in the honourable position of being Senior President of the Institution then present. He thanked them for their appreciation of such services as they were able to render to this noble charity. He saw present many brethren who were well calculated to judge of the services of the committee, and it was most gratifying for them to receive such a meed of approbation at their hands.

Bro. TOMPKINS also returned thanks.

The CHAIRMAN said he had no doubt they would cordially drink the toast of the other Masonic Charities, "The Boys' School Festival, on the 9th of March, and the Girls' School on the 11th of May." In a few words he expressed the value of those institutions. (The toast was well received.)

Bro. BINCKES, Secretary to the Boys' School, congratulated Bro. Farnfield and the body of Stewards at the way in which they had been supported that evening, and said he looked with anxiety to the Boys' School Festival, on the 9th of March, on which occasion the chair would be taken by the Duke of Newcastle. He was glad to find that, as one charity increased the brethren extended their support to all. There was no rivalry, but a fraternal feeling to see how they could do the best for all. In promoting their Masonic Charities in any phase or character he should deeply regret if the success of one should militate against another, for the keystone of all their institutions was charity. As regarded the Boys' School, they were then in a crisis of their existence, as they were erecting a new building, which would accommodate twice the number of boys, the demands for which were increasing year by year. There were already 30 candidates, and there would be but seven vacancies, which was the best justification for what the committee were doing in enlarging this institution. He asked them to give liberally, as Providence had blessed them with the means, and then they would be able to look back with pleasure and proud satisfaction on the support they had given to these noble institutions. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. PATTEN, Secretary to the Girls' School, said that Bro. Binckes had left him little to say, but he begged to say that the Festival for the Girls' School would take place on the 11th of May. During the last year they had erected a new wing, at a cost of £1,500, to receive 20 additional children, at a cost of £600 per annum, and they had no other source to provide for them than through the liberality of the Craft. In anticipation of their bounty, they had already taken in 10 children; in April they would take in 2 more; and in October they would take in the remaining 8 children. They looked to the brethren for that support which the Charity deserved. He asked any brother to visit the School; and if he was a non-subscriber, he was sure that it would not be long before he would become a subscriber for one guinea, and, perhaps, for ten guineas. He asked them to think of the 11th of May, and he congratulated Bro. Farnfield on the number of brethren by whom he had been supported, hoping that they would support the Girls' School as they had supported him, to come themselves and bring a friend with them. (Cheers.) He congratulated them upon what they had done, what they were doing, and what they were about to do.

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Ladies" who had honoured them with their presence, for whom Bro. Mullins returned thanks in a most appropriate speech.

"The Stewards" was next given, for which Bro. Nutt returned thanks, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Miss Leffler, and Miss De Couraz, delighted the company during the evening by their vocal abilities. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. George Tedder, who was also assisted by Bro. Buckland, and they gave unqualified satisfaction.

METROPOLITAN.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The installation meeting of this red apron lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday, the 21st inst., when the following brethren were present:—R. M. Smith, W.M.; R. Gibbons, S.W. (W.M. elect); George Smith, J.W.; A. H. Hewlett, P.M. and Treas.; Matthew Cooke, Sec.; L. D. Phillips, S.D.; E. J. Page, J.D.; P. D. Collins, I.G.; T. Tunstall, Dir. of Cers.; W. Watson, Wine Steward; other members, G. S. States, G. Steward of the year; F. Hill, H. H. Collins, J. Bennett, and G. S. Brandon, P.M.'s; Bros. Kirby, G. F. Bonner, W. H. Warr, Desanges, Holland, Anton, Yates, Eckford, Plowright, Platt, and John Clements; visitors, R. Mills, 231; J. W. Lyon, W.M. 25; Henry Thompson, P.M. 742; J. D. Caulcher, P.M. 25; H. A. Stacey, P.M. 180; R. Ellison, 198; Charles Hart, P.M. 145; R. P. Noah, 223; H. J. White, 45; J. H. Johnston, W.M. 151; Charles Sloman, 25; Thomas Young, 5; Donald W. King, P.M. 12; and G. T. Carter, P.M. 536. The business consisted in raising Bros. Bonner and Desanges, after which a board of installed Masters was formed, and Bro. Gibbons was most ably installed W.M. for the ensuing year by his predecessor, Bro. Ralph M. Smith. The W.M. then appointed his officers, as follows:—George Smith, S.W.; L. D. Phillips, J.W.; Hewlett, re-invested Treas.; Matthew Cooke, re-invested Sec.; E. J. Page, S.D.; P. D. Collins, J.D.; Tunstall, I.G.; Yates, Dir. of Cers.; and W. Watson, re-invested Wine Steward. The new W.M. then, very very perfectly and with great credit, initiated Messrs Meacock and Lovell. The decision of a centenary jewel design was deferred to the next meeting, and the lodge was closed. At the banquet, Bro. Ralph M. Smith was presented with a P.M.'s jewel, and there was some very good singing, in which Bros. Young, Carter, King, and Sloman took part.

PRUDENT BRETHREN LODGE (No. 145).—INSTALLATION OF W.M.—The annual meeting of the above lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday, the 26th inst., when the following brethren were present:—Exall, W.M.; W. Carter, S.W.; Sharp, J.W.; Brown, S.D.; Crabb, J.D.; Gabell, as I.G.; Blackburn, Sec.; States, Wine Steward; Boyd, Treas.; Watson, C. Hart, and Warren, P.M.'s; and the following members—Bros. Sharpe, Moore, Chapman, Pringle, Taylor, Knox, E. Hart, Wilcox, E. Loewenstark, and others. Visitors:—Bros. Dickie, Assist. G. Purst.; Gurton, Grand Steward's Lodge; Newall, Prov. G. D. Herts; E. J. Watson, P.M. 11; W. Moutree, P.M. 11; P. D. Collins, J.D. 23; Last, 25; Baker, P.M. 177; A. D. Young, P.M. 201; Gilbert, 334; Line, 382; Rowland, 788; Slack 863. The W.M. then opened the lodge, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Charles Pringle, of South Middlesex Lodge (No. 858), was balloted for as joining member, which proved unanimous. The W.M. in his able manner then proceeded to the ceremony of passing Bros. Moore and Chapman. The next business in the summons was the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. Carter. The chair having been taken by Bro. Blackburn, P.M., he proceeded with the ceremony of installation, Bro. Exall, P.M., reading the ancient charges. The brethren below the chair having retired, the W.M. elect was, with the usual ceremony, installed into the chair of King Solomon. The brethren were then re-admitted, and saluted the newly-installed W.M. in the several degrees. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Sharp, S.W.; Brown, J.W.; Crabb, S.D.; Sharp, J.D.; Taylor, I.G.; Blackburn, Sec.; Boyd, Treas.; States, Wine Steward; Gabell, M.C. The business of the lodge being concluded, the brethren then adjourned to the banquet, which was served in a manner somewhat exceeding the first-rate style of the Freemasons' Tavern. The cloth being drawn, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was duly honoured by the brethren; followed by "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," and "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M.," and the rest of the Grand Officers," coupling with the toast the names of Bros. Dickie, Assistant Grand Pursuivant, and G. States, Grand

Steward, the representatives of Grand Lodge present.—Bro. DICKIE, Assist. G. Purst., replied on behalf of the Grand Lodge. It was quite unnecessary for him to mention the great zeal of the D.G.M., the Earl de Grey and Ripon. Doubtless many of the brethren present had met with him in Grand Lodge, and witnessed the able manner in which he presided over the Craft in the absence of their M.W.G. Master, and they could join with him in testimony of his worth. He thought he could congratulate the members of the Prudent Brethren Lodge upon their happy choice of a Master, one whom he felt certain would discharge the duties of his important lodge with credit. The lodge was also happy in having such a member as their Secretary (Bro. Blackburn, P.M.), who could perform the ceremony of installation in such an efficient manner as he had done. He was pleased to see the W.M. in his present honourable position, the more so as he was an old friend and neighbour, and he felt sure he would fill the chair to the satisfaction of the members.—Bro. EXALL, P.M., rose and said that, as the W.M. had entrusted him with his gavel, the brethren were well aware that he was about to propose the health of their W.M., Bro. Carter. He felt that they ought to look upon him as "the right man in the right place." He had at present been but a short time in the chair, so he could not say much about what he had done, but he would call upon the brethren to rise and drink to the health of their newly-installed W.M., wishing him a prosperous year of office.—The W.M. heartily thanked the brethren for the honour they had done him in drinking his health, and for their kind expressions towards him. With so much good feeling around him, he felt that he could not fail to pass through his year of office to the satisfaction of the brethren. He was highly gratified to see so many old friends around him. He wished the newly-appointed officers would render him all the assistance in their power, for without that aid no man, however well qualified he might be, could properly perform the ceremonies. Having again thanked the brethren, the W.M. said he had a toast to propose, which he knew the members of Prudent Brethren Lodge always received with enthusiasm—that of "The Visitors." He had before him a long list which he must refer to as they were so numerous. First, there was Bro. Dickie, Assistant Grand Pursuivant, then Bro. Gurton, of the Grand Steward's Lodge, and W.M. of the Strawberry Hill Lodge; Bro. Newall, Provincial Grand Deacon Herts; Bros. Watson and Moutree, P.M.'s of the Enoch Lodge (No. 11); Collins, Globe Lodge, (No. 23); Baker, P.M., Domestic Lodge (No. 177); Young, P.M., Jordan Lodge (No. 201); Gilbert, 334; Line, Royal Union Lodge (No. 536); Rowland, 788; Slack, 863; and last on his list he had Bro. Last, of Robert Burns Lodge (No. 25), who, he might remark, was a rather young Mason, having been passed the same evening as himself in the Robert Burns Lodge about twenty years ago. The visitors were nearly, if not all, his old and valued friends, and he had great delight in seeing so many distinguished members of the Craft around him to do honour to him on the occasion of his installation.—Bro. GURTON, G. Steward, replied, and thanked the W.M. and brethren for the handsome manner in which they had entertained him and his brother visitors. He much regretted that he was not able to be present at the installation of the W.M., who he felt would occupy it in such a manner as to give satisfaction to the brethren. It was the first time he had visited them, and, from what he had seen that evening, he hoped it would not be the last.—Bro. NEWALL also rose to return thanks. He thought Bro. Gurton had replied on behalf of himself and the visitors. He was very happy to be one of the invited at the festive board. They were very numerous, in fact so much so, that he almost thought that they were in the majority. If himself and brother visitors did not belong to the Prudent Brethren in name, at least they did in heart; and when so much brotherly love prevailed, himself and brother visitors should always esteem it a great privilege to receive an invitation to come amongst them.—The W.M. then said that he had another toast to propose, which he felt certain they would equally appreciate, namely, "The Health of the Immediate Past Master, Bro. Exall." The manner in which he had performed his duties, and the attention he had shown, rendered it quite unnecessary for him to say anything further. He had never been absent from his post any meeting during the year, and had performed in an excellent manner the ceremonies of initiation, passing, and raising. He therefore felt it to be his duty to call upon them to drink his health, and it was a duty equally incumbent on the brethren to heartily respond to the toast. Before they did that, however, he felt

much pleasure in investing Bro. Exall with a Past Master's jewel as a mark of respect from the brethren of the Prudent Brethren Lodge, in appreciation of his services and the able manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the lodge. He further hoped that he might live long to wear it, and that as long as he lived he would attend the meetings and render the W.M. for the time being his valuable assistance.—Bro. EXALL was much obliged to the brethren for the kind manner in which they had responded to the toast. He had stated when he entered the W.M.'s chair a year ago that he would strive to perform his duties in such a manner as to deserve and meet with the approbation of his brethren. That he had fulfilled that promise, his reception that evening would testify; and he felt amply rewarded for all trouble he had taken to qualify himself for his duties. He hardly knew how sufficiently to thank them for the handsome jewel with which they had presented him. He would assure them that he should ever appreciate their kindness, and that he should always attend with pleasure the meetings of the Prudent Brethren Lodge, and hoped the brethren would never have cause to regret having placed that mark of esteem upon his breast that evening.—The W.M. then proposed the health of the Past Masters of the lodge. They all knew what great assistance was rendered to the W.M. and the offices by their zealous Past Masters, who had gained the highest honours they could obtain in the lodge, having nothing more to gain, and whose zeal was thereby shown to arise from a real love of the institution. For his own part, he should hardly have dared to enter the chair he now occupied had he not been sure of the assistance he should receive from the Past Masters. They had not so many present as they had at their last installation meeting, but still they had a good number present.—Bro. EXALL, P.M., said that, as he had just replied to one toast and sung a song, it was rather hard upon him to respond again. He would merely thank the brethren, and leave the reply in the hands of—Bro. BLACKBURN, P.M., who remarked that he had joined the lodge some twelve or fourteen years ago, and had passed through all the offices to the highest, and finally retired to his present position. It was some years since he had seen a meeting like the present; and he hoped that the lodge would increase in prosperity, and that love and harmony would ever prevail amongst them, and wished the W.M. a prosperous year of office.—Bro. WATSON said that, though not a P.M. of the lodge he was a P.M. in the lodge, and was one of the oldest members, in fact, he might claim the title of father of the lodge, having been one of those who rescued the lodge when in abeyance, and resuscitated it. Those who had joined him in that work had all departed to that bourne from whence no traveller ever returns. He little thought at that time that he should ever witness such a meeting as the present, and he was happy to see the lodge in its prosperity presided over by so excellent a Mason, and so worthy a gentleman as their present W.M. When the brethren witnessed the excellent manner in which he had presided over them that evening, his genuine good-feeling, his *bonhomie*, and his obliging demeanour in the chair, he could not sit down without congratulating the lodge upon the choice they had made, and felt sure that the lodge would preserve the *éclat* with which it was at present surrounded during the coming year.—The W.M. then proposed the health of the Senior Warden and that of the Junior Warden. He hoped that they would be able to go on smoothly with their duties, and become like that "united happy family" that the brethren might have seen. He had been congratulated, and he felt happy himself in his selection. He would say no more, but call upon the brethren to rise and drink to the Senior and Junior Wardens.—Bro. SHARPE, S.W., replied. For his own part, he would endeavour to perform his duties to the best of his ability, and if the other officers would carry out their duties in the manner he intended to do, he felt that all would go on happily, and that the year would end satisfactorily to the brethren. He would not delay them longer, but leave the J.W. to speak for himself.—Bro. BROWN, J.W., remarked that the S.W. had left him but little to say. He should merely endorse what had been said by him, and promise a faithful attention to his duties, and should render the W.M. and his brother officers all the assistance in his power to make the working of the lodge during the ensuing year as excellent as it had been for some years' past.—Bros. CRABB, S.D., SHARP, J.D., and TAYLOR, I.G., each replied in similar words, and their promises seemed to augur a more than usual prosperous year in his now flourishing lodge.—The W.M. had next to propose the health of the Secretary and Treasurer, Bros. Blackburn

and Boyd. The brethren all knew how necessary it was in a lodge like theirs to have those duties performed in an efficient manner. That that was the case was well known to the brethren, and he proposed the toast with much pleasure.—Bro. BOYD, Treas., esteemed it a great privilege to address them from that honourable position. He could not say much as to what he had done. It was the first time he had responded to the toast, and he hoped it would not be the last. He hoped the funds of the lodge might increase, and that his office might be no sinecure.—Bro. BLACKBURN, Sec., said he had great pleasure to respond to the toast, and thanked the W.M., brethren, and visitors for the compliment they had paid him. He should always feel great satisfaction in taking their money and giving them a receipt in exchange, and he did not care how much work of that kind they gave him, so that he should have a good round sum to hand over to the newly-invested Treasurer. He should be ever ready to assist the W.M. in any manner that laid in his power, and thanked him and the brethren for the kind notice they had been pleased to take of his performance of the ceremony of installation. He hoped to discharge his duties for many years to come.—A brother rose and begged permission to say a few words as a visitor on this occasion. He could not let the evening pass without once more returning thanks to the W.M. and brethren of the lodge for the handsome entertainment to which himself and his brother visitors had been invited. The ability with which the important ceremonies had been performed spoke volumes of the efforts the officers had made to master their duties, and he was sure the brethren had cause for congratulation in their choice of W.M., and was certain that they had a happy year before them. He would therefore conclude by wishing many happy years of prosperity to the Prudent Brethren Lodge.—The W. MASTER then proposed the health of their Wine Steward, Bro. States. To his masterly management must be attributed in a great measure the excellence of the banquet and the wines placed before them that evening. He therefore called upon them to drink heartily the health of the Wine Steward, Bro. States; and he would couple with the toast the name of the M.C., Bro. Gaball.—Bro. STATES said he always performed the duties devolving upon him with pleasure, and when he looked round the table and saw that the brethren were happy and enjoying themselves, and were pleased to compliment him in the manner they had done this evening, he felt amply rewarded. He should, in conjunction with sixteen or seventeen other brethren in the office of Grand Steward, have to cater for a very large and influential number of brethren, and if the M.W. Grand Master, the members of Grand Lodge, and the brethren attending the Grand Festival should be pleased to express the same amount of approbation as had been displayed by the W.M., the brethren, and the visitors that evening, he felt that it would be a proud day for himself and brother Grand Stewards, and that they should be able to retire from their important office with dignity. He thanked the W.M. for his compliments, and the brethren for the handsome manner they had responded to the toast.—Bro. GABALL thanked the W.M. for having appointed him. Although he was lowest in rank on the list of officers, and his duties were light, he would endeavour to perform them in such a manner as to qualify him for higher duties should it please the succeeding W.M.'s to place him in a position to perform them.—The last toast on the list, "To all Poor and Distressed Masons," having been given and drunk, the brethren separated, highly delighted with the evening's entertainment, which was much enhanced by the masterly vocal and instrumental exertions of Bros. Hart, Newall, J. Watson, Gurton, and Chas. Hart.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—The installation meeting of this ancient lodge took place on Tuesday, January 19th, at Bro. C. A. Cathie's, Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street. The lodge was opened by Bro. Frederick Walters, W.M., assisted by Bros. E. Harris, P.M., Sec.; D. Davis, P.M., Treas.; T. Walter, J. Donkin, C. R. Dean, C. W. Jackson, H. G. Baker, Dr. Dixon, W. D. Hughes, E. Smith, P.M.'s; E. N. Levy, S.W.; H. Moore, J.W.; N. Lake, J.D.; J. C. Gooddy, I.G.; G. Morris, T. Moore, T. Hoptom, R. Hurrell, S. S. Sard, J. Garth, J. H. Levy, J. T. C. Powell, R. Fenn, C. D. Watkins, W. H. Jarvis, H. Dunyer, C. A. Cathie, F. Smith, G. J. Loe, H. T. Turney, W. M. Marshall, R. G. Chipperfield, F. E. Cooper, W. M. Meagher, J. Delany, H. Taylor, W. Lipscomb, M. A. Loewenstark, and others. Visitors: C. A. Cotterbrune, P.M.; H. A. Collington, P.M. 140; G. Bolton, P.M. 147, 169, Z. 169; C. H. Murr, P.M.; F. Bloomenthal, Bacon, Vinten, 79; and

many others. The first ceremony was the installing of Bros. E. N. Levy, S. Wand, W.M. elect, who invested the following brethren with their collars of office, viz., Bros. F. Walters, I.P.M.; H. Moore, S.W.; J. C. Gooddy, J.W.; D. Davies, P.M., re-invested Treas.; E. Harris, P.M., re-invested Sec.; N. Lake, S.D.; R. Hurrell, J.D.; T. Hopton, I.G.; G. Morris, Wine Steward; W. Aldhouse, re-invested Tyler. The ceremony of installation was ably done by Bro. F. Walters, and, when completed, received a hearty burst of applause. The W.M., Bro. E. N. Levy, then in an able, impressive manner initiated Mr. Davenport into Freemasonry. Bro. D. Davies, P.M. and Treas., then presented Bro. F. Walters, P.M., with a handsome Past Master's jewel, which was given to him by the voluntary subscriptions of the members of the lodge, and hoped he might long live to wear it, as he had so well earned it, and had done every ceremony, including the installation of his successor. Bro. F. Walters, P.M., thanked the brethren for their kind present, also for the many acts of kindness he had received from them ever since he had first joined them in November, 1855. The knowledge he had acquired he was indebted to Bros. Donkin, P.M., Harris, Davies, and their visitors, Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., and more especially Bro. Bolton, P.M., but for the ceremony of installation he had particularly to thank Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M. He wished to be still of use to the lodge, and hoped to live to wear it for many years to come. The jewel bears the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. Fredk. Walters, P.M., from the members of the Mount Lebanon Lodge (No. 73), as a mark of their respect and gratitude for the very able and talented manner he presided over their meetings as W.M., and for his efficient services rendered to the lodge during his year of office, 1863." Bro. F. Walters, P.M., proposed, and Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., seconded, that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes of the lodge book to Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M., who on that evening presented the lodge with three handsome tracing boards for their use. This proposition was carried unanimously. Bro. E. N. Levy, W.M., returned his sincere thanks, and said he saw how necessary it was to have a set of tracing boards, and, as they were required, he thought such a gift would be acceptable, and was very glad to see it was accepted in the same kind manner as he had offered them. The lodge was then closed. The brethren then adjourned to a superior banquet, to which upwards of fifty sat down. The usual lodge toasts were given and received. Bros. Davenport and Loewenstark responded to "The Newly-initiated Brethren." Bros. Cottebrune, Collington, and Bolton for "The Visitors." Bro. Dr. Dixon for "The Past Masters." The W.M.'s health was drunk with every demonstration of respect. The health of the host and hostess was given with great enthusiasm. The last, though not least, was "The Ladies," Bro. Lipscombe replying in an able manner. The evening was agreeably spent, and every brother seemed to enjoy himself.

TEMPERANCE LODGE (No. 169).—This old-established lodge met on Thursday, January 22nd, at Bro. B. Holman's, Plough Tavern, Plough-bridge, Rotherhithe. Bro. Nowlan opened the lodge. The only ceremony was the installation of Bro. George Brown, S.W., into the chair of K.S., which was most beautifully and impressively done by the esteemed veteran Bro. George Bolton, P.M. of the lodge, this being his mother lodge. He never did it better; in fact, it would be an impossibility, as it was perfection, and the hearty applause given on its completion showed that the brethren appreciated the display of talent. The new W.M. then appointed his officers:—Bros. J. H. Searle, S.W.; Wingfield, J.W.; J. Hollins, P.M., Treas.; Tibbals, P.M. Sec.; Payne, S.D.; Mowbray, J.D.; Marriatt, I.G.; Holt, Tyler. After business the brethren sat down to banquet. Visitors:—F. Walters, P.M. 73; H. Moore, S.W. 73; J. W. Weir, P.M. 25 (I.C.); Stahl, S.W. 871; and many others whose names we were unable to learn.

MANCHESTER LODGE (No. 179).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday evening, January 21st, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Bro. Stewart, W.M., presided. There were several visitors present, amongst whom were Bros. Buss, P.M. 27; Henry Thompson, W.M. 177; Hart, P.M. 141; Hastelton, P.M. 101, &c. The first business of the evening was to raise two brethren to the sublime degree of M.M., which was performed by the W.M. in a most excellent manner. The lodge then resumed to the second degree, when Bro. Silvester, W.M. elect, was duly presented. A Board of Installed Masters having been formed, Bro. Silvester was installed into the chair of K.S., as W.M. for the ensuing year. A gentlemen who appeared as a

candidate, was initiated into the mysteries and principles of ancient Freemasonry, the W.M. having previously appointed the following brethren as his officers:—Bros. Hughes, S.W.; Smith, J.W.; Maddock, Treas.; Pope, S.D.; Gowland, J.D.; Adams, I.G.; and Dickenson, Sec. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment. After the cloth was drawn, the loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Bro. Thompson, returned thanks on behalf of the visitors. Bro. Stewart, P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and, at some length, dilated upon the excellencies of a brother who had been elected to fill that important office. The W.M. appropriately returned thanks. Bro. Norman returned thanks on behalf of the Past Masters. Several other toasts were given, and the brethren separated, highly delighted with the proceedings of the evening.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 569).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the head-quarters of the Hon. Artillery Company, on Friday evening, Jan. 22, Bro. R. Helsham, W.M., presiding, supported by his officers, Bros. Peter Matthews, P.M. and Treas.; Eglese, P.M. and Sec.; Newton, P.M. and Steward; Figg, P.M., and the following visitors:—Bros. Devereux, P.M. 771, and Prov. G. Sec. for Berks and Bucks; Jackson and Adams, 8; Rule, Lewis, and Wallace, 11; Smith, 19; Peet (late Fitzroy); Hubback and Trunnerly, 58; Horsley, W.M. 59; Michell, 59; Thompson, 78; Peckham, 79; Munday, 166; Thompson, W.M. 177; Warrington, P.M. 197; Egam and Johnson, 231; Wood, 183; Collingwood, 345; Biggs, P.M., and Rosenthal, 435; and Interan, 812. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read, the W.M. vacated the chair, which was taken by Bro. Peter Matthews. Bro. Wilson, the W.M. elect, having been presented, and signified his assent to the usual and ancient regulations, was in due form installed into the chair of K.S. as W.M. of the Fitzroy Lodge for the year ensuing. The new W.M. having been saluted by the brethren appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Wreford, S.W.; Watson, J.W.; Maddick, S.D.; Meggy, J.D.; Crosthwaite, I.G.; Eglese, P.M. Sec.; Peter Matthews, P.M. Treas.; and Newton, P.M. Steward. The newly-appointed officers having taken their respective places, Bro. Eglese delivered the usual addresses to them. The W.M. then immediately commenced his duties by raising Bro. Adams to the sublime degree of M.M. Some notices motion which stood upon the paper, after a short discussion, were withdrawn. The lodge having been closed the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, provided by the Suttler to the Company, which included every delicacy of the season.—The repast having been done ample justice to do and the cloth drawn, the W.M. gave in succession "The Queen and the Craft," "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of Masons," "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," which were all duly honoured.—Bro. HELSHAM, I.P.M., then assumed the gavel, and said that he never rose to give a toast with greater pleasure than that which he was then about to propose, as it was the health of their W.M. He had never seen a newly-installed Master perform his work so well as it had been done by Bro. Wilson that night, and, if carried through, it would be one of the most glorious years that had ever marked the Fitzroy Lodge. He thought they ought to congratulate themselves on the selection they had made, and, if the brethren felt as he did, he believed that they might look forward to one of the brightest years of the Fitzroy Lodge. Wishing them a year of peace and happiness he proposed "The Health of Bro. Wilson, W.M. of the Lodge." (Drunk with Masonic honours.—The W. MASTER said, for the kind way in which his health had been proposed and responded to he cordially thanked them. That night he had been placed in the position of W.M., which was the object of his ambition, and he trusted he had given every brother satisfaction in the selection of officers he had made, as they were all good men and members of the Artillery Company, and he hoped that they would support him during his year of office, so that all might go on smoothly. The brethren required little from the Master's gavel, and he promised them they should have from him short speeches, for to give them long ones where there was nothing in them could not fail to be disagreeable, and in conclusion he thanked them kindly for the honour they had conferred upon him. The W. MASTER said the next toast he had to propose, with a great deal of satisfaction, was one that was always received with much pleasure by the members of the Fitzroy Lodge. If he was to talk for a week he could not express his feelings of pleasure in seeing so many visitors amongst them that evening, and although the members of the Fitzroy Lodge, being in barracks,

might not give them as good an entertainment as they had elsewhere, not having the appliances to do so, yet he could assure them he gave them a hearty welcome and was glad to see them amongst them. He proposed "The Health of the Visitors," which was drunk with great cordiality.—Bro. DEVE-REUX returned thanks.—The W. MASTER said the next toast he had to propose was always received in a way in which it ought to be received, as it was the P.M.'s of the Fitzroy Lodge. He proposed "The Health of P.M.'s Eglese, Peter Matthews, Helshau, Newton, and Figg." Without their assistance he could not have been in the position he was that evening. Having received so much assistance from them he felt it to be his duty to further the interests of the lodge by every means in his power. He had received great assistance from them to fit him for the performance of his duties, and he could assure every brother who aspired to the chair that they would receive from them the same assistance that had so readily been afforded to him.—Bro. HELSIAM, I.P.M., returned thanks for the Past Masters, but as it was the first time that he had appeared in the character, he hardly knew the proper form to thank them for the kindness they had received from the lodge; but as they advanced in age and experience they should be most happy to afford instruction and improvement to the brethren, who might require it, by every means in their power.—The W. MASTER said he should propose the next toast with a great deal of pleasure, which was "The Officers of the Lodge." He had no doubt that toast would be received with a great deal of enthusiasm, as he had appointed as his officers some of the best Masons in the lodge. He hoped they would be punctual in their attendance and support him during his year of office.—Bro. WATSON, J.W., returned thanks, and said, as one of the oldest members of the Fitzroy Lodge, it was a great pleasure to him to be placed in the position which the W.M. had assigned to him that evening. He had looked forward to an appointment in the lodge for a considerable time, and he would promise the W.M. that he would do his utmost to support him in his office.—Bro. MEGGY, J.D., also returned thanks.—Bro. PETER MATTHEWS, P.M. said he should be sorry if the brethren left the lodge without his bringing under their notice the W.M., who was a child of his own, having introduced him into the Hon. Artillery Company. As soon as he had become a member of the Artillery Company he was desirous of becoming a member of the lodge. He had served every office from I.G., and had now become their W.M., and so anxious was he to fulfil all the duties of the chair that he had that night intimated his desire to serve as Steward at the coming Festival for the Benevolent Institution. Charity was the chief thing in Freemasonry, but they united with it brotherly love and the relief of those who were in want. They relieved the aged and the young who are fatherless. Their W.M. would be a Steward for the Benevolent Institution for which the festival took place on the following Wednesday, whose object it was to relieve those who were going down the hill of life. Although their W.M. was a single man he had not forgotten the old, and, therefore, he called upon them to drink to "The Masonic Charities and the Healths of the W.M., and Bro. Meggy," who had consented to serve as Stewards on the occasion to which he had referred.—The W. MASTER said it was true that he had consented to serve as Steward for the Benevolent Institution, and he took that opportunity of thanking the brethren for the very kind way in which they had responded to the call which, by circular, he had made upon them. A large majority of the brethren had contributed, and he hoped before the day arrived to hear from the others. He thanked them cordially for the way in which his name had been received, and every day he felt the value of Freemasonry.—The evening was passed in a most agreeable manner, and Bro. Vernon sung some of Dibdin's songs in a manner which elicited general approbation.

CITY OF LONDON LODGE (No. 901).—The members of this lodge held their first meeting this year at their Private Lodge Rooms, 23, Bell-alley, Moorgate-street, City, on Monday, Jan. 18. The lodge was opened in due form and solemn prayer, and the minutes of last lodge were read and confirmed. Brethren present were:—Bros. Davis, Woodman, Dyne, Henry, Winn, Griffiths, Smith, Green, Manly, Haycock, Walker, Terry, Medcalf, J. D. Winn, Farthing, Osmond, Smithers, Higgs, Salisbury, Gibson, Morgan, Sisson, Scott, Case, Frankenstein, Gawler, Lean, and Hutman. The visiting brethren were—Bros. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D.; Udall, P.G.D.; Bates, 862; Davis, 78; Hames, 861; Wheatly, P.M. 246; Mady, P.M. 879; Marchant, 228; Swaebe, P.M., Euphrates; Welsford, 805;

Lemaitre, and Gideon Lawrence, 101. Bro. Sisson, W.M., being supported by all his officers, raised Bros. William Dyne and Joseph Davis to the sublime degree of M.M., and passing Bros. George Smith and Matthew Green to the degree of a Fellow Craft. Bro. Sisson, the W.M., and Bro. Gibson, the Secretary, proceeded to install Bro. Osmond, W.M. elect, into the chair of K.S., the manner in which Bro. Sisson delivered the various addresses being much and justly admired by the brethren. Bro. Osmond, the W.M., then proceeded to appoint his officers as follows:—Bros. Smithers, S.W.; Higgs, J.W.; Salisbury S.D.; Lean, J.D.; Gibson, Sec. and I.G.; Terry, W.S.; Gawler, M.C.; Couchman, Tyler. The W.M. then initiated into the Ancient Order of Freemasonry Messrs. Vital de Livol, of Oxford University, Charles Luggier Cousins, and Loder Prickett. The lodge was closed in ancient form, and the brethren adjourned to a rich banquet.—After the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to by Bro. Udall, P.G.D., in a most heartfelt and affectionate manner in praise of the Earl of Zetland, Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers. The W. MASTER then said he wished to call their attention, that he now had a toast to bring before the brethren which was always fraught with interest—it was that of "The Initiates." He could recollect distinctly the first night he was admitted into Masonry, the new phases of life and character that were opened up to him—the new field for observation that presented itself, and he hoped the newly made brethren would never regret the steps they had taken any more than he had done; in fact, he knew if they followed the principles inculcated in Freemasonry they never could regret it.—Bros. DE TRIVOLI, COUSINS, and PRICKETT made appropriate replies.—The W. MASTER said he was sure the next toast would be well received and warmly welcomed. It was "The Visitors." The W.M. then said, although a young lodge, it was always favoured with visitors, who were always well received and warmly welcomed.—Bro. S. B. WILSON, in replying for himself and brother visitors, returned his sincere thanks for the kind reception they had met with. He had attended at its christening, visited it in its childhood, came now to see it in its youth (and he may say he never saw a finer child of its age), and hoped he would be spared to visit it many years longer. He thanked the W.M. and brethren on behalf of himself and brother visitors—wishing them all the good wishes they wished themselves.—Bro. Sisson, P.M., then proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and said he did not know which to congratulate most, the W.M. or the brethren. He would, however, try and strike the happy medium and congratulate both, and he would congratulate Bro. Osmond on attaining the high position he held as W.M. of the lodge, and the brethren on possessing such a worthy ruler. From the first preliminary meeting Bro. Osmond had taken a deep interest in the welfare of the lodge. He had entered with zeal and earnestness into the whole of its affairs, and he (Bro. Sisson, P.M.) felt sure that, now he had attained the position he held, his efforts to promote the prosperity of the lodge would not be lessened.—Bro. OSMOND, W.M., made an appropriate reply—assuring the brethren that no effort on his part would be wanting to promote the welfare of the lodge. The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the Immediate P.M., Bro. Sisson," and said the brethren could each and all bear testimony to his merit and worth, his affability and courtesy, and his readiness to oblige the brethren on all occasions. It afforded him much gratification to present him with a jewel, un-animously voted to him by the brethren, and he was sure they all likewise wished him health and happiness to wear it.—Bro. Sisson, in reply, said he rose loaded with honours, and had never felt so diffident as on that occasion. It was very gratifying to him to receive such a mark of favour at their hands. He should ever remember that evening, and had to assure the brethren that anything he could do to promote the interests of the lodge he would do it cheerfully.—The W. MASTER proposed "The Health of Bro. Farthing, P.M. and Treas.," who replied in suitable terms at a considerable length, principally dwelling upon the Masonic Charities. A list was passed round for the benefit of the decayed members of the Masonic Order, which was liberally responded to by the brethren. The W.M. said it was a well-known fact that the City of London Lodge possessed good officers, and good officers were of infinite service to a lodge and a great aid to the W.M., and he hoped that each of the officers would follow him through that chair.—Bro. SMITHERS, S.W., on behalf of the officers, thanked the W.M. and brethren for the manner in which the toast was proposed and received, and assured him that they would each endeavour to discharge

their respective duties to his entire satisfaction, he also thanked the W.M. for appointing him S.W., and said that it was the hope of reward that sweetened labour, his labours as S.W. would be sweetened by the hope of receiving the approbation of the brethren.—The W. MASTER said that he now brought before the notice of the brethren a toast which, he had no doubt, would be well responded to; the Masonic body happily possessed a Magazine, at all times to defend the Craft and promulgate its true tenets, and in its pages much instruction and information were to be found. He would therefore give "The FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE," coupled with the health of Bro. J. A. Gibson, Secretary of this lodge, hoping he would respond, he being for many years in the well-known firm of Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Printers, London Wall, City.—Bro. GIBSON thanked the W.M. on behalf of himself and the MAGAZINE in particular, and could confirm the statement of the W.M. with regard to the usefulness of the publication.—The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a termination.—The enjoyment of the brethren was considerably enhanced by the harmony of Bros. Davis, Woodman, and Hames.

PROVINCIAL.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

TWEKESBURY.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 900).—The festival of St. John was celebrated in this lodge on Friday, the 22nd inst., in the presence of a full attendance of the brethren, and as the W.M. elect was highly respected in the Royal Union Lodge, Cheltenham, where he had served the office of Warden, the W.M., Wardens, and others, came as visitors to do him honour. Old time ruled well, the officers being in their places very punctually, all inclined to assist in the anticipated ceremony of installation. Previous to which, the W.M., Bro. E. S. Cossens, reported that the accounts for the past year, had been audited by him and Bro. Moore, J.W., which showed a goodly balance to hand over to the new Treasurer. He should, therefore, move that £5 be subscribed by the lodge towards the fund for presenting to the very much-esteemed D. Prov. G.M. the qualification as a Vice-President of the Benevolent Fund, which was duly seconded, and unanimously carried. The W.M. moved that £5 5s. be presented to Bro. John Smith, of Worcester, as an expression of the esteem of the brethren towards him, he having during the past year discharged the duties of Tyler so satisfactorily. It was seconded and carried. The W.M. then proceeded to instal his successor, Bro. T. W. Swinburne, who at the last lodge had been elected as the W.M. of the ensuing year. Bro. Cossens' mode of delivering the Masonic ceremonies is too well-known to need any comment. The visitors and brethren, however, could not fail to express their admiration of the deep sense of devotion, his quiet and subdued tone in the more solemn sentences, and his exhilarating bearing in the more joyous portions of the work. He was in capital health when he commenced, but it was too evident that the work of the evening was sufficient to tell seriously on his physique. He was warmly applauded at the completion of the addresses to the W.M., the Wardens, and to the brethren generally. Bro. Swinburne commenced his task as W.M. with much kindred and good feeling, and embraced that opportunity of expressing fraternal sentences with regard to Bro. Cossens, who was not only the founder of the lodge, but had passed through the arduous duties of W.M. during the first two years of its establishment in the most gratifying manner; and to mark the appreciation of his meritorious services by the lodge, he proposed that a presentation gold jewel be offered for his acceptance on his becoming the first Past Master. It was seconded by Bro. E. G. Stone, P. Prov. S.G.W. Worcester, and P.M. 280. With many eulogistic expressions towards their late W.M., it was put to the vote and carried with unanimity. The W.M. then made the following promotions:—Bros. F. Moore, S.W.; S. P. Brookes, J.W.; G. Blizard, S.D.; W. Rice, jun., Dir. of Cers.; H. Browett, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; W. Godsall, Special Steward; E. M. Gillman was reappointed as Sec. and Org.; and F. H. Harvey was appointed J.D. Bro. D. Chandler was duly elected as the Tyler. Bro. Price was elected at the at the last lodge as the Treasurer. All the officers, excepting the S.D., being present they were duly invested and installed. Two gentlemen of the neighbourhood were proposed for initiation at the next lodge. The brethren and visitors followed the W.M. to the banquetting room which had been well ornamented by Bro.

Trotman, in his best style. The refreshments, wine, and dessert, were excellent, and gave universal satisfaction. The usual Masonic toasts were given and responded to with great gusto. The addresses of the W.M. were warmly applauded. Bro. Cossens responded to "The Prov. G. Master," "D. Prov. G.M. and Officers," and announced the intention of Lord Sherborne to hold his next Provincial Grand Lodge at Tewkesbury; also to the highly complimentary joint-toast—"The Installing and the Past Master of St. George's Lodge. The visitors' toast was responded very ably by Bro. Waite, the W.M. of the Royal Union Lodge, who announced his desire to become a joining member of the lodge. The banquet was enlivened by the musical efforts of Bro. Dix, J.W., Royal Union, and Bro. Cossens, who gave, the first time, "The Parting Toast," and one of the true old-fashioned Bacchanalian songs. The W.M. retired from his post in excellent time, to enable the visiting brethren returning homewards before the "bewitching time of night," resulting in one of the most satisfactory Masonic gatherings that has taken place at Tewkesbury.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

PRESTON.—*Lodge of Unanimity* (No. 113).—On Thursday, the 14th inst., a meeting of the members of this lodge was held, by special dispensation from the R.W. Prov. G.M. for West Lancashire, Bro. Le G. N. Starkie, P. Prov. J.D., at the Bull Hotel, Preston. Bro. Robert Townley Parker, Cueden Hall, was installed to the Mastership of the lodge; Bro. Major Birchall to the office of S.W.; and Bro. H. N. Beazley to the office of J.W. Afterwards a sumptuous dinner was served, at which the following Masons were present:—Bro. R. T. Parker in the chair, supported by Bros. Sir Thomas George Hesketh, Bart., M.P., Lord Skelmersdale, the Chaplain, S. P. Brabner, Thos. Wylie, J. Billinge, H. Gamble, C. Sherlock, and C. J. Bannister, Major Birchall and N. H. Beazley, occupied the vice-chairs; also Bros. W. Davies, John Thorley, Joseph Mawdesley, Thomas Goodier, J. L. Howard, A. M'Cartier, James Fitchie, T. Blackshaw, S. Lyon, Anyon, John Yates, James Hibbert, E. G. Melling, Thomas Eastham, Thomas Goodair, George Tait, C. Altham, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Allender, George Eastham, J. B. Hughes, J. J. Myres, J. Norwood, Richard Bee, Branson, James Yates, Rigby, Samuel Ashton, J. Johnson, Richard Brown, John Dallas, Thomas, Ord, Dr. Hammond, C. J. Yates, W. Drennan, Dr. Taylor, J. Byrnes, T. M. Shuttleworth, A. C. Mott, W. J. May Coppel, F. Deacon, W. Brown, Richard Robinson, T. A. Smith, J. Gerrard, R. Counshaw, P. C. Turner, J. Jacques, John Yates, J. C. Ambler, Richard Hunt, George Pyc, W. Gilbertson, W. Catterall, F. Trundle, H. Bail, James Paley, W. Blackhurst, H. Armstrong, J. Hamer, S. Thewlis, J. Pepper, J. Sanders, J. Molineaux, J. M'Glinchy, C. Carnegie, H. P. Watson, J. F. Grier, Daniel Graham, John Cartmel, Henry Halliwell, J. Walters, Richard H. Turner, W. Birket, C. Fryer, William Hayhurst, and Gerald T. Tully. The Chairman proposed successively "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the infant Prince," and "The rest of the Royal Family," all of which were most cordially received. Sir T. G. Hesketh then proposed "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland," and "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, which were heartily drunk, and responded to by Lord Skelmersdale, who submitted "The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire, Bro. Le G. N. Starkie." The toast having been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire, Sir T. G. Hesketh," which was received with approbation, and suitably responded to. Major Birchall, in suitable terms, gave "The Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Unanimity (No. 113), Bro. R. T. Parker." The toast was enthusiastically drunk and appropriately acknowledged. The following other toasts were then proposed, suitably received, and responded to by the gentlemen named:—"The Provincial Grand Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire, past and present," proposed by Bro. Shuttleworth, W.M. of Lodge 314, and responded to by Bro. Wylie; "The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire, Bro. Stephen Blair, and his Grand Officers, past and present," proposed by Lord Skelmersdale; "the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire, Viscount Combermere, and his Grand Officers, past and present," proposed by Sir T. G. Hesketh, Bart., and responded to by Bro. John Lord Howard; "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers" was next proposed, and responded to by Captain Mott and Sergeant Cunningham;

"The Past Master of Lodge 113, Bro. Altham; the W.M. of Lodge 314, Bro. Shuttleworth; the W.M. of Lodge 333, Bro. Hobbs; and the W.M. of Lodge 343, Bro. N. H. Beazley, and their officers, past and present," proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by Bro. Hobbs; "The West Lancashire Masonic Institutions for the Children of Distressed Masons, and other Masonic Institutions," proposed by Bro. Bannister; "The Visiting Brethren," proposed by the Chairman; "The Ladies," proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by Bros. Hibbert and Gilbertson; and "To all Poor Distressed Masons, and Speedy Relief," proposed by the Chairman. The company enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and the interesting proceedings were brought to a close at a suitable hour.

MIDDLESEX.

HOUNSLOW.—*Dalhousie Lodge* (No. 865, late 1167).—An emergency meeting of this lodge took place at the Town Hall, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at half-past six p.m. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. E. S. Willett (caused by domestic affliction), the chair was taken by Bro. J. J. Hardey, S.P.M., and father of the lodge. There were also present Bros. Frost, S.W.; A. A. Richards, J.W.; Edward Keogh, J.D.; Pellatt, I.G.; Stacey, Sec.; Farrant, Treas.; and many other brethren. There were also present, as visitors, Bros. Eve, Prov. G. Supt. of Works South Wales; Laxton, and Henry Jupp. The usual ballot having been taken, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected members of the lodge, and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry (the beautiful ceremony of initiation having been done by the acting Master, Bro. Hardey, in a very impressive manner), namely, Messrs. Walker, Marshall, George P. Cooper, William Ruston, Alfred Jupp, and Alfred H. Johnson. Several other gentlemen attended, anxious to become members of the lodge, and initiated into the Order; but, as it is a strict rule that not more than five shall be initiated in any lodge on one day, those beyond the privileged number were compelled to remain over as aspirants for Freemasonry until the next meeting of the lodge. All Masonic business having been ended and the lodge duly closed, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet at Bro. Lewis's, the Red Lion, where they met not as Freemasons, but as private individuals, the banquet being attended by those gentlemen who, although admitted members of the lodge, had not yet had the advantage of being initiated into the secrets of the Order. At the banquet the chair was taken by the acting W.M., Bro. Hardey, the vice-chairs being ably filled by Bros. Frost and Richards. The usual loyal toasts, and several appropriate and complimentary toasts, were given; but all Masonic toasts and allusions were carefully eschewed, in consequence of the presence of those gentlemen not yet initiated. At 9.45 p.m. the brethren separated, those going towards London proceeding by the 10 p.m. last up train. The success of this lodge is most complete. It is only two years and a-half since it commenced with seven members; it now numbers about fifty, and there are nearly a dozen gentlemen most anxious to be admitted into it, but who must patiently await their turns.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Isca Lodge* (No. 683).—The installation of Bro. Charles Simpson as W.M. of this flourishing lodge, took place at the lodge-room, in Dock-street, on Tuesday last, Jan. 12th. The ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. Henry Bridges, D. Prov. G.M. Somersetshire. The following brethren were appointed to fill the various offices:—Bros. William Burton, S.W.; S. G. Homfray, J.W.; James Maddocks, Treas.; John Middleton, Sec.; Henry Mullock, S.D.; Robert Bond, J.D.; Abraham Isaacs, J.G.; W. McFee, Tyler. Two brethren were previously raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The banquet took place at the large room of the Westgate Hotel, where Bro. Hallen had prepared a sumptuous repast. The chair was taken at six o'clock by Bro. Charles Simpson, W.M., supported by Bro. Bridges, D. Prov. G.M. Somersetshire; Charles Lyne, D. Prov. G.M. Monmouthshire; E. Wells, Prov. S.G.W.; John Laybourne, Dr. Morgan, Mayor of Newport; J. Middleton, R. Laybourne, R. J. Cathcart, P.M.'s; Wm. Burton, S.W. and Prov. G.S.; S. G. Homfray, J.W. and Prov. G.S.B.; George Gould, P.M.; H. Mullock, S.D.; A. Isaacs, I.G.; J. Maddocks, Treas.; J. Griffiths, S.W. 471; R. B. Evans, W.M. 471; G. J. Hands, J.D. 471; W. Pickford, P.M., Treas. 471; Prov. G. Treas.; H. J. Groves, P. Prov. G. Org.; Bros. Henry Vinson, Thomas Williams, G.W. Jones, Ex-Mayor; C. Kirby,

J. Spicket, J. Griffiths, Frederick Williams, &c. The cloth having been removed, and dessert placed on the table, the W.M. gave the first toast, "The Queen and Craft," which was received with Masonic honours. "The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Infant Prince, and the rest of the Royal Family," was drunk with equal enthusiasm. The W.M. then proposed, "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland." (Applause.) "The R.W. Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Grand Officers," coupled with the name of Bro. Bridges, Prov. G.S.B., who had kindly come from a distance to give his countenance and support at the installation. Bro. Bridges appropriately returned thanks. He felt proud of being a Past Grand Officer of the Grand Lodge of England; and he was glad to hear that arrangements were being made whereby every province would have a representative in the Grand Lodge. (Cheers.) "The Health of the R.W. the Prov. G.M., Bro. Rolls." (Loud cheers.) The Chairman proposed, in complimentary terms, "The D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Lyne, and the Provincial Grand Officers." Bro. Lyne acknowledged the compliment. The W.M. had been pleased to pass high encomiums on himself in connection with his appointment to the office of D. Prov. G.M. He trusted he should always be actuated by one feeling—that of goodwill towards Masonry in general. The moment he was appointed he felt that any predisposition which he might entertain as to this or that lodge must cease and give place to feelings and sympathies of a wider and more general character. He was heartily pleased to see the satisfactory progress the Isca Lodge was making. The Chairman then proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers." Bro. Captain Homfray, as a militia officer, returned thanks on behalf of the army, Bro. Major Lyne on behalf of the navy, and Bro. Captain Cathcart for the Volunteers. Bro. Lyne proposed the next toast. It was, he said, the toast of the evening. They had met to do homage to the W.M. elect of the Isca Lodge. He had known Bro. Simpson for many years, and he could safely and honestly say that he had ever found him that man whom a lodge should have as Worshipful Master—a man of intrinsic worth and honour—a sincere friend. (Cheers.) If he might venture to give an opinion, he thought the appointment did infinite credit to the Isca Lodge. He was pleased to see Bro. Simpson surrounded on this occasion, not only by the members of the Isca, but by those of the Silurian Lodge as well. He could assure the Isca brethren they would not lack good true friends from every part of the province. He congratulated them on their increasing numbers—the new members being composed of men who would do credit to Masonry and to the lodge. He begged to propose "The Health of the W.M." wishing him and succeeding Masters every prosperity. (Applause.) The W.M. returned thanks in an appropriate speech, expressive of his gratitude to all who had so generously and kindly supported him in his installation, and who had now so freely evidenced their good wishes. (Cheers.) The W.M. again rose and proposed "The Visitors and the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Silurian Lodge." Bro. R. B. Evans appropriately acknowledged the compliment. Other toasts followed, the company separating at a reasonable time, the geniality of the hour having served to draw closer those assembled in the bonds of "peace, love, and harmony."

NORFOLK.

NORWICH.—*Lodge of Perseverance* (No. 213).—This flourishing lodge held its annual meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 26th inst., when Bro. John Boyce was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, and the following officers were appointed by the W.M.:—Bros. J. English, S.W.; H. E. F. Bussey, J.W.; R. Breese, S.D.; J. Short, J.D.; Whitrick, I.G.; the Rev. S. Titlow, P. Prov. G. Chap., Chaplain; R. Gidney, Sec.; and J. Skippon, Treas. The installation ceremony was impressively performed by Bro. Dawbarn, P.M., and Bro. Colsey, P.M., officiated as M.C. After the lodge business, upwards of thirty brethren, including several members of other lodges, under the presidency of the newly-installed W.M., partook of an excellent dinner, supplied by Bro. Woods, and the evening was spent in a most harmonious manner. During the after-dinner proceedings a handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to the retiring Master by Bro. Dawbarn, P.M., on behalf of the brethren of the lodge, as a token of their high appreciation of the exemplary manner in which he has passed through his year of office.

YARMOUTH.—*Lodge of Friendship* (No. 117).—The brethren of this lodge met at the Crown and Anchor on Monday, the 25th inst., when Bro. George Knox was duly installed the W.M. for the ensuing twelve months. The ceremony of installation was most ably performed by Bro. Dawbarn, P.M. Norwich; Bro. Colsey, P.M., acting as M.C. The following officers were appointed:—Bros. A. Hanlon, S.W.; M. W. Winder, J.W.; H. Fenner, S.D.; J. Smyth, J.D.; R. Clark, I.G.; W. Wright, Sec.; O. Diver, Treas. After the labour of the lodge, about 30 brethren sat down to a most excellent banquet provided by Bro. John Franklin, and the evening was spent most harmoniously.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

CARDIFF.—*Bute Lodge* (No. 960).—Some six months since we heard the following words addressed to the W.M. upon the occasion of his installation in the chair of this lodge then consecrated:—"The honours and usefulness of your lodge, and the happiness of your brethren, will materially depend upon the skill and ability with which you discharge your duties, and the zeal and assiduity with which you promulgate the principles of the Craft." An injunction, pregnant with Masonic import, but which, we fear, falls upon the ears of many a successor of K.S., without making any impression. This, however, was no new lesson for Bro. Thorp, but one he had long previously learnt and profited by, although his Masonic ability was, comparatively, unknown to this province, in which his gentlemanly deportment, his urbanity of manner, his unusual discretion, his knowledge of Freemasonry, and the zeal with which he has endeavoured to promote it, have since elevated him to a position second to none. Freemasonry, as it existed in this town prior to the dedication of the Bute Lodge, and as it now exists, may be said to be as the "dead letter" is to the "living spirit;" and we trust the brethren present on the occasion, about to be referred to, whose persistent opposition to the disinterested exertions of this much-respected brother drove him to another province for assistance in the formation of his lodge, now see the error of their ways. By a most judicious arrangement, due to the advice of the W.M., the lodge, of which he is the founder, meets twice in the month, the second meeting, in the words of the by-laws, "to be principally devoted to instruction;" but into so ardent a flame has the zeal of the brethren been fanned by the precept and example of the W.M., that these meetings, "few and far between," instead of satisfying the cravings of the brethren for Masonic instruction, have only tended to create an additional appetite in that direction; and, consequently, lodges of instruction have been for some time past, held, not once a month or once a week, but at least twice a week; nor have the unwearied exertions of the W.M., who has personally presided at every one of these assemblies, or the labours of the brethren who have so zealously and assiduously attended upon his instructions, been without their natural result. The utmost harmony and good feeling as existed among the brethren. The W.M. has been looked up to, and treated with that respect and esteem which are always the due, but not always the desert, of the presiding officer of a lodge. Nor have any of those "mistakes" been made which bring scandal upon the Craft, or any of those Masonic "eccentricities" indulged in so un-Masonic and reprehensible as those alluded to by a Newport P.M. in our last, which might without this assurance lead distant brethren to suppose, from the apparently vague, but to us unmistakably definite, direction in which the finger is pointed, applied to the Bute Lodge. On the second regular night of meeting in the present month, Tuesday, 19th inst., the lodge was convened at the early hour of half-past six to receive the R.W. Prov. G.M. and Prov. G. Lodge who had graciously signified their intention to be present in answer to an invitation from the W.M. who, with a commendable anxiety to manifest to the province the extraordinary proficiency which the brethren had attained in so short a time, had arranged for quite a gala night. And who, besides the self-approving voice of his own good conscience, met with an ample reward for all his exertions in the unqualified approbation of his numerous and distinguished visitors, of some of the very best working it has been our privilege to witness. We trust, however, that the approbation of the members of this flourishing lodge will assume a more tangible form than mere applause, when, in the course of events, their distinguished Master will be called upon to resign the gavel. Should it be manifested by the presentation of a P.M.'s jewel, we believe their first P.M. will be entitled to an ornament of that nature as

large as his heart. Having taken up this considerable space, in paying a just tribute to Masonic merit, we will but shortly report the proceedings of the evening. The lodge was opened punctually at the hour named, all the regular officers filling their respective chairs, viz., Bros. John Thorp, W.M.; R. P. Hunt, P.M. 523, acting P.M.; Alexander Dalziel, S.W.; W. H. Martin, J.W.; P. Bird, Treas.; H. W. Moreton, P.M. 693, Sec.; E. Quelch, S.D.; M. Davies, J.D.; E. Greaves, Dir. of Cers.; John Willans, I.G.; S. H. Parsons and A. Collins, Stewards, together with nearly one hundred members and visitors. The minutes of the last regular lodge having been read and confirmed, Bro. Philip Bird, Treas., read a letter from the Prov. G. Chaplain and Hon. Secretary to Provincial Charity Committee, thanking the brethren in very complimentary and flattering terms for an unwonted manifestation of that truly Masonic virtue—Charity; they having remitted to him, on behalf of "The Provincial Grand Lodge Charity Fund," within the first six months of their existence as a lodge, the munificent sum of twenty-five guineas, the largest sum received from any lodge in the province since the establishment of that fund. The Prov. G.M. and Provincial Grand Lodge were then announced, and received; not, indeed, in the most unceremonious manner peculiar to this province, upon which we have had occasion before to comment, but, with far less of the imposing formality, and Masonic ceremony due to that august body, and which, without other exception, we have always witnessed in the numerous provinces we have been in the habit of attending. The Prov. G.M. having taken his seat on the right of the W.M., the important business of the evening commenced. The brethren representing this "working lodge" were, besides the Senior Warden, Bros. John Williams, T. Bell, B. Jenkins, J. H. Sladen, S. Daniels, and W. Willans, who worked the seven sections of the E.A. Lecture in an admirable manner, the whole of the questions being put by the W.M. with surprising accuracy and fluency. In justice to the brethren we would also observe that these sections were not apportioned by any pre-arrangement, as we have usually noticed on similar occasions both in London and Provincial Lodges of Instruction; but the questions throughout the whole of the lecture were put promiscuously, so that each brother who took part manifested a perfect acquaintance with the whole of the section—an astonishing fact, if we take into account that, besides being deeply immersed in the business of the most pushing seaport in the country, some of them had not been many weeks Master Masons. And as for the W.M., since the consecration of the lodge on the 30th of June, he has presided at about thirty meetings, besides Lodges of Instruction, and given the three degrees to about sixty brethren. The enthusiastic applause of the brethren upon the conclusion of their labours, must have been not less gratifying to the W.M. and his fellow-workers, than it was cordially given and well deserved. The interludes between the various sections were cleverly filled up by the talented Organist, Bro. R. S. Date; and additional effect was given to the imposing appearance of a crowded lodge, by the very commendable attention which the brethren of this lodge always pay to a rule of dress (happily, also, observed on this occasion by their numerous visitors) which, to our mind, imparts an air of respectability or otherwise, to an assembly of Freemasons. Nothing being more discordant to our feelings than to observe brethren stroll into their respective lodges in fast shooting dresses, loud peg-tops, or, perchance, knickerbockers, and leather continuations—styles of costume we should think inadmissible among Oddfellows, Foresters, or Druids.—The W. Master thanked the Prov. G.M. for his attendance, upon which the Prov. G. Master expressed the great gratification it had afforded him to be present and to witness the excellent working of the Bute Lodge of Instruction.—Bro. E. J. Thomas, P.M. and representative (on account of the indisposition of Bro. Grierson, W.M.) of the Glamorgan Lodge (No. 36), also complimented the W.M. upon the admirable performance of a *fête* he had never before seen attempted in this province. Two candidates having been proposed for initiation at the next regular meeting, the lodge was closed at a quarter to nine, to enable the brethren to adjourn to Bro. Cousins's, Angel Hotel, where a banquet was to take place at nine o'clock. Among the brethren present we noticed—Members of the lodge: Bros. A. B. Tellefsen, R. J. Todd, F. A. Ware, B. Jenkins, W. Graves, W. Dyer, W. Weitchert, H. B. Beckingham, S. Daniels, T. G. Glass, W. Richards, W. Williams, J. H. Sladen, D. Davies, J. H. Smith, G. S.

Stevens, H. Somma, H. Allen, F. Ahren, S. W. Johns, R. Travel, W. B. Gibbs, G. Davies, J. Milne, C. G. Wise, H. Frisk, T. R. Bell, E. Harris, J. D. Traherne, R. E. Solberg, D. Roberts, S. Resin, W. Williams, &c. Visitors: R.W. Col. C. K. Tynte, P.G.M.; R. Langley, P.M. 36, P. Prov. S.G.W.; T. South, P.M. 36, Prov. S.G.W.; W. J. Gaskell, P.M. 36, Prov. J.G.W.; E. J. Thomas, I.P.M. 36; D. Roberts, Sec. 36; N. D. Marks, S.D. 36; R. Fisher, Org. 36; F. W. Armstrong, I.G. 36; W. Cross and Hy. Cousins, Stewards 36; J. W. Joy, 36; J. Jonker, 36; J. Dawson, 36; Wm. Taylor, late of 36; R. B. Evans, W.M. 471; V. Hancorn, P.M. 471; S. Whitechurch, P.M. 471; R. R. Evans, 471; Thos. Williams, 471; &c.

WILTSHIRE.

TROUBRIDGE.—*Lodge of Concord* (No. 632).—The brethren of this lodge celebrated their annual festival on Tuesday, the 26th inst., when Bro. R. Lawson was installed in the chair, the ceremony being performed by Bro. D. Gooch, D. Prov. G.M. of the province, with his usual ability. The fact of his intention of being present, being deservedly held in the highest estimation by the province over which he presides, and the high opinion entertained for the W.M., drew together a very large attendance of both members and visitors. The ceremony took place at the Court-house, where the lodge is usually held, when the newly-installed Master was pleased to appoint Bros. J. E. Hayward, S.W.; Thomas Redrop, J.W.; J. Allen, Treas.; John Gray, Sec.; George Hinchcliffe, S.D.; J. W. Turner, J.D.; R. Gane, I.G.; M. Messiter, Dir. of Cers. At the conclusion of the ceremony Bro. Joseph Berry was passed in the degree of Fellow Craft and two gentlemen proposed for initiation. At half-past three the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet at the George Hotel, and amongst the numerous visitors present were—Bros. D. Gooch, D. Prov. G.M.; W. T. Gooch, P. Prov. G.W. and Prov. G. Sec.; S. Wittey, Prov. S.G.W.; Stancombe, Prov. J.G.W.; Firmin, Prov. G. Reg.; Cammage, Prov. G. Org.; Payne, Prov. G. Reg.; Biggs, P. Prov. G.W.; Rev. Davy, P. Prov. G. Chaps.; T. Chandler, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Jno. Chandler, Prov. G.D.; Captain Ford, Westnacote, Scott, King, Walkeley, Toomer, Drayton, Marsh, Gibbs, White, P. Prov. G. W. Somerset, Callaghan, &c. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been given and duly responded to, that of the D. Prov. G.M., who had so ably performed the ceremony, was drunk with quite an ovation of applause, great regret being felt that a pressing engagement had called him away before the toast was given; but in his absence, Bro. S. Wittey, as the S.G.W., thanked them for the honour done, and proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," to which Bro. Capt. Wyse responded. Many other toasts followed, but none was received with greater enthusiasm than that of the W.M. Bro. Lawson, wishing him every success during his year of office, the brethren feeling sure that under his rule the duties of the lodge would be conducted with credit to himself and honour to the Craft. We must not omit to mention, that during the evening some very excellent songs were sung by Bros. Gibbs, Walkeley, Toomer, and others.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the Report of the Committee of General Purposes to be presented to Grand Chapter on Wednesday next, January 3rd.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 21st October, 1863, to the 21st January, 1864, which they find to be as follows:—

To Balance	£267	7	2
To Subsequent Receipts, one Quarter ...	143	5	6
	£410	12	8
By Disbursements during the Quarter ...	152	17	4
By Balance	257	15	4
	£410	12	8

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

Your Committee beg also to report that they have carefully

considered the application made by the High Cross Chapter, No. 754, Tottenham, attached to the High Cross Lodge, No. 754, for permission to remove to Crutched Friars, in the City of London, and which case was referred back to the Committee by the Grand Chapter at the quarterly convocation holden on Wednesday, the 4th November, 1863, and they are of opinion that, as a principle, it is not only undesirable, but highly objectionable, that a chapter should be separated from the Craft lodge to which it is attached. This particular chapter was granted for the convenience and at the solicitation of the High Cross Lodge, and your Committee do not find any circumstances connected with this petition which, in their opinion, would justify a recommendation to the Grand Chapter to sanction the removal of the High Cross Chapter from Tottenham into the City of London.

Your Committee have had their attention drawn to the position of several companions now applying for their Grand Chapter Certificates; they having been exalted on Sundays prior to the 4th day of November, 1863, when the Grand Chapter pronounced its decision that the meeting of a Royal Arch Chapter on a Sunday was illegal. Your Committee, believing as they do that the chapters referred to were, at the time, acting under a misapprehension and not in conscious violation of the laws, have felt considerable difficulty in meeting the inconvenience which has arisen; but with the impression on their minds which they have just suggested, they incline to recommend to Grand Chapter, under the very peculiar and exceptional circumstances of these particular companions, to allow certificates to issue to them in the usual manner.

Your Committee have received, and beg to submit to Grand Chapter, an appeal and protest from Companion Moss Israel, of the Zetland Chapter of Australia (No. 390), Sydney, New South Wales. Companion Israel having been suspended from Craft Masonry by the Provincial Grand Master of the District, who is also Grand Superintendent, was, in pursuance of Article 10, page 5, of the Regulations, declared disqualified from exercising any functions as a Royal Arch Mason while such suspension was in force.

Your Committee have received the following petitions for new chapters, viz.:—

From Companions Edward Gardner Willoughby as Z., Henry Bulley as H., Thomas Platt as J., and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Zetland Lodge (No. 537), Birkenhead, to be called the "Zion Chapter," and to meet at the Clarendon Hotel, Birkenhead, on the second Tuesday of every month.

From Companions John Head as Z., Edward Dorling as H., Charles Thomas Townsend as J., and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Prince of Wales' Lodge (No. 959), Ipswich, in the County of Suffolk, to be called the "Royal Alexandra," to meet at the Golden Lion Hotel, Ipswich, on the second Monday in January, April, July, and October in each year.

These petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

Your Committee have likewise received a petition from Companions Robert Bowden as Z., John Mackay as H., Frederick Duffy Bewes as J., and seven others, for a chapter to be attached to the Pleiades Lodge (No. 710), Totnes, Devonshire, to meet at the Seven Stars Hotel, Totnes, on the first Wednesday in January, April, July, and October in each year.

This Petition is properly signed and recommended by the Grand Superintendent of Devonshire, but being unaccompanied with the formal sanction of the Pleiades Lodge, your Committee recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, subject to such consent of the lodge being obtained.

Your Committee have finally to report that, in pursuance of the instructions of Grand Chapter, they have prepared a new edition of the Rules and Regulations, which is now in the hands of the printers, and which will be submitted for approval at the Quarterly Convocation to be holden in May next. Copies will very shortly be ready for inspection.

(Signed) R. W. JENNINGS, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London,
22nd January, 1864.

N.B.—The appeal of Companion Israel, and the papers relating to it, are in the office of the Grand Scribe, and open to the inspection of all members of the Grand Chapter.

METROPOLITAN.

DOMATIC CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION (No. 177).—This Chapter of Instruction has now resumed its meetings after the recess. A meeting was held at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane, on Friday, the 22nd inst., when the following companions were present, viz.:—J. Brett, as M.E.Z.; R. Spencer, H.; D. Nicholson, J.; E. H. Kirby, N.; R. W. Little, P.S.; H. J. Buss, G. Penny, G. E. Dunsterville, of a chapter at the Cape of Good Hope, &c. The ceremony of exaltation was worked in a very superior manner, Comp. Dunsterville having offered himself as candidate. As Dr. Ladd, P.Z. and P. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers., has kindly assented to act as Preceptor, it is hoped that the Royal Arch Masons of the metropolis will support this Chapter of Instruction by their presence, and assist in the promulgation of these beautiful ceremonies.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*Caledonian Chapter (No. 204).*—This chapter held its annual meeting at the Masonic Lodge Rooms, Cross-street, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., when the following companions were installed by Comp. Henry Thos. Baldwin, P.Z. and Prov. G.S.E. East Lancashire, viz.:—Comps. Charles Affleck, Z.; George Carter Thorpe, H.; I. H. M. Good, J.; Henry Thos. Warren, E.; S. P. Bidder, N.; I. C. Hind, P.S.; and I. G. Holden, Treas., Bros. John Brocklehurst and Chas. A. Lister, of the Caledonian Lodge (No. 204), were exalted to the supreme degree. Several candidates having been proposed, the chapter was closed in peace and harmony, and the companions adjourned to refreshment and spent a very pleasant evening. The next regular meeting of the Caledonian Chapter will be on the 16th March.

SURREY.

CROYDON.—*East Surrey Chapter of Concord (No. 463).*—This new chapter, for which a charter was granted in November last, held its first meeting on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at the Railway Hotel, Addiscombe-road, Croydon, when Comp. Leveau, P.Z. and P.G.S.B., assisted by Comps. Head, P.Z. and G. Soj.; C. Greenwood, P.Z. and Prov. G. Sec. for Surrey; Dr. Ladd, P.Z. and Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. B. Warren, P.Z.; and P. S. Masterman, P.Z., performed the beautiful ceremony of consecration; after which the Three Principals named in the charter were regularly and most impressively installed, viz., Comps. G. Price, Prov. G. Treas. for Surrey, as M.E.Z.; W. M. Lowcock Webb, W.M. 452, as H.; C. H. Woodward, W.M. 463, as J. The officers then appointed were—Comps. H. J. Strong, as Scribe E.; J. B. Walker, as Scribe N.; H. E. Francis, as P.S.; C. T. Speight, as Janitor. The ballot was taken and found unanimous in favour of Bros. T. Goodwin, G. Clemishaw, Sparks Moline, T. E. Crispe, and W. Wills, and the last four brethren were most ably exalted to this supreme degree; after which the companions, to the number of 16, adjourned to a banquet served in excellent style by the worthy host (Comp. Clemishaw), just exalted. On the removal of the cloth, the M.E.Z. gave the usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts. The name of Comp. Dr. Ladd was coupled with the toast of the Officers of Grand Chapter, as Comp. Leveau (who was suffering from severe cold) and Comp. Head had previously left to catch a train. Comp. Ladd, in returning thanks, paid a well-merited eulogium to Comp. Woodward, J., having been given to understand that it was mainly through him that this chapter had been established, and from the beautiful manner in which it was furnished, and

the smallness of the sum expended in so doing, the greatest credit was due to him. The health of the visitors was responded to by Comp. Greenwood, who said that it was most gratifying to him to see such a commencement to a new and provincial chapter, and he thought the nucleus was formed and that day cemented for one of the most flourishing chapters in the province, and he heartily wished it every success. The health of the newly-exalted companions was ably responded to by Comp. S. Moline. Comp. J. B. Warren, P.Z., then proposed the health of the M.E.Z., saying that very few words were required from him, as the worthy M.E.Z. and Prov. G. Treas. for Surrey, was so well known to all the companions present, and concluded by congratulating him upon being First Principal of this new chapter. The M.E.Z., in thanking the companions for the manner in which they had drank his health, and for the confidence so long reposed in him, said he should also endeavour to discharge the duties of his new office to the entire satisfaction of the companions, and concluded by drinking the healths of the Second and Third Principals, alleging that all the credit was due to Comps. C. H. Woodward, J., as, without his indefatigable exertions they would not have been assembled as they were that evening; and which laudatory sentiments were fully endorsed by Comp. W. L. Webb, H., who, after some excellent remarks upon this supreme degree, said he should leave Comp. J. to speak for himself. Comp. J. said that the high encomiums everywhere bestowed upon him that evening were most gratifying, but that without the assistance of several of the companions it would have been impossible to have consummated the formation of this chapter, and that if they were all satisfied with his feeble effort he was most amply repaid; and if the companions would only support him as the Craft brethren had done (during his year of office as W.M. of 463) he should be able to look back upon this day as one of the greatest in his Masonic career. It may here be stated that when the charter was granted for this chapter six or seven of the companions each placed a sum of money in the hands of Comp. Woodward, and entrusted to him the entire furnishing of the same, which sums are to be repaid as the chapter flourishes, or considered as subscriptions paid in advance, so that it may fairly be said to be launched without a debt. The Janitor's toast brought a red letter day for Croydon to a happy termination, shortly before ten o'clock.

IRELAND.

LIMERICK.—*Eden Lodge (No. 73).*—The members of this lodge met at their rooms, Cecil-street, on the 5th inst, high noon, for the purpose of installing their officers for the next six months. Bros. John Biggs was duly installed W.M.; A. Langley, S.W.; Horrell, J.W.; Moor, S.D.; Manning, J.D.; Peacocke, P.M., Treas.; Deering, P.M., Sec.; Clover, P.M., I.G. Other members present—Bro. Bassett, P.M.; Bigley, P.M.; Pragnell, P.M.; MacNay, P.M.; Adams, Weir, and Kirk, of Lodge 311, Templemore. The W.M. and Wardens were cordially saluted and the lodge was adjourned and placed under the care of the J.W. till six o'clock, to celebrate the festival of St. John, postponed from the 20th ult. in consequence of the lamented death of Bro. John F. Goggin. An excellent dinner was provided, under the judicious catering of Bro. Ferguson (Limerick Club). Bro. John Biggs, W.M.; Langley, S.W.; Horrell, J.W.; Moore, S.D.; Manning, J.D.; other brethren present—Bros. Burke, Macnay, Wallace, Pragnall, Bassett, Glover, Deering, and McQuaide P.M.'s; also Bros. Adams, MacIntyre, Quinlivan, Bennett, Wallace, Dunlop, Kirk, 311, Templemore; Ferguson, 500, Dublin.—The cloth being removed, "The Health of her Gracious Majesty the Queen" was given in truly Masonic style by the W.M., Bro. Deering being called on to sing the National Anthem, which was joined in by the entire brethren.—"The Prince of Wales," &c., was also given. The health of the Grand Masters for England, Ireland, and Scotland were duly given and received with all the honours these dignified members of the Order were entitled to.—The W. MASTER then rose and said, in proposing the health of our worthy and illustrious Prov. G.M. Bro. Henry Westropp, he need not say how he expected it would be received by the brethren present, and how he eminently deserved the compliment of drinking his health. In 73, the most flourishing lodge in Bro. Westropp's district, he (Bro. Westropp) acted with courtesy and kindness towards us on every occasion that he was applied to. The toast was enthusiastically received with all the honours.—The W. MASTER again rose and

said, Brethren I call on you to fill your glasses to the brim in order to give the greatest possible honour that is in our power to bestow on this our festival evening to our tried, trusty, and illustrious Bro. Michael Furnell, ex-Prov. G.M. of North Munster. (Hear, hear). It is true that good and faithful brother is declining in years, but his heart is still imbued with the true principles of Freemasonry. (Applause.) He the W.M. trusted that the G.A.O.T.U. would prolong his valuable life. It is impossible to enter the portals of 73 without a remembrance of Bro. Furnell, whose last act of kindness was the presentation of this magnificent gift (holding up the solid silver gavel lately presented to the lodge). Bro. Furnell has endeared himself to this lodge in a manner that shall never be forgotten. The toast was received amidst cheers which lasted for several minutes.—Bro P.M. Wallace's health was eloquently proposed by Bro. Pragnell, which was received by the brethren with every mark of esteem and fraternal regard.—Bro. WALLACE returned thanks by saying—Worshipful Master, Brother Pragnell, and brethren, I thank you sincerely for the high compliment you have just paid me, and the manner in which you have received my health. Brevity, it is said, is the soul of wit, and therefore on the present occasion I purpose being very brief (No, no, from several of the brethren; Go on Brother Wallace). It is true, what Brother Pragnell had said, that I am an ardent admirer of Freemasonry; it is also that I believe in my soul that Freemasonry, carried out in the Scriptural view of it, is calculated to enoble men's minds, make them better citizens, better fathers and husbands, and, what is still of greater importance, better Christians. There are no doubt persons in every age who will try and endeavour to run down our glorious Order, but I need not tell you, brethren, they have all signally failed, and I do believe that Masonry is now more universal than at any other period of the history of the world. (Cheers). Brethren, to say that I thank you, in a simple expression of my feelings. (Bro. Wallace took his seat evidently affected by his true Masonic feelings.)—The next toast proposed by the W. MASTER was one in which he felt a great deal of pleasure in bringing before the brethren, and it was the health of their late Master, Bro. Thomas Glover, P.M.; before, however, drinking the toast, he should place on his Masonic breast that jewel voted to him in full lodge (the W.M. then placed an exquisitely wrought Past Masters' jewel round the neck of Bro. Glover), and concluded a very suitable speech, the health having been received with all due honours and the usual "salute."—Bro. GLOVER responded in a most touching and eloquent manner.—Bro. LANGLEY, S.W., asked the brethren to charge their glasses on the West, South, and East, as he had a very important toast to propose, and that was their "Worshipful Master." It was drank with all the honours.—The W. MASTER rose and said that he had a great deal of pride and pleasure to think that so humble an individual as he was would receive such honours at their hands: it only proved to him what he experienced from the noble Order, since the light of Masonry shone into his heart. The brethren all knew that he was a soldier, and had been taught in that glorious profession to be on parade punctually at the stroke of the clock. He knew that the same good rule will be carried out in Masonry. It was a curious coincidence that his twenty-one years' servitude in the army will expire exactly at the same period that his term of office presiding over them will, and no doubt he will feel (if it spared), the happiest six months of his life.—Bro. PRAGNELL then rose and said—Worshipful Master, it is with unfeigned pleasure I rise for the purpose of proposing the health of our Brother Past Master Bassett, and in doing so I am sure you have all experienced, as well as I have, his able advocacy of our respected Order in the columns of the *Southern Chronicle*, of which he is the spirited proprietor. His articles, published in that largely circulating journal, which as been sent all over the world, have called forth the esteem of the Masonic body, and it is a pride to us, brethren, that we have an organ in this city neither ashamed nor afraid to publish our meetings such as this. Who is the brother that can say that George W. Bassett, who served in all the chairs, and was our Worshipful Master, ever threw the apple of discord into our meetings? (No, no, from several brethren). The same may be said of his revered father who was an ornament to Masonry in this city, and his brother who has gone to the Grand Lodge above. Bro. Bassett has come amongst us to this evening, and right glad are we to see him. (Hear, hear) Bro. Pragnell concluded in very kind and fraternal terms.—Bro. BASSETT said, to sufficiently respond to the very flattering terms in which his esteemed Bro. Pragnell had brought his name before the brethren, and the

enthusiastic manner in which it was received was out of his power. It was, however, true, that he was an ardent admirer of the time-honoured Order of Freemasons whose sun never sets, the light of which has found its way from time-immemorial all over the world. In coupling his name with the *Southern Chronicle*, and the articles which have appeared in that journal, he was amply repaid by the expression of approval from so distinguished a member of their Order as Bro. Pragnell. He could only say that his constant care would be to merit the feeling exhibited in so marked a manner that evening by his brethren, and he should ever devote a portion of his space for the interests of the Craft, and would at all times endeavour to the best of his humble ability to further the interests of their noble institution.—The Senior Warden's health was proposed by the Worshipful Master, and very suitably responded to.—The Junior Warden's, by Bro. M'Quaide, in very handsome terms, and responded to.—Bro. LANGLEY, S.W., in very eloquent terms, proposed "The Health of our absent P.M. Bro. Cowper," whose whose picture he looked on with pleasure behind him on the wall of the room; no better or truer brother ever graced the chair of the lodge. The toast was received with very great respect.—Bro. ADAMS made a statement which was very interesting to the brethren. He commenced by stating that it was his birthday, and no doubt he felt a double interest in celebrating it and their glorious festival at one and the same time. He (Bro. Adams) had another great tie in Masonry, as he was married to a good Mason's daughter, who was Master of that lodge, and who was gone to the Grand Lodge above. He could not refrain from telling all the unmarried members of the lodge to give a decided preference to Mason's daughters, as he was so fortunate himself, that he would like all others to enjoy the same connubial felicity.—Bro. Kirk's health, 311, Templemore, was given and responded to in true Masonic style.—A marked encomium was bestowed on Bro. Ferguson, the enterer on this occasion, which he responded to in very handsome terms, and sung a most humorous comic song.—Bro. Manning also contributed to the harmony, and sang "Shilly Shally," which kept the brethren in roars of laughter.—The brethren spent a most delightful re-union, and separated in peace, love, and harmony, not without first considering the claims of our distressed brethren all over the world, when a handsome sum was placed in the hands of the W.M., to be handed to the first applicant.—*Southern Chronicle*.

Poetry.

WORK FOR SOME GOOD.

Seek not to walk by borrowed light,
But keep unto thine own:
Do what thou doest with thy might,
And trust thyself alone!

Work for some good, nor idly lie
Within the human hive,
And, though the outward man should die,
Keep thou the heart alive!

Strive not to banish pain and doubt
In pleasure's noisy din;
The peace thou seekest for, without,
Is only found within.

If Fortune disregard thy claim,
By worth her slight attest,
Nor blush and hang the head for shame
When thou hast done thy best.

What thy experience teaches true
Be vigilant to heed;
The wisdom that we suffer to
Is wiser than a creed.

Disdain neglect, ignore despair,
On loves and friendships gone,
Plant thou thy feet, as on a stair,
And mount right up and on!

A. C.

WINTRY SUNSHINE.

The beams that gild the azure skies,
And light the laughing hours of May,
With all their glories less I prize
Than that oblique and struggling ray,
Whose fitful influence kindly tries
To cheer and warm a wintry day,
And through dark clouds and drifting snows,
A transitory brightness throws.

For oh! that welcome radiance seems
Like hope's sweet gleam 'midst woe appearing,
Or glimpses caught of joy in dreams,
Grief's troubled slumbers cheering,
As we through fortune's adverse streams
A wayward course are steering,
And sympathy, with gentle sway,
Charms the dull cares of life away.

AGNES STRICKLAND.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THE HIPPODROME AT ISLINGTON.

The morning performances here have been well attended. Mr. Charles Hengler's beautiful horse "Ducrow" has appeared, and astonished everyone by his obedience to whatever his master ordered him to do, even ascending backwards a high flight of stairs, and at the top remaining on a small platform as quiet as a lamb until ordered to descend. It is the most wonderfully educated horse we ever saw, and he moves about with winning grace and pleasing manner. Frank Pastor, the American rider, is as great as ever, and the three Clowns with him, Messrs. J. Gee, W. Gee, and J. Thorn, equal, if not surpass, any seen in London for some time. The Contest of the Curriculum, by Messrs. W. Powell, W. Parish, and J. Gee, on their six bare-backed steeds in the true Roman dress, is most exciting, and far superior to the Chariot Racing, which does not now take place, owing to the difficulty of turning the corners, where an accident happened last week, fortunately causing only the death of one of the horses. The Steeple Chase and Hurdle Races are executed with much spirit and determination. Crockett, the Lion Tamer, went through his dangerous feats with four lions and one lioness, the latter a savage brute, which he compels to jump through a hoop, as well as over his arm; but instead of doing so a few days since, she caught hold of his arm and gave him a severe bite. The Tournament finishes the programme, and a most magnificent pageant it is. We should say a word for the vaulters, especially Mr. Arthur Barnes, who accomplishes between sixty and seventy consecutive sommersaults.

A RAILWAY THEATRE.—The Paris *Presse* contains the following startling and interesting intelligence, which would appear to show that the *canard* is still acceptable to certain readers of French newspapers:—"Intelligence from London says that M. Smarthe has successfully tried the experiment of a railway theatre on the Manchester and Liverpool line. Imagine five long carriages so arranged as to form one long room. The rounded roof is furnished with chandeliers throwing out a bright light. The sides are formed of sounding boards. By these mechanical arrangements all possibility of external noise has been removed. Imagine also a recess in which six musicians with their instruments can play, a stage raised six feet above the floor of the carriage, and you have a tolerable correct idea of this extemporised railway theatre. The pieces represented are so arranged that a scene finishes at each station, and another commences on the way to the next. When there is a stoppage of a quarter or half-an-hour at any place, the act drop falls. On the 8th of December, 1863, M. Smarthe made the first trial of this theatre, with his company composed of twelve performers. A piece very popular in England was represented, and the programme had been handed to each spectator with his railway ticket at the station. The piece was very successful."

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen paid a second visit to her Royal daughter-in-law at Frogmore on Saturday, and proceeded by the South-Western train to Windsor, where she arrived soon after one o'clock. The Queen returned to Osborne on Monday. The Princess of Wales is rapidly recovering, and the infant Prince remains in excellent health. The Prince of Wales has printed, for private circulation, a copy of the Papyrus which was discovered during his late visit to Thebes. This Egyptian document is older than the time of Pericles, yet it belongs to a period marked by the decline of Pharaonic art. Mr. Birch, of the British Museum, has seen it through the press.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—A meeting of gentlemen in the City interested in the adornment of the interior of St. Paul's Cathedral was held on Wednesday at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor presiding. It was stated that to carry out the decoration of the interior according to the designs of Sir Christopher Wren would require from £60,000 to £70,000, and that of this sum only about £15,000 had been raised by the efforts hitherto made. There was an impression abroad that the dean and chapter ought to find the money from their corporate funds; but it was earnestly and repeatedly urged that this was quite a mistake, that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had possession of the corporate funds, and that the dean and chapter, as such, had no fund whatever at their disposal. It was unambiguously resolved to make an appeal to the whole country for a guinea-subscription to decorate the national cathedral, but without refusing any larger sums that might be offered.—Some projectors have proposed the construction of an arcade from Regent-street to Bond-street, much to the dislike of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. A meeting of the inhabitants was held on Wednesday, at the Vestry Hall, Piccadilly, the Rev. Mr. Kempe, the rector of St. James's, in the chair, who stated the moral objections he entertained to the scheme. There was some opposition manifested to the object of the meeting, but the feeling against the scheme largely preponderated; it was determined to oppose it by all means in their power, and a committee was formed and subscriptions opened for the purpose.—The near approach to the Parliamentary Session has set the papers speculating upon the members in the two houses who are to take part in the Address. It is said that Lord Richard Grosvenor, younger son of the Marquis of Westminster, and member for Flintshire, will move the Address in the Commons, which will be seconded by Mr. Goschen, one of the members for the City.—The Rev. E. Harold Browne, Norrisian Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, and canon of Exeter, has been appointed to the vacant see of Ely.—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, at which a proposition was made to raise the salary of Mr. Thwaites, the chairman, from £1,500 to £2,000. It was carried by a majority of 27 to 4, three gentlemen declining to vote.—We regret to have to announce the death of Sir William Atherton, who, a few months ago, resigned the office of Attorney-General on account of ill-health. The hon. and learned gentleman was called to the bar in 1839, and choosing the Northern Circuit, soon made himself a good reputation. He first entered Parliament in 1852; three years afterwards he was appointed Judge-Advocate of the Fleet; in 1859 he became Solicitor-General, and in 1861, Attorney-General. His death causes a vacancy in the representation of Durham.—Sir Fitzroy Kelly intends to make another effort next session to induce the House of Commons to put an end to the malt tax. Meanwhile, the hon. and learned gentleman's friends in the country are doing all they can to fortify his case by public meetings, denunciatory resolutions, and the preparation

of petitions. The landowners and farmers of Warwickshire assembled in great force on Saturday; and Mr. Newdegate was apparently the only person present who seemed at all to suspect that Mr. Gladstone may not be in a position to afford a remission to the extent of six millions. Mr. Newdegate quite sympathised with those who urged the total repeal of the tax; but he was not in favour of reducing our naval and military expenditure at the present moment, and he was disposed to think that an increased property tax might be felt a more grievous burden than even this impost, which is declared to weigh so heavily upon the agricultural interests.—The Presbyterian ministers of Ireland have chosen a rather inopportune time for asking Parliament to increase the *Regium Donum* to the extent of £10,000. A large deputation waited upon the Lord Lieutenant, and urged that the allowance to each minister should be raised from £65 to £100. Lord Carlisle promised to lay the matter before the Cabinet, but his Excellency expressed a well-founded apprehension that “the present temper of the House of Commons was rather adverse to increasing ecclesiastical endowments of any kind.—Sir George Grey—in a letter just published—informs the magistrates of Derbyshire, who recently addressed a second remonstrance to him on the Townley case, that he has no power to direct “a public inquiry, with evidence on oath, into the state of mind of any person.” The justices, it may be remembered, suggested that “if the existing legal machinery is not deemed equal to the occasion,” the defect might be supplied in the coming session. Sir George Grey says, this question “will not fail to receive consideration, but it is one on which he does not think it necessary to enter in this letter.”—The Lord Chancellor has made a serious statement with regard to the administration of the law of bankruptcy. The Attorney-General applied to his lordship for an order calling upon a retired official assignee to account for a considerable sum of money which had been paid to him in his official capacity. To the general public, the most serious part of this case is the statement made by the person whose conduct is impugned, that “many of his accounts had not been audited.” The Lord Chancellor spoke in the strongest language of this neglect to comply with the act of Parliament and the rules of the court, which require that the accounts of the official assignee shall be periodically audited. Day by day, he said, he discovered things which filled him with pain, and “the officials of the court,” he added, “shall learn that the language inserted in the statute and the rules of the court, requiring them to perform their duties, are not words of mere form, but words which I shall enforce with the most unsparing determination.” With regard to the case before him, it would form the subject of an investigation; but meanwhile the pension—£300 a year—of the ex-official assignee would be suspended. A important order has also been issued respecting the serious delays which sometimes occur in the payments of dividends to creditors.—The case of the reporters against the defunct *Iron Times* was brought to a conclusion in the Court of Common Pleas on Saturday. The action was originally against Mr. Wagstaff, who had advanced the money, but denied that he was a partner. The jury, however, on the original trial found that the engagement of the reporters was only a weekly one, and leave was given to them to sue Mr. Wagstaff for three weeks of unpaid salary if it should be afterwards found that he was a partner. The judge, however, refused to certify for costs. The reporters moved for a new trial, which Sir W. Erle, pronouncing the judgment of the Court, refused to grant, but he said it was now clear that Wagstaff was so far a partner that he ought to pay the three

weeks' salary and also the costs of the plaintiffs.—An action for breach of promise of marriage, of rather an unusual character, was tried before Mr. Baron Bramwell on Wednesday. The parties were first cousins, and of course there was considerable intimacy between them and a lengthened correspondence; but the letters were of a very unimpassioned character, and the jury failed to find in any of them a distinct promise that the defendant would marry the plaintiff. They therefore decided against the lady's claim.—A will case, presenting some singular features, was tried before Sir James Wilde on Wednesday. A Mr. Fuller, of eccentric and miserly habits, had disinherited his only son, who had offended him by marrying a servant, and bequeathed the bulk of his property to the Consumption Hospital, Victoria Park. The son disputed the soundness of his father's mind at the time of making the will and some curious statements of the habits of the deceased were put in evidence. Ultimately, at the suggestion of the learned judge, a compromise was effected, by which all costs were paid out of the estate, and the hospital gave up their claim.—The Court of Queen's Bench, ruling that a “farmer” does not come within the meaning of the Sunday Observance Act of Charles II. has quashed the conviction in the well-known “Leigh Sunday haymaking case.”—A separate assize for the West Riding, with Leeds as the assize town, has been recommended by a committee of the Privy Council.—An inquest on the body of George Harrison, who met his death in a public-house brawl at Woolwich, after winning money at cards, has terminated in a verdict of manslaughter against James Maguire and a man unknown.—An inquest has been held on the poor girl who committed suicide from madness at being deserted by a soldier at Woolwich who had seduced her. “Temporary Insanity” is the verdict of the jury.—There seems to be every reason to believe that the protracted strike at Messrs. Strakers and Love's collieries in Durham will speedily be brought to a close. The men formerly employed at one of the collieries—Brandon—have accepted the terms offered by Messrs. Strakers and Love, and there is every probability that a similar course will be followed by all the miners of Oakenshaw, Brancepeth, and Willington.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The French budget for 1865, which has just been laid before the Legislative Body, estimates that the expenditure will exceed that of 1864 by some £340,000, but that there will be a surplus of £100,000. The issues of Treasury Bonds are to be reduced to £6,000,000 in 1865; but M. Fould adds the significant observation that if that sum should be insufficient, further issues will be submitted to the Legislative Body during its next session.—It is announced that the Danish Cabinet has requested a delay of a month or six weeks, in order that it may have time to convoke the Rigsrad before definitively replying to the Austro-Prussian summons to withdraw the November constitution; but it would seem that this demand has not been accompanied by an engagement, which King Christian cannot indeed legally contract, that the obnoxious constitution shall be withdrawn. It is asserted in a Paris journal that England and France have both urged the Vienna and Berlin Cabinets to assent to this demand for a delay; and in the event of compliance the Austro-Prussian troops will not cross the Eider for some time to come at all events. In giving explanations to the Reichsrath respecting the Austrian policy in the Schleswig-Holstein affair, Count Rechberg declared that Austria had been compelled to interfere in order that the smaller German states might not take the matter into their own hands, and that international law might not be violated. If the London treaty were set aside, the Prince of Augustenburg could not in any

case have any valid claim to Schleswig or Gottorp; and it was not to be supposed that if the London treaty were declared null Russia would abandon her claims to Gottorp, or Denmark her claims to Schleswig. He thought there were several ways in which a pacific solution of the question might be attained; and among them was the constitution of Holstein and Schleswig as duchies connected with Denmark only by the personal tie of a common sovereign.—From Berlin we have a summary of a dispatch addressed by Her Von Bismarck to the minor German States, which is of very great importance, as it indicates the kind of settlement to which the Prussian, and we may add the Austrian, Government would consent. After declaring that the Prussian Government does not offer any opposition to the Diet, but has only in view its position with regard to the other Powers which signed the protocol—it should be treaty—of London, it says a possible solution of the Schleswig Holstein question would be a mere personal union between Denmark and the Duchies, as is the case between Sweden and Norway.—The Prussian House of Deputies has rejected the loan by 275 to 51. It has adopted the resolution of Herr Schultze-Daelitsch, condemning in the strongest terms the Austro-Prussian policy, and declaring that the House will resist that policy by all means in its power. The language of Herr Von Bismarck holds out to the House no hope that its wishes will be attended to. He told it that it desired to hold the position of a kind of diplomatic Aulic Council, and that it did not understand the Prussian people. Replying to Count Schwerin, who said the Ministry were afraid of democracy and of the foreign Powers, Herr Von Bismarck declared the Government hoped to conquer democracy, and that it was only a rule of common prudence to look abroad with apprehension. The Prussian Upper House has again set itself in opposition to the Chamber of Deputies by rejecting the amendment made by the latter in the budget, and adopting it entire as proposed by the Government. The Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath seems disposed to follow the example set in Berlin. A portion of its financial committee has proposed that the credit of ten millions of florins asked by the Government should not be granted and that only the contribution due to the Diet for the execution in Holstein should be voted. If this proposition should be accepted, which, however, is by no means certain, the Governments of the two great German Powers will stand in direct opposition to their Legislatures.—All the accounts from Denmark show that the Danes are preparing for a stout resistance to the invasion of Schleswig by the German troops. The Dannewerke is being strongly fortified, and entrenchments formed which command the approaches. The weather continues moderate, and the harbours of Flensburg, Eckernforde, and Apenrade are free from ice.—An extraordinary session of the Norwegian Storting has been convoked for the 14th March; and it is to be presumed that the Government will apply for votes enabling it, in case of need, to tender military support to Denmark. The Swedish Riksdag will not require to be summoned for a similar purpose, as the Swedish Cabinet already possesses the requisite authority and funds.—The Danes, it seems, have secured a powerful iron-clad ship at Glasgow, which is reported to have been constructed for the Confederates, and to have only just escaped the grasp of the Prussians.—A very unusual proceeding has been adopted by the Spanish Cortes—namely, the passing of a vote of censure on the President on a question of order. Till the accouchment of the Queen, which is daily expected, the Opposition has agreed to ask no question of the new Ministers.

AMERICA.—The Persia, from New York, has not brought any intelligence of much interest. Excepting some guerrilla skirmishes in Virginia, there had been no encounters between the

belligerent forces. The Confederates were said to have retreated up the Shenandoah Valley after their recent "raid." The Confederate General Magruder was reported to be concentrating a corps of 20,000 men in Central Texas, with the purpose of attacking and overwhelming the Federal troops lately landed on the bank of the Rio Grande and the neighbouring coast. The Democratic members of Congress, in a meeting held at Washington, had resolved that President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation was unconstitutional, and that the army and navy ought to be paid in specie or its equivalent. The Judge of the Admiralty Court at Halifax had expressed an opinion that the capture of the Chesapeake was a piratical seizure, but had not delivered any judgment, or ordered the restoration of the vessel to her owners. The news by the *City of Baltimore* and the *Bohemian* up to the evening of the 16th inst. is comparatively barren of military events. That the Confederates are preparing for an active and vigorous spring campaign is evident from the strong position taken up by General Longstreet near Knoxville, and the many reinforcements received by General Johnstone in Georgia and General Lee in Virginia. The raids of the cavalry of the latter general keep the Federal army on the Rappahannock in a continuous state of alarm. The Federals continue to shell Charleston, but have no hope of taking it. Gold has risen to 58 prem.

THE CAPE.—The Cape mail has brought us the news that the trial of Bishop Colenso by the Metropolitan Bishop of Capetown and his suffragan assessors, terminated on the 16th ult. All the nine charges of heresy preferred against Dr. Colenso were unanimously declared to be proved; and Bishop Gray, as Metropolitan, formally sentenced him to be deprived of his see of Natal. If the "heretical extracts" cited in the informations are fully, unconditionally, and absolutely retracted in writing by Dr. Colenso before the 4th March in London, or the 16th April in Capetown, the sentence of deprivation is to become null. Dr. Bleek, who appeared on behalf of the episcopal defendant, protested against the proceedings, and the validity of the sentence, and gave notice of an appeal. There was a rumour at Capetown, but it does not seem to have rested on any certain foundation, that Dr. Livingstone had been murdered by the natives near Lake Nyassa.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The news brought by the Calcutta and China mail has been generally anticipated. The dismissal of Mr. Lay by the Chinese Government from his post of inspector of foreign customs is confirmed. General Gordon had attacked and captured Soo-chow from the rebels. The fall of Hang-chow was expected shortly to follow, and if by no other means the Imperialists would be able to reduce Nanking by famine. The cause of the rebels, in fact, becomes desperate. It is reported that General Gordon will retire from the Imperial service, and that an order will soon be issued prohibiting all British subjects from engaging their services to either the Imperialists or the Taepings. From Japan we hear that Satsuma declines to pay the indemnity demanded of him by the British Government.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THREE PRINCIPALS.—Scribe E. cannot be installed as J. until he is an actual, that is to say, installed Master of a lodge.

JUSTICE.—Never in our recollection.

G. M.—Certainly not.

COMMUNICATIONS from Liverpool, Leighton Buzzard, and Jersey have been received, but want of space prevents their appearing in this week's issue.