

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

MOTHER KILWINNING.

By Bro. D. MURRAY LYON, K.T.,

ONE OF THE GRAND STEWARDS IN THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

No. X.

As "coming events cast their shadows before," so the widely-circulated and pretty generally-believed report that the Lodge of Kilwinning had "sold to Mary's Chappel their right of granting charters," heralded the approach of the long and earnestly-desired abdication of the Grand Lodge of Kilwinning and formal union of the daughters of the two rival Constitutions. That the Mother Lodge "had sold or ever would sell any of their ancient rights or privileges to Mary's Chappel, Edinr., or any other body or society of Massons whatever," was authoritatively repudiated by the office-bearers of Mother Kilwinning in a letter addressed to their daughters, but in which, however, was hinted the near probability of a "settlement of all disputes and differences betwixt the Grand Lodge and the Lodge of Kilwinning, on terms which would secure the interest and rank in Masonry of the Mother Lodge and of all the daughter lodges holding of her." The Scottish metropolis having at the period of which we speak been much frequented by the Scottish aristocracy, many of whom made it the place of their winter abode, the Most Worshipful the Master and other leading members of the Kilwinning Lodge, gentlemen of standing in their native county, were during these prolonged visits to Edinburgh brought into personal contact with office-bearers and members of Grand Lodge mingling in the same society with themselves, and what more natural than that in these hours of social intercourse *the lodge* would come in for a share of attention: it was so—and through this channel was brought about an event which neither threat nor persuasion coming from the Masonic powers in Edinburgh was at all likely ever to have effected, viz., the recognition by Mother Kilwinning of the "Grand Lodge at Edinburgh," as the head of the Scottish Fraternity. Col. Blair of Blair was the Master of Mother Kilwinning in 1806-7, and it was to the favourable impression made upon his mind by the advocates for the union of the two existing grand bodies, and to the influence possessed by him with his colleagues in office that the Craft were indebted for the permanent and honourable adjustment of differences which for the better part of a century had kept estranged from each other two important sections of the brotherhood.

Encouraged, then, by the favour with which the proposal for bringing the Scottish Craft under one Supreme Head had been received by the more influential of the members of Mother Kilwinning,

Grand Lodge thus formally re-opened the question of Masonic union:—

"To the R.W. the Secy. of the
Kilwinning Lodge.

"Grand Lodge of Scotland,
Edinburgh, 21st February, 1807.

"R.W. SIR,—It has been the subject of much regret that the misunderstanding so long subsisting between the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Kilwinning Lodge should not ere now have been accommodated. It does not from our Records appear very clearly what was the reasons which induced your Lodge to leave the bosom and protection of the Grand Lodge. But whatever was the reason, it must now be obvious that it will tend greatly to the interest, honour, and respectability of the Craft in general, were Masonry in Scotland to be practised only in the bosom of, and under the protection of the Grand Lodge, whereby she, as the only head of the Masonic body in Scotland, would feel herself responsible for the regularity and good conduct of every Lodge enjoying the privilege of meeting as a Masonic body under her Charters. In order to bring about this most desirable object, the matter has been confidentially mentioned by some of the members of Grand Lodge to some of your members, and in consequence of what passed on these occasions, the subject was brought before the Grand Lodge of Scotland, when a committee were appointed, who, agreeably to the powers vested in them, have submitted this business to the following Brethren, viz.,—William Inglis, Esq., Sub. G.M.; Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart.; Bro. Alex. Laurie; Mr. William Guthrie, Grand Secretary; and Mr. James Bartram, Grand Clerk, with full and ample powers to meet with a Committee of Kilwinning Lodge at Edinburgh, or any place to be mutually agreed upon, and finally to arrange and settle all disputes presently subsisting between the Grand Lodge and the Kilwinning Lodge, in the way and manner their respective Committees may judge meet for the honour, interest, and advantage of both Lodges.

"Should this measure meet the approbation of your Lodge, which I have no doubt it will, I shall be glad to hear that your Lodge has named a Committee of your members, with similar powers, and when and where it will be agreeable to the Committee to meet.

"I have the honour to be,

"R.W. Sir,

"Your obedt. servt.,

"WM. GUTHRIE, G.C."

The Grand Master having returned to Ayrshire, a special meeting of the Grand Lodge was summoned for the consideration of the above letter. This meeting, held at Kilwinning, April 6th, 1807, was attended by twenty-three members, the major portion of whom being "gentlemen Masons"—Bros. Blair of Blair, Montgomerie of Craighouse, M'Gown of Smithston, Davidson of Drumley,

Boyle of Shewalton, Hamilton of Grange, Rev. J. Henderson of Irvine, &c. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master was in the chair, and "after the most deliberate consideration" the Lairds of Blair, Drumley, Smithson, Craighouse, Shewalton, Auchenharvie, and the Collector of His Majesty's Customs at Irvine, were appointed a Committee, armed with powers in every respect similar to those granted by Grand Lodge to their Committee.

Thus commissioned, the representatives of the two Grand Lodge assembled at Glasgow—the Star Inn there having been fixed upon as the place of meeting—on the 14th October, 1807, and after a lengthened conference agreed to and signed the following minute of terms of agreement, subject of course to the approval of their respective lodges:—

"At Glasgow, the 14th day of October, 1807.

"At a meeting of the Committees appointed by the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Mother Lodge of Kilwinning, vested by their respective constituents with full powers for the adjustment of their Masonic differences.

"Present on the part of the Grand Lodge—William Inglis, Esq., Substitute Grand Master, Sir John Stewart, Bart., of Allanbank; Alexander Laurie, Esq.; William Guthrie, Esq., Grand Secretary; and James Bartram, Esq., Grand Clerk.

"And on the part of the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning—William Blair, Esq., of Blair, Master; Robert Davidson, Esq., of Drumley, Depute Master; Alex. M'Gown, Esq., of Smithston, Senior Warden; Alexander Hamilton, Esq., of Grange; Robt. Montgomerie, Esq., of Craighouse; and James Crichton, Esq., Collector of His Majesty's Customs, Irvine.

"The Committee having exhibited and exchanged their respective powers, and carefully considered the matters in dispute, reciprocally agree as follows:—

"1st. That the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning, shall renounce all right of granting Charters, and come in along with all the Lodges holding under her, to the bosom of the Grand Lodge.

"2dly. That all the Lodges holding of Mother Kilwinning shall be obliged to obtain from the Grand Lodge, confirmations of their respective Charters, for, which a fee of three guineas only shall be exigible.

"3dly. That the Mother Kilwinning shall be placed at the head of the Roll of the Grand Lodge, under the denomination of Mother Kilwinning; and her Daughter Lodges shall, in the meantime, be placed at the end of the said Roll, and as they shall apply for confirmations; but under this express declaration, that so soon as the Roll shall be arranged and corrected, which is in present contemplation, the Lodges holding of Mother Kilwinning shall be entitled to be ranked according to the dates of their original Charters, and of those granted by the Grand Lodge.

"4thly. That Mother Kilwinning and her Daughter Lodges shall have the same interest in and management of the funds of the Grand Lodge, as the other Lodges now holding of her,—Mother Lodge, Kilwinning, contributing annually to the said funds a sum not less than two shillings and sixpence for each intransit, and her Daughter Lodges contributing in the same manner as the present Lodges holding of the Grand Lodge.

5thly. That the Master of the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning, for the time, shall be *ipso facto* Provincial Grand Master for the Ayrshire District. And,

Lastly. While both Committees are satisfied that the preceding arrangement will be highly conducive to the honour and interests of Scottish Masonry, and though vested with the fullest powers to make a final adjustment, the Committee do only respectfully recommend its adoption to their respective constituents.

"William Inglis, S.G.M.	Will. Blair.
Jo. Stewart.	Robt. Davidson.
Alex. Laurie.	Robt. Montgomerie.
Wm. Guthrie, Gd. Secy.	Alex. M'Gown.
Ja. Bartram, Gd. Clk.	Alex. Hamilton.
	James Crichton."

This minute was submitted to an extraordinary meeting of the Mother Lodge, held on the 6th of November, 1807, at which were present twenty-one members, composed with one or two exceptions of the same brethren by whom the reporters had previously been appointed. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master having, on behalf of the Committee, reported the result of their conference with Grand Lodge, and produced a copy of the Minute of Agreement, the following resolution was adopted by the Lodge:—"The Agreement come to by the Committees of the Grand Lodge and the Mother Lodge, having been taken into consideration by this meeting, they unanimously did, and hereby do, ratify and approve of the same in all respects." The minute proceeds: "It was afterwards moved by the Acting Senior Warden, that the thanks of the Mother Lodge be given to the members of the committee for the great trouble and attention they have taken in bringing the matter in dispute between the two Lodges to such an honourable conclusion for all parties concerned, and so much for the good of Masonry in general. And the health of the Committee was *drunk standing*, with all the honours of Masonry. It was further motioned by our Most Worshipful Grand Master, that the members of the Committee of Grand Lodge be admitted members of the Mother Lodge, Grand Lodge to be served with a copy of the minute, and a committee named to proceed to Edinburgh, after the ratification of the agreement, and report to Mother Lodge at the St. Andrew Festival; and to regulate the clothing and other ceremonial to be used on that occasion."

From the construction of the above minute, it would appear as if refreshment had been intro-

duced and partaken of during the transaction of business. The reader will in his perusal of former papers have noted the important place in the lodge proceedings assigned to refreshment; but in no previous case do the Kilwinning records show the convivial element to have been so intimately mixed up with the business of the lodge as on the present most extraordinary and ever-to-be-remembered occasion.

The next meeting of Mother Kilwinning was held at Irvine, on the 23rd November. It was called "to regulate and settle the business of the Lodge." There was read to the brethren the following "Extract from Books of Grand Lodge, ratifying and approving of the Treaty and Settlement betwixt them and the Mother Lodge":—"At a quarterly committee meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, held this 2nd day of November, 1807—Present . . . and the representatives of 64 lodges. The report of the Mutual Committees of the Grand Lodge and of the Kilwinning Lodge was then read and considered by the Grand Lodge, when an objection was stated by Brother Cunningham, Senior Warden of Mary's Chappel, on the ground of that body being deprived of her place on the roll, and after a good deal of argument, Brother John Miller, Proxy Master of St. Thomas Arbroath Lodge, moved that the report of the Mutual Committees should be approved of. This motion was seconded by Brother Thomas Miller, Esq., Advocate of the Lodge Dalkieth, and the Grand Lodge accordingly approved of the report by the Committees, with the dissenting voice of Brother Cunningham alone, who in the name of the Lodge Mary's Chappel protested against the present proceedings and took instruments in the Clerk's hands; when Brother John Sutherland, Proxy Master for the Lodge Royal Arch, Pollockshaws, and a member of Mary's Chappel Lodge, took a counter protest on this ground, that he was satisfied that the present measure would meet with the approbation of a great majority of the members of Mary's Chappel, and likewise took instruments in the Grand Clerk's hands—whereupon the Grand Lodge solemnly enacted and declared, in terms of the said report of the Mutual Committee of the Grand Lodge, and of the Mother Kilwinning Lodge; and upon a motion of Brother Thomas Miller, Esq., the unanimous thanks of the Grand Lodge were voted to the members of the Committee for their active exertions in thus putting at length at final rest, so disagreeable a Masonic schism, by which the Grand Lodge embraced the whole Masons of Scotland, and by which the Charity Funds would be so greatly increased."

The Secretary of the Mother Lodge further submitted and read to the meeting the Commission from Grand Lodge in favour of the Worshipful William Blair of Blair, Master, as Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire—of which Commission more hereafter. After agreeing to request the Grand

Secretary at Edinburgh to provide "sashes and aprons" for the representatives of the Mother Lodge at the anniversary meeting of Grand Lodge on 30th November in that year, the Lodge of Kilwinning, thus denuded by their own voluntary act of the prerogatives of an independent Grand Body, were for the first time since their re-union with Grand Lodge called to harmonise in the light of a subordinate capacity—a noble instance of self-sacrifice at the shrine of Masonic unity.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

FRENCH DEFINITION OF FREEMASONRY.

The *Univers Maçonnique* has given the following definition of Freemasonry, which, no doubt, will be full of information for the Craft at home.—Ex. Ex.—["In order to fully comprehend the duties imposed by Masonry, we must first define it; we must tell what it is. What, then, in Masonry? We reply, it is much: it is of the utmost importance, or it is nothing at all. It is nothing to the vulgar man or the wicked. It is much to the sensible and virtuous man. It is nothing, any more than colours to the blind, music to the deaf, poetry and fine arts to brutes, to the ambitious, the avaricious, the egotistical, the untrue. It is much to the sensible, sincere, and generous man, who knows the ills of humanity, and would remedy them. She is neither a plot, a faction, nor a party; she serves the ambition, the cunning, or the cruelty of no one. She is order and truth in all things; she is the hatred of vice, the love of virtue; and she is a living voice saying, "Do not unto others that which you would not that others should do unto you:" on the contrary, "Do as you would be done by." She is the calm amid the tempest, a light-house in shipwreck, consolation in misfortune, the antidote against every kind of tyranny, fanaticism, and lies. In a word, she is the true bond of nations, the preserver of that moral balance the wicked would destroy. Thus she is everything to those who understand her, nothing to those whose souls are dead, or, rather, she is the mirror in which they dare not look. What was she, in ancient times, for Tiberius, for Caligula, for Nero? Just what she is now for those who resemble them. Some one has said that Masonry was a religion. That is true, if we may apply the name to an institution that leaves no doubt after it, that opens no door to argument on her principles and precepts. It is the clearest, the simplest of all religions—that which has the nearest affinity to the good sense with which Heaven has endowed us, and on this account it is not to be confounded with the others. Read and judge. All religions take charge of man at his birth, and keep him in charge till he dies. Masonry, on the contrary, only accepts a man when he has arrived at mature age, and when his intelligence enables him to appreciate the value of things. A given ceremony makes an infant a portion of a given church, as, for example, circumcision or baptism make him a Jew or a Christian before he is in any way capable of understanding the proscribed dogmas of those sects. The baptism of Masonry is science and virtue—the initiate hears and understands what is said to him; the lamp of reason is placed in his own hands. By the aid of

science he is taught everything that God has designed man should know to distinguish good from evil, the true and the false, liberty from license, courage from cowardice, honesty from fraud, generosity from cruel egotism. By virtue he learns to subdue the obstacles arising from ignorance and dishonesty. It is the baptism of honour and knowledge; it is initiation in the dignity, the grandeur of humanity; certainly no religion can lead us nearer the Deity. Men are so curiously organized that nearly every one believes his neighbour's religion to be false. Yet no man, except through ignorance or folly, can make the same accusation against Masonry, for she is the touch-stone of all truth, as every one who knows her must be convinced. Religions, whether true or false, are protected by sovereigns and sustained by the treasure of the people. Masonry depends upon herself, and upon God who created light. Religions lead their chiefs to power, to opulence, and to greatness. Masonry confers neither greatness, riches, or power; it is the only priesthood that costs the people nothing; it is the only army that makes war at its own expense, hence it may be justly called the army of the good against the bad, of the brave and true against the cowardly and perfidious. Such soldiers look not for their reward at the hands of men; they find it in the consciousness of well-doing, which is, after all, true happiness. In conclusion, we repeat these words, becoming daily of greater truth, 'Teach and propagate true Masonry, and you will have rendered the world a greater service than all its legislators.'"]

AMERICAN DEFINITION OF FREEMASONRY.

Taking the foregoing article as the exponent of a French view of the subject, the following may be contrasted with it, as an American definition of Freemasonry.—Ex. Ex.—“To solve the mysterious question, What is Masonry? has taxed the learning of the wise and the ingenuity of the cunning for ages. Such have sought to reveal its mysteries with as much labour and perseverance as the ancients sought the philosopher's stone or the elixir of life. But, unfortunately, for them, it has eluded their grasp, and the question still remains, What is Masonry? It will be our object on the present occasion to endeavour, as far as possible, to answer this wonderful question. Masonry is not a Divine institution. To claim for it a Divine origin, in the sense that it is the product of Divine revelation, and instituted by Divine authority, would only be to bring it into contempt among all intelligent Masons, as well as to destroy all the good it was designed to accomplish among men. It does, however, claim to be a 'system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by appropriate symbols.' In regard to its antiquity, as a practical science, it dates back to the first pillars and arches erected by man, and hence it is connected with the earliest civilisation and science. Students of archaeology, to whom the mysteries of this ancient and honourable Order are unintelligible, may find here an inviting field of investigation. It is a common, but very erroneous opinion, that the earliest ages of antiquity were buried in the profoundest ignorance; and, so far as the cultivation of the arts and sciences were concerned, the rude age exhibited ruder specimens of artistic skill and scientific attainment. The history of the past, written upon the imperishable monuments of the old world, while it is rich in instruction, at the

same time is highly confirmatory of the fact, that art, if not science, strictly so called, existed in greater perfection, during the continuance of the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Egyptian monarchies, than any succeeding period. The sculptor may, in the unearthed figures of Nineveh, Babylon, and Thebes, behold the finest productions of the chisel, thousands of years before Phidias or Canova were born. The painter may find in the royal palace at Nineveh, exhibitions of paintings, whose colours are bright, after a burial of four thousand years, and though they may not rival the productions of Raphael and M. Angelo, as works of art, yet exhibit astonishing artistic skill. The architect may find in the masses of sienite, nine hundred tons in weight, used in the construction of ancient temples, what must for ever excite his wonder, and while he studies their lofty arches, constructed with a precision unsurpassed by his utmost skill, he will find that they were erected by men who lived two thousand years anterior to those who constructed the classic piles of Greece and Rome. The philologist may study the origin of language, and the art of alphabetical writing in Assyrian and Egyptian sculpture, long before Moses received the God-inscribed tables of the law, on the smoking summit of Sinai. The astronomer from the astronomical tables of Babylon, or the zodiacs of Denderah and Esneh, in Egypt, may read important and truthful observations on the heavenly bodies, five thousand years before Gallileo taught the correct doctrine of planetary revolution. From the ancient records of Nineveh and Babylon, the theologian, may find historical narratives, illustrating and confirming Bible history and prophecy, a thousand years before Moses wrote a line of the Old Testament, and two thousand years before Herodotus, who is styled the father of profane history, was born. Besides, from the mythological inscriptions and hieroglyphic symbols, he may learn the doctrine of the Divine existence, and the soul's immortality. Now, practical Masonry is in some sort connected with all these. The palaces, temples, monuments, tombs, and tables which have been disinterred from the rubbish of past ages, are so many recovered mementos of the ancient art; and from the corner-stones, blocks, pillars, arches, and keystone, and cap-stones, as well as from the instruments employed in their construction, a system of Speculative Masonry has been evolved, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by appropriate and significant symbols, all of which are designed to teach, in the most impressive manner, the lessons of mortality. We are perfectly willing to be judged by our principles, so far as they have been made known to the world. We would not have a judgment formed of our institution, solely from the conduct of those who profess to be Masons, any more than we would have you judge of Christianity alone from the lives of some of its professors, for the obvious reason that this would only be a partial view, and you might be led to mistake the spirit and principles of Christianity. If there should be anything discoverable in the Christian church, contrary to the teachings of Christ and his apostles, know ye that it does not belong to Christianity; so if there be anything discoverable in the conduct of Masons, contrary to the principles of morality, it cannot belong to Masonry, for Masonry is a system of morality, founded upon the precepts of the Bible. Masonry professes faith in the God of the Bible, and

a belief in His revealed will; indeed, without such faith her outer gates never would be opened to any man, no matter what his position and circumstances in life. No atheist or infidel can be a Mason. They may be connected with the Order, but they are no more Masons than hypocrites are Christians. Profession is one thing, but belief and practice are very different and vastly more important things. 'By their fruits ye shall know them,' for men do not gather grapes of thorns, and figs of thistles. The altars of Masonry are sacred to the science of Masonry alone, and while she interferes not with any of the institutions of religion, she sets up no rivalry to the Divinely-appointed means of grace and salvation. She is no enemy to Christianity. I know that some, from their own imaginations, have evoked dark and terrific spirits, and imagined a thousand evil things about Masonic secrets. With them it would appear that everything done in secret was evil, and the principal, if not sole, objection of some to the institution, grows out of the secrecy with which its work is performed. Upon this principle they would condemn some of the holiest transactions that ever occurred. Solomon tells us, 'it is the glory of God to conceal a thing,' and many of the most important revelations He ever made to man were made in secret. It was in the secret watches of the night that He appeared to Abraham, in Chaldea, and called him away from his country and kindred to enter upon the promised inheritance. It was alone that in Mamre He revealed to him the destruction of Sodom. It was when Moses was pavilioned with the Jehovah, for the space of forty days and forty nights, on the smoking summit of Sinai, that the law written on two tables of stone, and instructions were given how to make the tabernacle and the ark, while the great incommunicable name of the Deity was a secret with the Jews, during their existence as a nation. Masonry does not assume to take the place of the church, or to trench upon her rights, by either assuming her functions or endeavouring to perform her appropriate duties, any more than Bible societies, tract societies, temperance societies, or any of the kindred benevolent institutions of the day; and who will deny that the church could not, as a church, carry on all these objects of benevolence within her pale? No, the Order of Freemasonry would not, with sacrilegious hands, touch the ark of the Lord, and, ruthlessly thrusting aside the priests from the altar, ascend the holy place to offer incense upon the altars of Christianity. Those who are prompted by a vain curiosity to explore the secrets of the mystic art, and are carried away with the badges and glare of gaudy and elaborate display, and emblems and pompous ceremonials, will find nothing in these courts that will satisfy their desires; and, on the other hand, those who expect to have revelations transcendently mysterious and impracticable, will be disappointed in approaching the altars of Masonry. Masonry is a practical science, and, though its moral duties are veiled in emblems and allegories, yet they all have a practical significance. We do not wonder that those who are unacquainted with Masonry, and the emblems which illustrate its precepts, should be disposed to look upon it and them with supercilious contempt, or at least to regard them as trifles, unworthy the consideration of men of reason and reflection; and, in the very nature of the case,

we must in patience and forbearance submit to such expressions of opinion as the uninitiated may indulge. We would, however, premise, if it were not more in accordance with the dictates of reason, for such to suspend opinions until they have all the evidence before them, and not hastily to pass judgment upon that concerning which, according to their own confession, they know nothing. The Order does not interfere with any of the regulations of society, whether of church or state, involving any of the duties we owe to God, to our country, to our neighbours, or to ourselves; and if it did, it would not be wrong or treasonable to disclose its secrets; but that the institution should be placed under the ban of ecclesiastical or political excommunication, simply because it has secrets pertaining to itself alone, is a species of persecution only becoming the dark ages. If it were a Jesuitical institution, and its members were banded together by oaths, for the suppression and destruction of freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press, we would be amongst the first to renounce all allegiance, and vow eternal hostility to it, as the enemy of God and man. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are its cardinal elements, and constitute the great central idea, around which revolve all its essential operations. Anything contrary to these practical principles is foreign to the organization, and forms no part of its benevolent mission. To visit the widow and fatherless in their affliction, administering to their wants and woes with the soft hand of a charity diffusive as light, is a message she brings to every sorrow-stricken home. When she fails in this God-like undertaking, she fails most signally in the accomplishment of her mission, and her profession degenerates into a mere form, and her allegorical lessons and instructive emblems become as the sounding brass and tinkling cymbals of a heartless profession."]

BRO. ELISHA COOKE'S MASONIC TRAVELS.

It was said, when Bro. Elisha Cooke was a sojourner here, that he would publish his Masonic travels on his return to America. Has he done so?—S. C. B.

THE PRIMITIVE FREEMASONRY OF ANTIQUITY.

The general diffusion of Masonic literature throughout the country has now made almost every Mason acquainted with the theory that has been insisted upon principally by Dr. Oliver, that the principles of Freemasonry—that is to say, the doctrines of Speculative Masonry—existed in the earliest ages of the world, and were believed and practised by a primitive people or priesthood, under the name of the *Pure* or *Primitive Freemasonry* of the Antediluvians—that this Freemasonry was at length, after the flood, corrupted, as to the truths that it taught, and then went under the name of *Spurious Freemasonry*, but that a choice few preserved the primitive doctrines, and handed them down to the present day, where they exist under the form of *Speculative Masonry*. These doctrines are not now denied by any one who has carefully studied the Masonic system, although many differ from Dr. Oliver in relation to some of the details of the theory that he has advanced. But this theory is not exclusively Dr. Oliver's. It was promulgated at the middle of the last century by the celebrated Chevalier Ramsay, the author of the "Travels of Cyrus," and

the founder of a very philosophical system of Masonry. In a work published by him in 1751, entitled "The Philosophical Principles of Natural and Revealed Religion, Unfolded in a Geometrical Order," he has briefly but distinctly advanced this theory, and we give it here to our readers—first, because the work is scarce in this country, but principally because it contains the most succinct and satisfactory history of the origin and progress of the science of Freemasonry. The Chevalier, writing a work for general perusal, has said nothing in it of Masonry by name; but, as the course of his studies and the labours of his life identified him with the Order, it is apparent that, under the name of an ancient religion, he was thinking of his favourite science. The reader has only to substitute in the paragraphs we are about to quote the word "*Masonry*" for "*Religion*," and in a few lines he will be put in possession of the whole theory on the subject, as it has been more elaborately worked out by Hutchinson, Oliver, and other Masonic writers. Ramsay propounds his theory as follows:—1. Adam, Noah, and all the antediluvian and postdiluvian patriarchs knew the great principles of natural and revealed religion, and, therefore, could and should have taken all measures possible to transmit this saving knowledge to their posterity. 2. It would have been unbecoming the prudence and sanctity of these holy patriarchs not to have chosen some surer method for transmitting these sacred truths than by oral tradition, which is much more subject to falsification than written tradition. 3. The most ancient, the most expressive, and the most palpable way of writing was not by arbitrary names and alphabetical letters, but by symbolical gravings, which represented intellectual ideas by corporeal images; and this way of writing was particularly consecrated to the use and transmission of Divine things to posterity, as the word hieroglyphic [*sacred writing*] indicates. 4. According as the world increased, and was peopled after the deluge, the sons and grand-children of Noah copied and carried those sacred symbols of religion [*or Primitive Freemasonry*] to the different places of the earth which they went to inhabit with their families; thus these symbolical characters were transported from country to country, over all the face of our terrestrial globe; and for this reason is it that the symbols, images, idols, statues, representations, traditions, fables, and mythologies about the gods, goddesses, and religion are much the same in all nations. 5. By succession of time, the true original sense of the sacred symbols and hieroglyphics was forgot. [*That is, the Primitive Freemasonry became corrupted.*] Men attached themselves to the letter and to signs without understanding the spirit and thing signified, and thus fell by degrees into the grossest idolatry and wildest superstition. They explained the sacred symbols according to their fancy, and so turned all the ancient traditions into fables, fictions, and mythologies, where, though the circumstances were different, yet the fund was the same. 6. Notwithstanding these degradations, adulterations, and misrepresentations of the original symbols and traditions, there still remain some hints, rays, and vestiges of Divine truths in the mythologies and religions of all nations, from east to west, from north to south, in Asia, Europe, Africa, and America. [*And these vestiges constituted the Spurious Freemasonry of Antiquity.*]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CAN A WARDEN INITIATE, &c.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In all the arguments and references that have appeared in your capital MAGAZINE on the above subject, no allusion has been made to the source from which all our powers emanate.

On the initiation of a candidate, he is informed that the W.M. is acting by virtue of the powers contained in the warrant granted by the M.W.G.M., the result of a petition signed by seven regularly registered Masons, no quality, so far as position goes, being required, and if there be three Master Masons, to occupy the positions of the three principal officers, the remaining four may be E.A.'s.

On reference to several warrants, I find them granted to A., B., C., D., F., G., and others, and as the words run, "Do hereby constitute the said brethren into a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the title or denomination of the ——— Lodge, the said lodge to meet, &c., empowering *them*, in the said lodge, when duly congregated, to make, pass, and raise Freemasons according to the ancient custom, &c." Now, Mr. Editor, a deed, a grant, a conveyance, anything issued by a body corporate, under their seal, is binding on the granters in a full *legal* sense. A will or personal direction from a body sole, not within the description above mentioned, must be, and properly so, construed according to the assumed *intention* of the *testator*.

Viewing then the warrant of the M.W.G.M. in the same light as that of a grant from a body corporate, it must be dealt with in its full *legal* sense and bearing; and as the same is often granted to brethren who have never served the office of Warden, much less than of an Installed Master, and others who have never held *any* office, and as the power to initiate, pass, and raise is given to them, any of them, even the E.A.'s, if they could, may perform those ceremonies although they have never held the office of Warden; how much more so are the Wardens then to do those acts which W.M.'s generally perform?

In my opinion there is not the *slightest* doubt of their being properly and fully empowered to do so; and entertaining that opinion years ago, I did perform all the ceremonies, but never in the presence of the W.M. or P.M. of the lodge (which, I find, has been permitted, very improperly, by a W.M. of a lodge in the provinces, and to whom our Bro. Blackburn is paying his respectful compliments).

I am, dear Sir, yours fraternally,

R. E. X.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

PYTHAGOREAN LODGE (No. 79).—At a meeting held on Monday, January 25th, at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, Kent (Bro. Moore's), Bro. W. R. Orchard, W.M., assisted by the officers and brethren, opened the lodge. Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., raised two brethren to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in his usual efficient manner. Bro. W. R. Orchard, W.M., passed one brother to the Fellow Craft degree in a creditable manner. Bro. J. Hasler was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. W. C. Penny was unanimously elected Treasurer; Bro. Beckett, re-elected Tyler. It was unanimously resolved that a Past Master's Jewel be given from the funds of the lodge to Bro. W. R. Orchard, W.M., for the efficient manner he had carried out the duties of W.M. After business the brethren adjourned to banquet. Visitors:—F. Walters, P.M. 73; A. H. Tattershall, S.D. 140; Noak, J.D. 140, &c.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—At a regular meeting of this lodge held on Wednesday, January 27th, at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, (Bro. J. Stevens'), Bro. George Wilton, assisted by Bros. C. Stahr, S.W.; H. A. Collington, P.M., as J.W.; J. Stevens, P.M.; J. W. Weir, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; J. H. Pembroke, S.D.; G. S. Hodgson, I.G.; J. S. Blomeley, W.S.; J. W. Hinderwell, J. Hawker, A. J. Baatz, J. Rosenstock, W. Jeffrey, C. A. Beesley, J. H. Nottebohm, A. R. Parkinson, J. Hammond, and many others, opened the lodge. Amongst the visitors were noticed Bros. A. H. Tattershall, 13, S.D. 140; J. Patte, J.D. 147; A. D. Locwenstark, P.M. 548, P.M. 733, &c. The only ceremony was raising Bro. Robert Phipps to the Master Mason's degree, which the W.M. did in a creditable style, giving the whole of the degree, including the lecture on the Tracing Board. Bro. G. Stahr, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., Bro. J. Stevens, sen., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer for the fourth time, and Bro. S. Garrett, P.M., re-elected Tyler. The brethren then adjourned to a superior banquet, replete with every comfort.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKSHIRE.

READING.—*Lodge of Union* (No. 414).—On Tuesday, the 26th ult., the installation of the worthy brother elected to fill the office of the W.M. of this highly respectable and flourishing lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, when a goodly number of brethren assembled to witness the ceremony, which was most ably performed by Bro. Moxey, P.M. The W.M., Bro. A. G. Williams, being anxious to give *éclat* to the meeting, engaged the services of Bros. Dyson, Marriott, and Bridgewater, of the Royal Chapel of St. George, Windsor, who performed during the ceremonies some very appropriate and effective music, specially adapted by Bro. Dyson for the various degrees, the opening and closing of the lodge, as well as the installation, and which has gained so much favour not only in the provinces but at several of the London lodges, the words and music being most appropriate for the beautiful ceremonies of the Order, and which was performed in an artistic and able manner. Bro. Venables, Prov. G. Org. for Berks and Bucks, who is well known in this province as well as in many of the London lodges and chapters, presided most ably at the organ. The fitness and appropriateness of the music, as well as the performance, was the theme of general admiration. A sumptuous banquet was provided by Bro. Pontin, of the *George Hotel*, which received ample justice at the hands of the brethren. A most pleasant evening was spent in unity and harmony, a number of songs and glees—Masonic, sentimental, and national—being performed by the professional brethren. Bro. Dyson introduced a most appropriate addition to the song "God Bless the Prince of Wales," referring to the new-born Prince at Windsor. Bro. Venables presided at the pianoforte.

DORSETSHIRE.

WIMBORNE.—*Lodge of St. Cuthberga* (No. 622).—The brethren of this young but thriving lodge met on Monday evening, the 1st instant, when the brethren unanimously voted

that the requisite sum should be presented to the Boys' School in the name of Bro. Rowe, P.M., thereby constituting him a life governor of the institution, as a testimonial of their sense of his zeal and services for several years past. Two new candidates were also proposed for initiation.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.—*Prince of Wales' Lodge* (No. 951, late 1253).—The brethren of this lodge met at their lodge-room at the *Unicorn Hotel*, on Monday, January 25th, for the purpose of celebrating the festival of St. John the Evangelist, and installing their W.M. for the ensuing year. The R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Sherborne, honoured the lodge with his presence, and, in the absence of the retiring W.M., Bro. Sir J. M. Steele-Graves, Bart., P. Prov. G. Reg. for Gloucestershire, took the chair, and opened the lodge at three o'clock. After the usual preliminaries had been gone through, his lordship vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Major Machen, P.M. 284, and P. Prov. G. Standard Bearer for Warwickshire, who installed Bro. Rev. W. E. Hadow, P.M. 282, and P. Prov. G. Chap. for Devon, into the chair as W.M. for the year 1864. The new W.M. then appointed the following brethren as his officers, and they were according invested with the jewels of their respective offices:—Bros. R. J. Brookes, S.W. and Treas.; H. L. Grove, J.W. and Sec.; Rev. Otto Ball, Chap.; J. W. Neale, S.W.; J. Tipping, J.D.; C. J. Smith, Dir. of Cers.; W. Thornbury, Org.; J. Bullock, I.G.; J. Gallop, Tyler. The W.M. then commenced his year of office by raising Bro. Rev. R. Bamford to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Bros. the Right Hon. Lord Northwick, P.M. 357 and C. J. Smith, 22, were ballotted for as joining members, and unanimously elected. The lodge was then closed in perfect harmony, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served up in Bro. Gardiner's usual style, and, after honouring in due form the usual patriotic and Masonic toasts, separated about half-past eight, having spent a very pleasant afternoon together.

NORFOLK.

KING'S LYNN.—*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 107).—At the regular meeting of this lodge, held on the 1st inst., Bro. Richard Whitewell, W.M., presiding, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Bro. Geo. Webster, S.W., to appropriate the sum of £31, part of the lodge funds, in aid of the Masonic Charities—viz., £10 10s. to the Boys' School; £10 10s. to the Girls' School; and £10 to the Benevolent Institution. It is a matter of congratulation that the funds are in a state sufficiently prosperous to admit of the grant, and that the brethren have made so judicious a use of the available surplus. Bro. T. M. Wilkin, P.M., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and will be installed at the next meeting to be held on the 7th proximo.

WILTSHIRE.

DEVIZES.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 663).—A meeting of this lodge took place at the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 2nd instant, and was attended by a large number of brethren, including visitors from Wells, Trowbridge, &c. The business of the day commenced with the installation of Bro. D. A. Gibbs as W.M., the ceremony being performed by Bro. W. Biggs, the retiring Master; when Bro. Gibbs was pleased to appoint the following brethren to their respective offices:—Bros. John Long, S.W.; M'Hugh, J.W.; Wittey, Prov. S.G.W., Sec.; Burt, P. Prov. S.G.W., Treas.; Rev. T. Ravenshaw, Chap.; O'Reilly, S.D.; Ford, J.D. A vote of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation was carried by acclamation in acknowledgment of their kindness in allowing the use of the hall for their meetings. Three brethren were proposed as joining members, and one gentleman for initiation at the next lodge night, which is fixed for Thursday, the 18th. At the conclusion of the business the brethren adjourned to the old lodge room, at the Elm Tree Inn, where a splendid dinner awaited them, Bro. S. W. Taylor having very handsomely contributed a bountiful supply of venison and game, and the Master champagne. Amongst the company present were Bros. John Kelway, Prov. J.G.W. Somerset and W.M. 446; R. D. M. Lawson, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. Wilts and W.M. 632; J. Bristow, 446; Rev. J. K. Booker, 1,202; Rev. T. Ravenshaw, P. Prov. G. Chap. Oxon, and Chaplain of the lodge; S. Wittey, Prov. S.G.W. of the province; Burt, P. Prov. S.G.W.; W. Biggs, P. Prov. G.W.; H. Calf, Prov. S.G.D.; George Waylen, Edward

Giddings, John Long, C. Clark, &c. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, but none with more enthusiasm than that of the W.M., Bro. Gibbs, with every wish for a successful and prosperous year of office. A truly happy evening was spent, interspersed with some excellent songs, Bro. Clark kindly presiding at the piano, the brethren finally separating at nine o'clock.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST RIDINGS).

STOKESLEY.—*Cleveland Lodge* (No. 543).—The annual festival of this lodge was celebrated on Monday, January 18th, at the Golden Lion Inn, when a very excellent repast was provided for the occasion by Bro. Edward Smith, the host. Bro. George Marwood, of Busby Hall, J.P., D. Prov. G.M., occupied the chair; and Bro. Richard Watson, W.M., officiated as croupier. Grace was said by Bro. the Rev. W. L. Croft. After the cloth was drawn, the following toasts were given:—"The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England, and of the Province," "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M. of England," "The R.W. Bro. Marwood, D.G.M. of the Province, and P.M. of the lodge," proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Bro. Marwood; "The W.M. and brethren of the North York Lodge," responded to by Bro. Francis Atkinson, P.M. and W.M. of that lodge; "The W.M. of the Cleveland Lodge," responded to by Bro. Richard Watson, W.M.; "Prosperity to the Cleveland Lodge," proposed by Bro. Atkinson, and responded to by Bro. J. H. Handyside, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.W.; "To the Memory of the late Bro. William Martin, P.M.," drunk in solemn silence; "The Officers of the Cleveland Lodge," responded to by Bro. George Simpson, S.W.; "The Secretary's Toast," given in the usual manner; "To all Poor and Distressed Masons throughout the World, wishing them a speed Deliverance from all their Troubles," "Prosperity to the North York Rifles," "The Press," coupled with the health of Bro. Tweddell," proposed by Bro. Stephen Hunter, P.M., and responded to by Bro. George Markham Tweddell; "The Host and Hostess." A number of excellent songs and recitations were given, and the evening was passed with that harmony and decorum peculiar to the Craft.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

BATLEY-CARR, DEWSBURY.—*St John's Lodge* (No. 827).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 25th ult. The lodge was opened at seven p.m. by Bro. John Armitage, W.M., and the following brethren:—Wm. Richardson, S.W.; Wm. Thackrah, J.W.; John Lobley, P.M.; A. Wilson, P.M.; R. R. Nelson, P.M., and Prov. G. Sec.; John Spiking, and George Fox, P.M. 208; R. Hewitt, Hon. Sec.; J. Fox, S.D.; J. Vero, J.D.; John Whittles, I.G., and other brethren. The minutes were read and confirmed, also several communications, including one from the R.W. the Rt. Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G.M., and Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, appointing our trusty and talented Bro. R. R. Nelson, Prov. G. Sec., to fill the office of D. Prov. G.M. *ad interim*, until such time as he shall see fit to appoint a D. Prov. G.M. in the place of our late highly esteemed D. Prov. G.M., Bro. George Fearnley, M.D., and Grand Deacon of England. After which the ballot was taken for Mr. Charles Robert Scholes, Mayor of Dewsbury, as a candidate for Freemasonry, who, being found worthy, was then admitted in due form, and solemnly initiated into the Order by the W.M. The explanation of the working tools was given by Bro. G. Fox, P.M. 208 in his usual effective and well-known manner. The charge, &c., was then delivered by the newly-appointed D. Prov. G.M., Bro. R. R. Nelson, in a very creditable manner. A resolution was unanimously passed that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the daughter of our late R.W. D. Prov. Grand Master expressive of the high respect in which he was held by every member of this lodge, and the deep regret at his demise, &c. A profound silence reigned during the proposition, showing the deep sympathy felt by every member in the sentiments expressed. The whole of the business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room, when ample justice was done to the repast. The usual loyal toasts were proposed, after which the W.M. proposed "The Health of the M.W.G.M. the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland, the D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers." The Prov. G.M., R.W. Bro. the Rt. Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, he said, was a pleasant toast for any brother to propose in this province, because it was always received by the brethren

with that good feeling and true heartedness which it merited.—The next toast was "The newly-appointed D. Prov. G.M., and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers," which was responded to by Bros. R. R. Nelson, D. Prov. G.M.; Edwd. Chadwick, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; and Abraham Wilson, Prov. G. Standard Bearer.—Bro. W. Richardson, S.W., proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. John Armitage," which was duly responded to.—The W.M. proposed "The Health of the Wardens of the St. John's Lodge," coupling with the toast the rest of the Officers, and hoped they would support him during his year of office. This toast was responded to by Bro. W. Richardson, S.W., and the rest of the officers.—Bro. John Lobley next proposed "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," coupling with it especially the name of Bro. L. A. Shepherd, P.M. No. 208.—Bro. Shepherd responded on behalf of himself and the visiting brethren.—"The P.M.'s of St. John's Lodge," was proposed by the Rev. Bro. Appleyard, Chap., and responded to by Bro. John Lobley, P.M.—The W.M. next proposed "The Newly-initiated Candidate," and in doing so expressed a hope to see him at some not very distant date rise in Masonry to a high position, as he possessed ability and time, and had risen to a very high position out of the Craft. The toast was received and drunk with good feeling.—Bro. Scholes, in responding, said that after passing through the solemn ordeal of the evening, he would for the present content himself by thanking the brethren for the kind manner in which they had received his name, and at some other time he would say more.—The W.M. then stated that the business of the evening should be closed, in respect to the memory of our departed Bro. Dr. Fearnley, D. Prov. G.M., when all the brethren expressed concurrence, and thus ended a pleasant and agreeable evening of this thriving and prosperous lodge.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was held on Wednesday. The Chapter was opened by Comps. Gibbs, Prov. G. Supt. of Bombay, as Z.; Havers, P.G.J., as H.; Evans, P.G.N., as J.; Jennings, G.N.; Clarke, G.E.; Potter, as G. Soj.; and Comps. Le Veau and Gole, as Assist. G. Sojs. There were also present—Comps. McIntyre, G. Reg.; Head, G.S.B.; Perkins, P.G. Soj.; Bradford, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; Smith, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; Payne, G. Jan.; Stebbing, Farnfield, Woodley, Spencer, Buss, Webb, and about half-a-dozen others.

The Chapter was opened with an impressiveness which made us desire that the G.Z. could find as able representatives in England as he apparently can in India.

The G. Scribe E. proceeded to read the minutes, during which it was announced that the G. Third Principal had arrived (the first and second nobody ever expects to see, and therefore is not disappointed). Shortly afterwards Lord Sherborne entered, and a scene ensued by the changing of robes, &c., which reminded us more of an harlequinade than anything else—thus varying the usual entertainments—Lord Sherborne bearing Z., and Comp. Gibbs, H. Comp. Evans offered his robes as J. to Comp. Havers; but as there was, luckily, one Companion of common sense present amongst the heads of the Order, they were declined, and we are bound to admit, we regretted the changes that did take place for more than one reason.

The "tomfoolery" of changing being by the help of the Janitor got over, the business was proceeded with and the minutes confirmed.

On the motion of Comp. JENNINGS, the report of the Committee was received and entered on the minutes.

Comp. JENNINGS said that there were some passages in the report on which it was necessary to take action. The first was with regard to the High Cross Chapter, meeting at Tottenham, relative to which a petition had been presented for its removal to London. The question had been referred back to the Com-

mittee at last Grand Chapter, and the Committee had come to the conclusion that there was reason advanced to justify the removal. He therefore moved that the petition be dismissed.

Comp. EVANS said that the chapter had been granted for the convenience of the High Cross Lodge, meeting at Tottenham, and as such he thought it ought not to be removed. He seconded the motion.

Comp. NUNN, Scribe E. of the High Cross Chapter, said that the M.E.Z. of the chapter was lying dangerously ill, and it was only last Friday that he became acquainted with the position in which they stood, and therefore it was that the chapter was not represented before the Committee to support the prayer of the petition. The former proprietor of the house where the chapter met had taken away the furniture, and the companions had re-furnished it at great expense; but they had no hopes of making the chapter prosperous at Tottenham. All they asked for now was time to enable the chapter to appear before the Committee, when they believed that they could show good cause for its removal.

Comp. BLICKFELDT stated that at the time of the granting of the charter there were only three petitioners connected with the lodge, one of whom was the landlord of the house, and another a companion who had since resigned.

Comp. M'INTYRE said there must be a mistake as regarded the signatures to the petition for the charter being only three, as without nine it would not have been granted; neither could it have been granted without a vote of the lodge recommending it. He always understood the Royal Arch to be the crown of the building, the completion of the Master Masons degree,—the finding of the real for the substituted secrets. As such the lodge had a right to its chapter, and if the latter were removed to any distance a great injustice might be done, as whilst a chapter remained attached to a lodge, however far apart they might be, the members of the lodge were precluded from applying for another charter. As to the objection of want of notice, that could not stand as the lodge was represented at the last Grand Chapter when the matter was referred back to the Committee, and they all ought to know that the Committee met a fortnight before the Grand Chapter.

The G. SCRIBE explained that, though not directed to do so, he had written to the First Principal of the chapter, explaining that the matter would come under the consideration of the Committee at its last meeting; but it appeared that, owing to the illness of the First Principal, the letter had not been delivered to him.

Comp. BLICKFELDT explained that what he meant to say that of the companions signing the petition for the chapter only three were members of the High Cross Lodge, though the lodge did sanction the application.

The resolution was then put and carried, thereby negating the proposed removal.

Comp. JENNINGS next called attention to the second paragraph of the report:—"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."—The Committee, he said, had felt some difficulty on the subject, but under all the circumstances were of opinion that the certificates should be issued, and he begged to move that they should be.

Comp. EVANS seconded the motion.

Comp. STEBBING said that there was nothing in the "Book of Constitutions" forbidding the holding of chapters on a Sunday, and therefore the proposed issue of certificates was an act of justice, not grace. He did not say it was not wrong to hold them on that day, and they did not do such things in his part of the country, but if anybody was to blame it was Grand Chapter in not rendering its laws clear and intelligible. (Laughter.)

The resolution was adopted.

Comp. JENNINGS then called attention to the appeal of Comp. Moss Israel, of the Zetland Chapter of Australia (No. 390), Sydney, New South Wales. Comp. Israel, who 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.

The G. REGISTRAR said, that however defective the rules and regulations might be in other respects, and he did not deny they were so (hear, hear), they were certainly explicit in this—viz., that under Article 10, page 5, a brother suspended from his Masonic functions in Craft Masonry, was, on the fact being reported to Grand Chapter or other competent authority, thereby suspended from his position in Arch Masonry.

Comp. JENNINGS said the position of Comp. Moss was this—he maintained that under the common law, he must be held as guiltless of any charge against him until his appeal was heard. Now, Bro. Moss, had an appeal to Grand Lodge against the decision of the Provincial Grand Master; but in Masonry, the suspension took place from the moment of its being decreed, and the appeal could only restore him to his position. In the meanwhile, however, it appeared that a very curious circumstance took place after Comp. Moss was suspended; a ballot took place for Principal Z. of his Chapter, and though the Companions were warned that under the circumstances he was not eligible, he obtained a majority of votes. These votes the Principal Z. very properly treated as null and void, and declared the next Companion on the list, Comp. Bradford, as elected; and they ought, at least, to determine in what position that Companion would be, should Comp. Moss be restored to his privileges.

A lengthened discussion ensued, in which it was explained that it was clear that Comp. Moss could not be legally elected whilst under suspension, and that should that suspension be hereafter proved to be illegal and set aside, however deeply they might sympathise with Comp. Moss in his misfortunes, they could not set aside the election of Comp. Bradford. Ultimately, it was resolved, on the motion of Comp. STEBBING, seconded by Comp. WEBB, that the suspension having taken place in accordance with the Royal Arch regulations, the Grand Chapter had no power to interfere until the appeal to Grand Lodge was disposed of; and that, under the circumstances, the election of Comp. Bradford as Z. was not illegal and could not be set aside as prayed by Comp. Moss.

The following warrants for new chapters were then agreed to be issued:—To 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; to 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; and to 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.

Comp. JENNINGS having announced that proofs of the new editions of the Royal Arch Regulations would soon be ready for inspection prior to its being brought under the consideration of Grand Chapter in May, Grand Chapter closed in form.

IRELAND.

MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL. ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

There are few institutions in these countries which attract so much of public interest and, in many cases, public support as the Masonic body, and scarcely any whose objects are more commendable, whose charity is more boundless, and whose members are more influential and numerous. There is no society whose meetings the public are more anxious to attend, and we do not think we would exaggerate by stating that there is no society in Ireland, at least, which has had greater success in all its efforts to bring itself, as well as its charities, before public notice. An exemplification of this statement was apparent by a glance at the magnificent Round Room of the Rotunda on the 27th ult., on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes to the children of the Masonic Female Orphan School. The assemblage which was present to witness it was very brilliant and very large. The room was decorated in a style so handsome as to defy description. It was radiantly illuminated in every part; a most remarkable effect in this respect being presented by a row of triple gas jets, which was placed on the cornice of the beautiful dome. Each of the Corinthian pillars round the room bore an emblazoned banner bearing a compass and square, or plumb-line and mallet, or other Masonic device. The banners of Lodge 215 were conspicuously suspended from the ceiling, with fine effect. To the rear of the platform, the arms of the more distinguished members of the Grand Lodge were placed, and amongst these none could fail to notice the escutcheon and motto of the Grand Master, his Grace the Duke of Leinster. Several stars in gas jets illuminated the windows. The galleries were decorated with banners, helmets, swords, flowers, and evergreens, and the British flag was not wanting. Not an inch of standing or sitting room was unoccupied, yet there was not inconvenient crushing or crowding. At the lowest estimation there were 2,000 persons present. The gentlemen, of whom the majority were Freemasons, appeared in their aprons, scarfs, jewels, and other regalia. The gold and silver ornaments of these articles shone brilliantly in the gas light, and added much to the splendour of the scene. The ladies, who composed fully one half of the assemblage, were in full evening dress, and constituted a charming and rare array of "glistening beauty." It was a grateful sight to see so many of them taking an interest in their helpless orphan sisters.

The proceedings of the evening commenced at eight o'clock precisely. At that hour a quaint march, by the band of the 86th Regiment, under the direction of Bro. Savage, intimated that the procession of the leading members of the body, including his Grace the Duke of Leinster, was about to proceed to the platform. Shortly after the procession entered the room, in the following order:—

Stewards. Assistant Tyler to the Grand Lodge, Bro. Batchelor. Dublin lodges, according to seniority, the junior first. Officers and members of the Grand Master's Lodge. The Vice-Presidents, Honorary Officers, and Committees of the Orphan School. The Tyler to the Grand Lodge, Bro. Downes. Representatives from Foreign Grand Lodges. Provincial Grand Officers. Grand Inner Guard. Grand Organist, Bro. F. Quinn. Grand Steward. Grand Superintendent of Works, Bro. Chas.

Astley. The Grand Deacons with their Wands, Bros. A. Bushe and E. La Touche. The Chaplain of the Orphan School, carrying the Bible. The Grand Chaplains, Bros. J. J. M'Sorley and S. G. Morrison. The Grand Treasurer. The Grand Secretary. The Grand Warden, Bro. Sir E. Borough, Bart. The Grand Sword Bearer, carrying the Sword, Bro. G. Hepburn. The Deputy Grand Secretary, with the "Book of Constitutions," Bro. C. T. Walmesley. The Grand Master, His Grace the Duke of Leinster. Deputy Grand Master, Bro. T. F. Townsend. Past Grand Officers, &c. The Grand Director of Ceremonies, with his Wand, Bro. J. Manning.

On ascending the platform, the brethren filed off according to their lodges, the Grand Master taking the throne. His Grace was then saluted, according to ancient usage, "by eleven on the first coming down."

The pupils of the Masonic Female Orphan School, to the number of about fifty, then entered the room, accompanied by the Stewards, the Hon. Secretary, Bro. La Touche; the Assistant Secretary, Bro. Oldham; the medical officer, Bro. Speedy; the matron, Mrs. Noble; and the governess, Miss Cuthbert. The children presented a most intelligent, clean, and happy appearance. They were seated in two rows along the front of the platform.

The 100th Psalm was then sung, and prayer having been offered up by the Rev. J. J. M'Sorley, Senior Grand Chaplain.

The D.G. Master, Dr. TOWNSEND, then addressed the assembly. He said:—My Lord Duke,—The governors of the Masonic Orphan School have thrown upon me the duty—although I am barely able to accomplish the task,—of commencing the proceedings of this evening by a few short words, in order to explain to those who may not belong to our association—and there are, doubtless, many such present in this vast assembly—and in order to remind those who do belong to it of the objects which the governors have had in view in bringing forward in this public and somewhat unusual manner the pupils of the Masonic Orphan School to receive their prizes from the hands of their venerated Grand Master, and in laying before the supporters of the institution the report of the past year. My Lord, it is certainly within your recollection, as it is within mine, and probably within that of many present, that the holding of these annual meetings in this very public manner has been a matter of very recent institution. In fact, the Masonic Orphan School itself is not an establishment of very ancient date. I believe it commenced by a vote of the Grand Lodge of Ireland about the year 1796. The very names of those who were the institutors of this excellent charity have passed away from our recollection. No record remains of them; and the early records of the school, if any such were kept, have perished likewise. But, however, our gratitude is due to them. (Hear, hear.) It may be probably asked—at least the question will occur to some,—why it was so late in time when this institution was thought of. The origin of the Masonic Society is now irretrievably lost in the darkness of the past. We can trace it in the middle ages in those wonderful works which the skill and perseverance of the free architects had spread over the face of all the countries of Europe. Of the earliest institution of Masonry, of the early relation of Freemasons to each other, we have but a very faint and dim traditionary outline; but of what was the bond between the Masons of the middle ages we have some memorial in that extraordinary collection of maxims, venerable from their rude simplicity, which had come down to us under the name of the Ancient Charges—a title well-known to all Masonic ears—which is still in our hands, and is read every day in our lodges. In all these we find no mention whatsoever of any obligation upon the brethren of the society to support its widows or its orphans. It seems to have been an association of operative workmen, who were bound together as a mutual co-operative society, but nothing analogous at all to an institution for the education, or even for the sustenance and support of the children of the deceased brethren appears to have been thought of. That was reserved for later times. Even when our institution ceased to be an assemblage of operative mechanics, and became a charitable society, a social body, a body rather looking to the morality which was implied in the original leagues and conditions of the corps, it was for a long time unthought of that any institution should be made for the support of our orphans. In the same way in the sister kingdom of England it was only at a very recent date that any establishment was opened for the support of Masonic orphan children. Therefore it is right that I should vindicate the society, in which your Grace's confidence has placed me in a very high and

responsible position, and to which I am under very many deep personal obligations, from the charge of remissness, because it would naturally occur to any one that this was one of the very first things that we ought to have set about. However, it was not set about until the year 1793 in this country, and when it was first established the institution appears to have been left to take care of itself. The Grand Lodge, it is true, supported it, and some of the brethren of those days supported it, but nothing appears to have been done to render it very effectual; and I must say it is not to the credit of the Order that it should have been suffered so long to languish in comparative obscurity. From the time that the noble Duke who now fills the chair of the Order became its Grand Master, in the year 1813, to the present day, he has been its munificent and constant supporter and friend. He has contributed annually for more than half a century £50 to its funds. (Hear, hear.) I would that the example had been better appreciated and better followed by our brethren. It was not so. The Orphan School, I must say, was for a long time allowed to languish in comparative obscurity. It was held in one humble street after another: it was almost unknown. I will venture to say, at the time when I first became a member of the Order, now a good many years ago, very few members of the Order then knew of its existence; and of those who did know of its existence, very few indeed were at all awakened to the paramount importance of supporting it. At length, however, it did attract the attention of some men of energy and ability amongst us, and I shall not be deterred by their presence from mentioning the names of two to whom our gratitude is due, and to whom our thanks should ever be paid—namely, my most respected predecessor in office, Mr. Hoyte, and my excellent friend the Rev. Henry Westby, who was then Grand Chaplain of the Order. (Applause.) It is to their exertions that we owe the establishment which we have come here to contribute to and support. If it had not been for their courage in incurring a very considerable pecuniary liability, the present school would not have been built. A new era appears to have dawned upon the Order. Many came forward to support it who never heard of it before. Many, seeing how it was flourishing, came forward with increased vigour to give, not merely their contributions to it—for many of us had not much money to give—but those contributions, not less valuable to men who have to earn their bread—their time and their labour. (Hear, hear.) Many men amongst us to whom time was indeed money, snatched from the occupations of professional or mercantile life an hour now and then to look after the affairs of the Orphan School, and to their generous exertions its present flourishing condition is to be attributed. We found the cares of the establishment becoming more onerous than they had been, and when we took it from the hands of the respectable persons who had hitherto overlooked it, but whose life and previous education had not fitted them for the supervision of an establishment intended for the education of youth,—when we took it into our hands, we found that its duties were becoming rather too heavy for any one set of men to attend to. Consequently the labour of overlooking it was subdivided between several committees, and some of the members of those several committees will this evening give you details of the working of the institution, into which I shall not enter. I only feel bound to say that these gentlemen did their duties zealously and well. Amongst the expedients thought of for bringing the institution more into public notice, it was suggested that we were keeping too much in the background, and that it would be well to awaken the spirit of emulation which is implanted by Providence in every human breast by holding a public examination of the pupils, in order to show what progress they had made during the previous few months, and to take the opportunity of rewarding the meritorious in a suitable manner. When this was first proposed some objections were made, and one intelligent friend of mine said that the school would be ruined if this were done. I myself was somewhat of the same opinion, being one of those strong-minded persons who said it would be particularly injurious to the children. It was a shocking thing to say, but it was said, that there was a spirit of vanity implanted in every female breast, which, if we gave it the least encouragement, would blaze into a flame which he would not be able to extinguish; and that we would be giving them rather too high a notion of their own positions. I was overruled, and so were the other parties who thought similarly. We were answered by the unanswerable argument—namely, that it would give them a proper notion of their position; that they should be brought

forward, to show them that they were supported by our liberality and to hear from the lips of those who had care of them, before such large assemblies as this, all these truths, which will be placed before you to-night. Therefore, I say we were overruled. You are aware, however, that the fundamental principle of our Order is that the minority must yield, and yield with a good grace, to the opinion of the majority. Your Grace has not any factious opposition to impede the hands of the administration. When a thing is once settled, we give way with as good grace as we can. We are at perfect liberty to retain our own opinions, provided we only act with those who differ from us, and who are the numerical majority. So a great number of those who at first thought the success of the experiment rather doubtful, gave way with a good grace, gave their assistance, and here we are to tell you what has been the result. The result, I may safely say, of bringing the claims of the school before the Masonic public has been, not merely to double, but to treble the annual income. I do not see that there was any other motive in the matter than that attributed to the founders of these annual meetings—namely, to sincerely endeavour to benefit the institution by bringing its claims into public notice, which has been done with a success which has been put beyond all possible question. At all events, whatever are our opinions, we are ready to concur with those of our brethren who think it is well that the Masonic public should hear what has been done in these institutions, and we are grateful to those who take the trouble of coming here to listen. Our first object has always been to see that the girls have a home in our school. It is not a mere place of education, a mere school for the destitute, or a refuge for those who have no other place to go to. It is really, in the full sense of the word, a home for the girls. It has been made so by the kindness of the matrons and by those by whom they are assisted, and who stand in the place of parents over the children. I should be happy that any one should come and see with their own eyes what is going on. It has been said that our society, with all its lofty pretensions to antiquity, and all its high claims to philanthropy and benevolence, effects but little. I am not here to vindicate our institution, but, nevertheless, our principles are those which no man need be ashamed to hold. But it may be said that benevolence and philanthropy are terms: benevolence may work itself out with very little exertion, and philanthropy may be evanescent, and although, when it finds its object in view, it may be a well-ordered sentiment, nevertheless, it may have very little practical effect. However, remember that these two principles are the great commandments:—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy might, and thy neighbour as thyself." These are the principles on which the Institution was founded, and which enabled it to last to this day—sometimes lauded, sometimes cherished, no doubt, by the highest of the earth. Kings, princes, and nobles were proud to wear our ancient garb, and proud to profess themselves followers of our Craft. It has been excommunicated, execrated, and called the curse of the earth, the snare of youth, the plaything of grown children, and the delusion of those of riper years. It is not so. It may be made so when abused—what mortal institution is there that cannot? If young men join us for the sake of society or enjoyment, or to wear the decorations, which are but gew gaws, they had, I believe, better stay away; but if they come to join, heart in hand, to carry out the great principles which are the great bases of our institution, and which every well-informed man knows to be so, they are welcome. We point out one way in which exertion may be best given for the benefit of the association, in which these orphans may be made respectable members of society. We trust we shall have many such brethren coming amongst us, and that my friend the Grand Chaplain will not find his office a sinecure during the ensuing year. I trust that none who come to visit our schools will find that any of us were wanting in our duty or had gone beyond our duty in bringing the claims of the school prominently forward before those whose duty it is to support it. We do not ask the charity of the public. We had at one time charity sermons and charity plays. I was at one sermon which was dreary, and a charity play, which was drearier still. We are now able to support our own institution. These results had been produced by the united efforts of a few men, not possessing any great influence in the association, but willing to co-operate together with heart and hand. God blessed our endeavours, and I trust, brethren of the Masonic Order, that you will all remember a sentiment, not now heard for the first time, "Except God build the house, their labour is but lost who build it."

Mr. EDMOND DIGGES LA TOUCHE, Hon. Sec., then presented an epitome of the report of the Female Orphan School, as follows:—

The governors of the Masonic Female Orphan School have to report that 38 girls, the daughters of their deceased brethren, are at present inmates of that institution, and that at the last election five eligible candidates were unable to obtain admission, in consequence of the limited accommodation which the house affords. During the past year five girls have been admitted to the school. Eligible situations in houses of business have been obtained for two of the former inmates, one has returned to her friends, who are now able to support her, and another will leave in the course of a few weeks to reside with her brother, who has recently purchased a farm in the county Kilkenny. The total revenue of the institution for the year 1863 amounted to £1,982 8s. 7d., and exceeded the revenue of 1862 by the sum of £121 11s. 1d. The excess was attributable chiefly to the sum of £191 14s. having been received from the committee of the Masonic ball; and the governors return their cordial thanks to that committee for the seasonable assistance which this institution derived from their fraternal aid and charitable exertions. Of that revenue £728 16s. 4d., was invested in accordance with the practice of the school for the purpose of replacing the stock which had been sold out when the addition to the present school house took place. A investigation of the expenditure will satisfy any person that the residue has been expended with the most rigid and scrupulous economy, under the careful superintendence of the Ladies' Committee, and of Mrs. Noble, the matron, and under the efficient supervision of the Finance Committee, in giving apprentice fees and outfits to the girls who have left the school, in the maintenance, dress, and education of the girls who remained in it, and defraying the other necessary expenses incident to so large an establishment. The governors regret to say that notwithstanding those exertions a balance remained due to their bankers at the close of the year, amounting to £10 4s. Upon the recommendation of the Education Committee, a change was effected in the system of education adopted in the school. Mons. Du Flos, a first-rate master, has been employed to instruct the girls in French, and his report, which is appended, indicates the progress they have already made, and the advantages they have derived from his instruction. The governors invite especial attention to the needlework of the girls, which, under the constant superintendence of the Ladies' Committee and Mrs. Noble, has improved. The governors cannot abstain from again acknowledging with gratitude the medical services rendered gratuitously to the inmates of the institution by Dr. Speedy, not only during the past year, but for the last 16 years. The governors have likewise the satisfaction of reporting favourably of the general conduct of the girls; their docility to their teachers, their obedience to the matron, and their affectionate feeling towards each other. The governors submit that the foregoing evidence of the usefulness of this institution, and of the benefits which it has conferred, entitle it to still greater support than it has hitherto received, and appeal to their brethren not to slacken their exertions or relax their efforts on behalf of those who have a paramount claim upon their Masonic sympathy and fraternal charity; but, encouraged by past success, to redouble their exertions to place the Masonic Female Orphan School in the state of independence and efficiency to which it is entitled. He said that he had only to express the regret of several eminent members of the Order at their inability to attend on that occasion. He had received several letters from members who had addressed them on former occasions, who expressed their regret at not being able to attend, but they fully joined in the aspirations which all present felt for the prosperity and success of the Masonic Female Orphan School.

The pupils then sang with taste and precision the "Orphan's Hymn," which was generally applauded by the assembly.

Mr. G. W. MAUNSELL said the absence of a very distinguished nobleman (Lord Naas), whose services in the cause of Masonry in general, and to the Female Orphan School in particular, has been long known and valued. He was called upon to move the following resolution:—

"That while the thanks of this meeting are due to those brethren who have endeavoured, during the past year, to augment the revenue and extend the benefits of the Masonic Female Orphan School, we desire to impress upon all the members of the Masonic Order throughout Ireland the peculiar and strong claims the institution possesses upon them for a largely-increased measure of support."

The resolution divided itself into two very distinct parts—the first was, to thank the gentlemen to whose unrequited labours the school owed so much, for their constant and unceasing care of its different departments. The next was an appeal to those members of the Order who might be absent, and might hear of their proceedings, and not only to them, but to the fair sex, who might see before them those orphans whom they had in charge; and if the wants and requirements of the school have had their attention called to them, they would not be unmindful of a word in season, and that next year would tell of more gratifying results than they had heard of that night. They had heard that the funds of the school exhibited an augmentation of £420, and that was the result of a brilliant assembly over which his Grace presided, and which was held in that room, and if they could hear of subscriptions in the ordinary course of their business, they might pride themselves on that increase. It was well that the brethren should know that it did not altogether result from increased subscriptions. He found that the committee, following out that prudence which had marked their career, had devoted a large proportion of that income to restore the funds that were sold out for the purpose of the building; and if the prudent management of his friend, the secretary, had added £728, they should now have something like £2,200; and having built their house, and restored their funds, he thought they had a right to take courage. He held a very important series of certificates in his hand from gentlemen who had kindly undertaken the duty of examining the pupils of the institution. He did not dwell upon these certificates of merit which might be the property of each pupil individually,—for they applied equally to the whole of the pupils of the school,—but he would beg to read a line or two from one of them. It was this:—"Several of the children have acquired a complete knowledge of the ordinary instruction, and possess more information than is usual for their age. The arrangements of the school are excellent; all the work is full of life, and seems to be animated by a spirit of love." He hoped there would be a lively and honourable emulation between every lodge in the city and in the country, in order to see who would do most for that noble institution. (Applause.)

Mr. MAXWELL CLOSE, M.P., rose to second resolution. He said that in rising to discharge the duty that devolved upon him on the present occasion, he would ask permission to express his grateful acknowledgments to the committee for placing him in so prominent a position, and for calling upon him to take a share in the proceedings of this evening. He would assure them that he regarded their invitation not only as one in which was devolved upon him a duty to discharge, for which he again thanked them, but he accepted the duty as an honour and a privilege. It had been urged by the enemies of the Order that the members of it were a body wholly given to conviviality, that their researches were confined entirely to astronomy, and their speculations confined altogether to pecuniary questions; but in answer to a charge so preposterous, and an error so grave, he thought the simplest refutation would be to point to the assembly upon the present occasion. It was not merely during the lifetime of their brethren that they extended to them the right hand of fellowship, or with it the hand of relief to the poorer members, nor did they content themselves simply with indulging in thinking of their memory. These sentiments they cherished, and rejoiced to do so. But they went still further, and extended to the survivors a more substantial, a more exalting, and a more enduring benefit. They provided for the orphan children of their departed brethren the advantages of an education, not merely regarding their intellectual accomplishments, but in the highest degree conducive to their moral amelioration, but they were also provided with a sound Scriptural education. (Hear, hear). Again, it had been urged against them that Freemasonry was antagonistic to the principles of morality and religion. He would think that the simplest refutation of so extraordinary a charge might be found in the historical fact that during many centuries of the world, more especially the dark ages, the warmest supporters of those principles were to be found amongst the ecclesiastics not only of Europe, but also of Great Britain. (Hear, hear). It had been said, and it was perhaps the gravest of the charges brought against them, that it was an institution not only antagonistic to the ordinances of the realm, but that it has on some occasions threatened the stability of the throne itself. In answer to this it was easy to prove, from the number of crowned heads that had joined the institution in every country in Europe, that it was not hostile to the throne. He then re-

ferred to the testimony given by the examiners as to the education of the pupils. Rev. Dr. Butcher, Regius Professor of Trinity College, has used these words:—"Having carefully examined the first and second classes of the Masonic Orphan School in the prescribed portions of the Old and New Testaments, I much much pleasure in stating that their general answering was very creditable." Professor Wilkinson said:—"I believe that in this school, education, in its highest sense, is imparted to the pupils. The children will be sent forth from this institution well furnished with technical knowledge, qualified to fulfil all the objects the philanthropist might deem desirable, and to realise in their future lives the idea of upright and Christian minded persons." It was not so much to those who were in the metropolis, but for those members of the institution who were scattered over Ireland, that this charitable appeal was required to be made. It was for the benefit of those who had no means of knowing the advantages of the institution,—of those who were severed geographically though not Masonically from them,—for those living at a distance who were ignorant of the workings of the institution. He would conclude by quoting the words of a distinguished Masonic writer, which were worth their deepest consideration:—"If, indeed, to acknowledge and adore that supreme and eternal God before whom all nature bends; if to obey with cheerfulness the laws of our country, if to stretch forth the hand of relief to the destitute, and to give consolation to the afflicted; if to enlighten the mind by the bright principles of virtue and science; if to cultivate the principles of peace and good-will with mankind; if these, I say, are acts of criminality, then, undoubtedly, we are deeply culpable, for these principles are the groundwork of our Order." Long, very long, may the superstructure rest on this imperishable foundation, and continue to be to the ends of the earth, with virtue, science and religion, the happy cementers of the majestic institution. (Loud applause).

The children of the school then sang, "The Clustering Roses," and "The Sabbath Bells" with much taste, the solos being sung by one of the girls in a manner to elicit general applause.

Bro. WESTROPPE, Prov. G.M. of South Munster, moved the following resolution:—

"That the thanks of this meeting are due to the members of the several committees of the institution for the zealous and efficient manner in which they have discharged the duties devolving upon them, and for the lively interest they manifest in everything conducive to the prosperity and progress of the Masonic Female Orphan School."

Bro. the Hon. G. HANCOCK, G. Sec., seconded the motion, and said nothing was said as yet as to the sanitary condition of your schools—to show the manner in which they are managed, the attention paid to the children by the matron and by the medical officer, Dr. Speedy. (Applause.) I am thankful to Providence to be able to state that death has not visited an inmate of our schools for a period of 17 years. We have every reason to be thankful. Another thing I wish to mention is that at most public and private schools, when an infectious disease breaks out, the pupils are removed. Such a course is not adopted in the Masonic Orphan School. The pupils are sent away, but to the hospital attached to the school, where they are kindly treated. I hope that from meetings such as these there will be a good result, and that we will have a boys' school as well as a girls'. There would be no difficulty in providing for well-educated boys in this city. He hoped yet, under the blessing of God, to see both these schools in full operation.

The resolution was adopted.

At the conclusion of the vocal music, the pupils were called forward and awarded the prizes by his Grace the Grand Master.

The following are the list of the pupils who gained prizes:—

First Class: Two Divisions.—Rebecca Butler, Lizzie Clancy, Bessy Masterson, Lizzie Mayne Moore, Anna Butler, Georgina Benner, Florence White, Rachel Loton, Jane Walsh, Harriett Loton.—Second Class: Eleanor Buchanan, Sarah Williams, Elizabeth Seed, Rose Mossop, Emily Thornton, Ellen Matthias, Alicia Gare, Phoebe Carroll.—Third Class: Emily Fox, Louisa Birch, Charlotte Courtenay, Annie Maxwell, Olivia Jones, Emily Benner, Lizzie Seymour, Emma Hall.—Fourth Class: Sarah Johnston, Georgina Shortt, Harriett Church, Lizzie Jones, Mary White.

The National Anthem was sung, and the Grand Master having been conducted from the platform, the proceedings terminated.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

ST. AUBIN'S LODGE (No. 958).—At the regular monthly meeting held on Tuesday, January 19th, the brethren assembled soon after half-past six, when the W.M. opened the lodge in the first degree, assisted by Bros. Mannan, acting as S.W.; Orange, J.W.; and Bro. Binet, acting as I.P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from the Prov. G.M., announcing the reinstatement of Bro. the Hon. E. Bellew in his rights and privileges as an English Mason. The W.M. read a correspondence between Bro. F. N. Giraudot and himself, relative to the resignation of the former as a member of this lodge, which the W.M. stated his inability to receive, in consequence of the suspension of Bro. Giraudot, and the non-receipt of any official announcement of the withdrawal of it on the part of the Prov. G.M. The W.M. presented to the lodge three frames to decorate the walls of the lodge room; the first containing a photograph of the doorway of St. Aubin's Lodge kindly sent to him from Devonport, which he had suitably mounted; the second containing an impression from the plate inserted in the foundation stone of the Masonic Temple; the third containing forty-eight designs for a lodge seal and envelope stamp drawn by himself. A resolution was passed expressive of thanks for these donations, and also for the trouble the W.M. had taken in preparing the designs. A committee was appointed, consisting of the W.M. and two Wardens, to make a selection and to have the dies prepared for the seal and envelope stamp. Several accounts were ordered to be paid. Bros. Mannan, S.D., and E. C. M. De Carteret, S.W., having proposed Mr. Henry Vint, as a candidate for initiation at seven days' notice, and ample testimony having been afforded to as his character, a ballot was taken, which proved to be unanimous in his favour. Mr. H. Vint, having signed the usual declaration, was introduced, properly prepared, and duly initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by the W.M., who also gave the customary charge appertaining to the first degree, but deferred the lecture on the tracing board to the next evening, in consequence of its great length, hoping then to have another candidate to hear it. The W.M. likewise, as is his habit on every initiation, presented to the newly made brother a copy of his published lectures on Freemasonry. The W.M. read the following letter, which is given at full length here, in the hope that it may excite the sympathy of other lodges, and induce them to send a contribution, which will be thankfully received and properly disposed of by the W.M. of St. Aubin's Lodge, Jersey. It may be added that the deceased brother, on behalf of whose children it was written, belongs to England, having resided in London, not in Jersey.

"To the W.M. of St. Aubin's Lodge (No. 958).

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In full confidence that the sad case which I have to lay before you will excite your sympathy, I venture to narrate the circumstances, and to beg that you will kindly lay them before your members, in the hope that they will be induced to render some pecuniary assistance. A friend of mine, Captain Johnstone, who has been for many years a Mason, has for a long time been unable to attend to his profession, owing to bad health, and thus his resources were reduced to a very low ebb. At last, however, he recovered so far as to undertake to conduct a ship, the *Clifton*, to Madras. He sailed from Sunderland, on the 26th of November last, having on board 35 persons, among whom were his wife and one child. Before the pilot left the vessel, and whilst it was in his charge, it was overtaken by one of the severe gales in the North Sea, and, though seen in distress, received no help; consequently, the vessel went down, and all on board have perished, including the pilot. When Capt. Johnstone was in Jersey last summer, he left his two youngest children, aged respectively fourteen months, and two and a half years, at nurse at St. John's, who are, by this calamity, orphans and destitute. It was the intention of Capt. Johnstone to send an order on his owners for a monthly payment for the support, of his children during his absence from England, by the pilot, who, however, did not return. As these poor little things are thus left unprovided for, of course efforts will be made to obtain their admission into some suitable asylum, but in the meantime money must be had for their subsistence till due provision can be made. This is one of those terrible calamities which no foresight can prevent, and should excite the sympathy of the brethren for children so situated. If your

lodge is able to make any grant, I will gladly undertake to see that it is proper disbursed.

"Believe me, yours fraternally,
"JOHN STEVENS, 958.

"Eagle House, St. Helier."

Some discussion took place, in the course of which the W.M. stated that, owing to a partial suspension of the by-laws during the first year of the existence of the lodge, in order to provide for the purchase of furniture, there was but little more than £2 in the hands of the Treasurer, applicable to the purpose. The result was that a resolution was passed appropriating the sum of £2 for the children of the late Bro. Capt. Johnstone. A gentleman was proposed for initiation at the next meeting on the proposition of Bro. Watson, seconded by the W.M. The lodge was closed at half-past eight with the usual forms, the brethren retired to another room for refreshment, and soon after half-past nine the party broke up.

INDIA.

(From the Indian Freemasons' Friend.)

BENGAL.

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER.

The annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Bengal was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 5th November, 1863. Present: Hugh D. Sandeman, G. Supt.; Frederick Jennings, D.G. Supt.; John W. Brown, G. Principal J.; William H. Hoff, Grand Scribe E.; James B. Knight, G. Principal Soj.; Thomas Dickson, G. Treas.; James H. Linton, G. Sword Bearer; Charles J. Evans, G. Standard Bearer; Charles K. Dove, G. Dir. of Cers.; William B. Collins, H. of Chapter Holy Zion; David J. Daniel, G. Janitor; and Comps. T. B. Lane, W. G. Baxter, and J. A. Hoffmann, of Chapter Hope.

The following Companions were absent:—John B. Roberts, G. Principal H.; William Clark, C.E., G. Scribe N.; Henry T. Prinsep, First G. Assist. Soj.; Brook S. B. Parlbly, Second G. Assist. Soj.; William H. Abbott, G. Reg.; James G. Bowerman, Grand. Org.; William J. Judge, Past Principal Z. of Chapter Hope.

The G. SUPERINTENDENT addressed the assembled Companions. He stated that the following chapters were in full working order:—Hope, Calcutta; Holy Zion, Calcutta; Firm Hope, Meerut; Dalhousie, Simla; Mount Sion, Benares; Ramsay, Lucknow; Umballa, Umballa; St. John the Baptist, Mussoorie; Punjab, Lahore. The Border Chapter at Peshawar was still in abeyance, but would probably be revived. The Chapter at Allahabad had shown no signs of revival. The following chapters were in arrears of returns and payments, and their neglect added considerably to the labour of the Grand Scribe E.:—Firm Hope, Meerut, for 1862; St. John the Baptist, Mussoorie, for three years, from 1860; Umballa, Umballa, for 1862; Punjab, Lahore, for 1862; Dalhousie, Simla, for three years, from 1860. The finances of the District Grand Chapter were not in a very good position, and a heavy outlay had been incurred in the purchase of jewels, clothing, and regalia, as, at the last convocation, it had not been considered proper that the District Grand Chapter should be constantly dependent upon Chapter Hope for such articles. The Grand Superintendent alluded to the improper conduct of a companion at Cawnpore, who had opened a Scotch chapter there in a highly irregular manner. The attention of the ruling authorities among the Scotch Masons in Bengal had, however, been attracted to his conduct. The same brother had recently been suspended in Craft Masonry for contumacy. His proceedings in Royal Arch Masonry, the Grand Superintendent observed, evinced a similar disregard of all Masonic law and precedent, if not a positive violation of his O. B. The Grand Superintendent had lately visited the chapters in Calcutta, and also the chapter at Benares, and had been exceedingly gratified by the manner in which they had been worked. At Benares and elsewhere, a notion prevailed that every Master Mason could be exalted one month after taking the third degree, without a dispensation. This was an error, which would be detrimental to the interests of Masonry; for when promotion was gained too rapidly, the honours of the Craft were likely to be held in small esteem. The companions working under the Grand Chapter of Scotland

appeared to hold the same opinion, and a mutual understanding had been tacitly arrived at that, except under very special circumstances, the Royal Arch Degree would not be given to any one who had not been a Master Mason for at least three months. The Grand Superintendent hoped that, eventually, the good old period of one year would be invariably fixed as the time of probation. The Grand Superintendent noticed that a new edition of the regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England was about to be published. He mentioned this for the information of those who might wish to register themselves as subscribers. The next regular meeting of the District Grand Chapter would be held (D.V.) on Thursday, the 3rd November, 1864.

The G. SCRIBE E. read the Finance Committee's Report on the audit of the G. Treasurer's accounts. The balance in hand amounted to Rs. 1,810, of which Rs. 1,000 was a fixed deposit in the Agra Bank.

Moved by Comp. W. H. HOFF, seconded by Comp. F. JENNINGS, and carried:—"That as the amount available for the expenses recently incurred is insufficient, the amount of interest which has accrued on the fixed deposit be transferred to the current account."

The G. SUPERINTENDENT read a letter from London from the G. Scribe E., stating that the appointment of D.G. Supt. could not be recognised.

The following appointments were made for the ensuing year:—

John W. Brown	Second G. Principal H.
William Clarke, C.E.	Third G. Principal J.
William H. Hoff	G. Scribe E.
James B. Knight	G. Scribe N.
Brook S. B. Parlbly	G. Principal Soj.
James H. Linton	First G. Assist. Soj.
Charles J. Evans	Second G. Assist. Soj.
Charles K. Dove	G. Reg.
Thomas Lane	G. Sword Bearer.
William B. Collins	G. Standard Bearer.
William G. Baxter	G. Dir. of Cers.

Comp. Thomas Dickson continued to hold the office of G. Treas., corresponding to the appointment held by him in the District Grand Lodge.

Each officer, on being invested with his badge of office, received a suitable address from the G. Supt., who specially alluded to the aid he had received from Comp. Lane on his recent visit to the Masons at some of the Mofussil stations.

The G. SUPERINTENDENT also passed a high eulogium on Comp. F. Jennings, for the services he had rendered to Royal Arch Masonry in Bengal.

It was resolved that the by-laws of the District Grand Chapter should be re-printed. A few alterations would be necessary, such as the substitution of the name of M.E. Comp. Hugh Sandeman for that of M.E. Comp. James Ramsay in the first law, the revision of the list of chapters in by-law 7, &c.

It was further resolved that any companion desirous of keeping the jewel or clothing of his office in his personal custody should be allowed to do so, on depositing the full value of the same in the hands of the G. Treasurer.

The District Grand Chapter was then closed in due form, and the Companions proceeded to the banquet room.

We must not omit to notice the beauty of the regalia supplied by Bro. R. Spencer, from the Masonic depot in Great Queen-street, London.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER AT ALLAHABAD.

We (*Indian Freemasons' Friend*) have received from a correspondent at Allahabad the following account of the Prov. G.M.'s visit to Lodge Independence with Philanthropy, on Monday, the 19th October:—

The members of Lodge Independence with Philanthropy had a goodly gathering last evening, to do honour to the Prov. G.M., who paid them an official visit, and who, I think, must have gone away well pleased with the hearty welcome which was given to him. The lodge met at half-past seven, and after the usual form of opening had been gone through, the Deacons were ordered out to usher in the Prov. G.M. and Bro. Thomas Lane, who had accompanied him as S.G.W. On entering the lodge, the Prov. G.M. took the tendered Hiram and ascended the E. chair, Bro. Lane assuming that of the S.W. in the West. Bro. Sandeman then addressed the lodge at some length, taking a retrospective view of its rises and falls since the days when he had ruled it, both as S.W. and Master, and finally compliment-

ing Bro. Spence, the present Master, upon his able management of the lodge, under circumstances of considerable difficulty and especially of financial pressure. He particularly alluded to a late case, which has formed, I am told, a subject of discussion in the Grand Lodge of Calcutta, saying that the Financial Committee had dealt with it as leniently as they could fairly do with justice to other private lodges, and hoping that they would speedily ride out of the storm which they had successfully weathered, and that he and they might be spared to meet again in a lodge for which he could not but have feelings of strong affection, and which could not but prosper under the energetic rule of Bro. Spence.

After this, the Prov. G.M. raised the lodge to the F.C. and M.M. degrees, and then turned us all out, in order that he and two other Past Masters who were present might formerly install the Master into the E. chair. This done, we were re-admitted, and then made to take a little walking exercise, as Masters and as F.C.'s and E.A.'s, as the lodge was gradually lowered, and to salute the newly installed Master "according to due and ancient form." The lodge was then closed, and we were ushered into the banquet-room, the Grand Master, his Warden, and the officers of the lodge all retaining their collars, which had rather a pretty effect. The banquet-room was most tastefully decorated with banners, transparencies, and flowers and evergreens in all sorts of mystic shapes; the table bore a magnificent cold collation, preceded by some excellent mulligatawny, which served as a good "pick me up" after the labours of the lodge. The dinner having been done justice to, and a sufficient quantity of excellent and well iced "sparkling" been taken to moisten the throats of the speakers, the ordinary toasts of the evening took place. In returning thanks for his own health, Bro. Sandeman thanked the lodge very cordially for the very handsome reception which they had given him, saying that he could answer for the District Grand Lodge that they would all appreciate the compliment which had been paid to them by the hospitality displayed to himself and to Bro. Lane, who had travelled thus far to visit up-country lodges as their representatives. He regretted the absence of Bro. Jennings, the D. Prov. G.M., and Bro. Knight, another Grand Officer, who had promised to be present, and who, he could but fancy, had been unable to procure a dāk from Benares, and were therefore not in the station. After a short pause, the Grand Master asked for the Hiram, and after paying a graceful compliment to Bro. Spence as ruler over the oldest lodge in the N.W. Provinces, and proposing his health in a bumper, expressed regret that, in so large and important a station as Allahabad, the lodge should be, numerically speaking, so weak. He thought it far from creditable to the very large number of Masons that must necessarily be residing in and near Allahabad, that there should be found only about thirty men who acted up to their Masonic obligation by supporting the local Master. He did not care for seeing numbers of new Masons brought beyond what was of course necessary for the continuance, by recruiting, of the Order; but he wished to see old Masons brought back to their allegiance, and he would ask all those present to use their best endeavours to point out to any Masons over whom they might have influence, what was the real spirit of their obligation to a Craft, which they had entered unsolicited and to which they had sworn fealty at their initiation. The toast of the W.M. was received with great applause, and Bro. Spence returned thanks in suitable terms. Some songs followed, and at about twelve o'clock the W.M. gave the final toast, and thus ended an exceedingly pleasant and instructive evening.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER AT LUCKNOW.

The following is a letter from a correspondent at Lucknow, dated the 24th October:—

Last night the Lodge Morning Star was the scene of unusual festivities in honour of a visit from the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal. Such an assemblage of the brethren it has never fallen to the lot of the oldest Mason previously to witness in Lodge Morning Star. The work commenced at six o'clock, and at half-past seven the company sat down to a magnificent banquet. The party (including visitors) numbered over sixty, and the table, which extended from one end of the hall to the other, was quite filled.

The lodge-rooms were most tastefully decorated in Masonic style, and brilliantly illuminated. Behind the eastern, western, and southern seats were the usual emblems, done in evergreens

and flowers, the banner of the lodge holding a conspicuous place in the east. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. Capper, who was unhappily prevented by sickness in his family from attending, the lodge was presided over by Bro. Melville Clarke, P.M., who after having introduced the brethren to the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. H. D. Sandeman took his seat, with their distinguished guests on his right, in the east, supported by his Wardens, Bros. Baring and Goode, in the west and south. The brethren and guests then took their places and commenced the attack on the good cheer provided for them. To describe the feast is a task which I am not competent to attempt, for there was a "carte" as long as my arm, in which were enumerated all the delicacies of the season, and many others besides; but the triumph of the evening was a dish of "Merin-gues," and the name of Bro. Baring, to whom was entrusted the preparation of the banquet, will be held in grateful remembrance by many for having provided such a real treat.

On the removal of the cloth, the W. MASTER proposed the first toast, "The Queen, a Mason's daughter, and the Craft," and the band struck up "God save the Queen," the brethren all standing till the strain was ended. Next in order came "The Health of the three Grand Masters," viz., of England, Ireland, and Scotland, which was drunk with Masonic honours—the band playing "Rule Britannia." The third toast was "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, and all lodges working under his Hiram," and as that officer was the distinguished guest of the lodge on that occasion, the W.M. took the opportunity of thanking that brother for the great honour he had done them, and remarked that it was by such support on the part of the seniors of the Craft that Masonry would flourish, and he called upon all Masons present to agree with him in expressing a wish that their visits might be extended, as far as possible, to all other lodges, and said he felt sure that such visits would be looked forward to with anxiety, and appreciated by all with the same sincerity as was his visit to Lodge Morning Star that evening.

The toast was responded to with enthusiasm by all present, and again the Masonic honours resounded through the hall, and the band played "Tubal Cain."

The Prov. G. MASTER then rose to return thanks. He said that it afforded him much pleasure to be present that evening, and that he was sincerely gratified with the very kind reception which he had met. It was not disparaging to his predecessors to say that he believed this to be the first occasion of a Masonic official tour on the part of a Provincial Grand Master. What was impossible for them in the days of palanquins and even of horse daks, was now easy by the aid of rail, and he hoped, in the full confidence that such tours would not be unproductive of good, to extend his visits in future years even to the most distant lodges in the British possessions of the Bengal Presidency. The Lucknow Lodge was evidently in a very healthy and prosperous condition, and he was sure that it would continue to prosper when it was, as now, manned by zealous officers and composed of brethren who dwelt together in harmony and fraternal love. He thanked them most cordially for their warm hospitality, and for the treat that he had enjoyed in visiting their lodge.

After this, the W. MASTER proposed "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," which was cordially received and drunk with Masonic honours, while the band played the "Masonic March."

This was replied to by Bro. LANE (who had accompanied the Prov. G.M. as a Grand Warden on his tour), in a neatly turned speech. The ease and fluency with which this officer spoke was a subject of remark to all.

Bro. SANDEMAN next rose to propose "The Health of Bro. Capper, the Master of Lodge Morning Star," who on this occasion was unavoidably absent, owing to severe sickness in his family. The Prov. G.M. expressed his sincere regret at not seeing the W.M. in his proper place, but especially at the cause of his absence, which had been a great disappointment to Bro. Capper himself. After paying a high eulogium to Bro. Capper, for the prosperous condition of the lodge, he proposed a bumper glass to his honour, with a fervent wish that health and strength might speedily be restored in his home.

The toast was received by the brethren in a manner which showed the esteem with which the subject of it was regarded, and it would indeed have been grateful to his feelings could he have witnessed (as it will be pleasing for him to hear of) the enthusiasm which was displayed on this occasion.

The Prov. G. MASTER then proposed "The Health of Bro. M. Clarke, P.M.," complimenting him upon the efficient manner in

which he had worked the lodge, and alluding to his valuable services in the cause of Freemasonry in this as well as in other districts.

BRO. CLARKE, P.M., rose to reply, and said that none could regret more deeply than himself the necessity which placed him in the position of Master of the lodge that evening. He regretted this the more as he well knew that Bro. Capper had looked forward to this occasion of doing honour to so distinguished a guest as he who graced their board that evening, and still more because he felt that he (the speaker) was unequal to the task of adequately fulfilling the duty. After a few more words, Bro. Clarke sat down.

BRO. BARING, S.W., then rose to propose, in a very telling speech, the health of non-Masonic guests, coupled with the name of Colonel Jenkins, commanding 19th Hussars.

Colonel JENKINS, in reply, said that it had always been a pleasure to him to be received among Freemasons; although he had never been tempted to join the Craft himself; that some of his oldest friends had been Masons, and that he had always known them to be estimable and good fellows. He wished the brethren long life and prosperity, and sat down amidst thunders of applause.

Next came the speech of the evening. His Highness Nawab Moomtaz-oo-Dowlah, a member of the Craft, was present, and the PROV. G. MASTER rose to propose his health. After a short preamble, he requested to be allowed to address the brother in the vernacular, as the Nawab's acquaintance with the English language was very limited. The Prov. G.M. then addressed the Nawab in a Hindoostanee speech of some length, deploring the general differences of feeling that existed between races, and hoping that Freemasonry might some day effect what civil policy aimed at—a general harmony of feeling and sympathetic love among all the nations of the human family.

The NAWAB replied in a few words, and appeared, as he said he was, deeply grateful for the honour that had been done him.

Shortly afterwards, the last toast was proposed by the W. MASTER—"To all Poor and Distressed Masons," which carries with it a permission for those to retire who wish, and gradually the brethren and guests rose to depart, and so ended the most successful entertainment of the sort that it has ever fallen to my lot to witness or even hear of.

Before I conclude, I should mention that the greatest credit is due to Bro. Di Michelli, to whom was entrusted the decoration of the lodge, for the exquisite taste displayed, and to the brethren of Lodge Morning Star in general, who joined so heartily to commemorate so auspicious an occasion as the visit to their lodge of the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

The first Masonic ball held in Leighton Buzzard came off on Thursday, the 21st ult., in the Corn Exchange. The idea of the ball arose with the members of the newly-formed Lodge of St. Barnabas, and considering that it is little more than six months since this lodge was established, the scheme was alike bold and spirited. The brethren connected with the lodges in the neighbourhood lent their aid and influence, and the result was that we have to record one of the most friendly, genial, and satisfactory gatherings of this kind that has ever taken place in the town.

The Corn Exchange presented a scene of more than ordinary interest and peculiar beauty. The unique and novel costume of the brethren lent a special interest to the affair, and the bond that united them in one common brotherhood took away any exclusiveness that might arise, and an agreeable interchange of sentiment and feeling pervaded the festivity.

The visitors began to arrive about nine o'clock, and shortly afterwards dancing commenced. The company, altogether about 90, was limited to the capacity of the room, which gave an air of ease and comfort to the entertainment without in any degree lessening the brightness of the *tout ensemble*. The dancing was spiritedly engaged in, and the interest continued unabated until one o'clock, when the company adjourned to the Assembly Room,

where tables were laid for supper. The *cuisine* department was intrusted to Mr. J. J. Wood, and was successfully carried out by that gentleman to the satisfaction of all.

Before the company adjourned, the Chairman (Bro. J. M. Shugar) rose and said—Ladies and gentlemen, I think you will all like to drink one toast before we adjourn, which will be "The Queen and the Craft." I can say, as the head of the lodge established in this town, which, I am happy to say, is in a flourishing condition, that myself and the brethren are gratified to see such a goodly assembly in this new hall, and we hope it will be the beginning of a great many similar entertainments. I wish all the brethren of this lodge, as well as others present, to join with me in this expression of loyalty and attachment to the Crown. I will not detain you longer, as I know you are anxious to return to the ball room. The toast was drunk right loyally.

Upon the return to the ball room, the "many twinkling feet" were again "energised" by the inspiring tunes of the band. The "wee short hours" were steadily but surely advancing, but the enjoyment continued without diminution or any token of weariness on the company.

As balls, like other mundane enjoyments, are temporary, this, like all former ones, had its termination, and the hall, "bursting with light" upon the withdrawal of its gay company, lapsed into appropriate gloom, and silence succeeded the inspiring music and the "bewitching waltz."

The decorations of the room were simple and in good taste. The walls were handsomely emblazoned with Masonic emblems, and hung with festoons of evergreens. At the top of the room was an exceedingly chaste design of a Masonic Temple, irradiated by a star of gas jets. The balcony was likewise illuminated by gas jets, in form of the letters "V. R." and a brilliant star lighted up in front of the Exchange.

LIVERPOOL.

The annual ball in aid of the funds of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution took place on Tuesday, January 19th, at the Town Hall, under the patronage of the Countess of Zetland, Lady Skelmersdale, Lady Arabella Hesketh, the Hon. Mrs. Wellington Cotton, his Worship the Mayor of Liverpool, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, the Grand Master of the Order, the Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Deputy Grand Master, and the other officers of the Grand Lodge, as well as the principal officers of lodges in this and adjoining counties. The institution referred to was established for the education and advancement in life of the children of deceased and decayed members of the mystic Craft, and by its means many bereaved ones have been provided for and comfortably settled in life, who, but for its existence, would have been thrown destitute upon the world. The brotherhood especially have always felt that the institution had the strongest claims upon their sympathy, and have therefore invariably liberally supported any movement set on foot that was calculated to benefit its funds or tended to its prosperity in any manner. Consequently this festivity has generally been a great success, and not only in a pecuniary sense, for the promoters, whilst paying due regard to the welfare of the noble establishment, so admirably manage matters that their annual ball is looked forward to as one of the most delightful, enjoyable gatherings of the season. That of Tuesday, January 19th, was eminently successful in every particular, and the directors may be congratulated upon the result of their efforts in the cause of the fatherless and the distressed. The arrangements in general, which were as complete as it was possible to make them, were carried out under a committee of management, of which Bro. Thomas Wylie, P. Prov. J.G.W., was chairman, and Bro. Younghusband, Prov. G.S., vice-chairman, to whom, as

well as to Bros. Howard, Gambell, Mott, Stone, Jacob, and more especially to the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. Taylor, the eminent success of the present ball is chiefly to be attributed.

There was no lack of music for the enlivenment of the company. The capital bands of the Second Lancashire Militia and of the First Lancashire Rifle Volunteers were stationed in the vestibule on each side of the grand staircase, and played alternately selections of popular music in very creditable style. The orchestras of the ball rooms were occupied by first-rate quadrille bands, under the direction of Bro. Wielopolski Phillips. In front of the orchestra of the larger ball room was suspended the magnificent banner of the Provincial Grand Lodge, on which are emblazoned the Freemasons' Arms, quartered with those of the county of Lancaster, and the arms of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The supper room was appropriately decorated with the numerous and richly-embazoned banners of the chapter.

Lady Skelmersdale and Lady Arabella Hesketh officiated as lady patronesses; Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas George Hesketh, Bart., M.P., as president; and Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale as vice-president.

The company began to arrive between eight and nine o'clock, and dancing was commenced soon afterwards, Bro. Molyneux, professor of dancing, officiating as master of the ceremonies. By ten o'clock the splendidly fitted up suite of apartments was filled by a brilliant, merry throng. The majority of the Craft wore the regalia appertaining to the various degrees to which they belong, bedecked with glittering jewels and golden emblems of the Craft. Some of the Knights Templar appeared in the long, flowing white mantle of their Order, with the Cross of the Crusaders upon the shoulder. Several gentlemen wore military and naval uniforms as well as elaborate Masonic adornments. The ladies generally were very elegantly attired. Amongst those present we noticed Lord Skelmersdale, J.G.W., and Lady Skelmersdale; Sir T. G. Hesketh, D. Prov. G.M. and P.G.W., and Lady Arabella Hesketh; his Worship the Mayor of Liverpool, Charles Mozley; Mr. Grimes, of Lima; Bros. Thomas Wylie, P. Prov. J.G.W.; James Billinge, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Captain James Bourne, Prov. J.G.W.; H. S. Alpass, Prov. G.S.B.; James Hamer, Prov. G. Tyler; William Allender, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; John L. Hower, P. Prov. G.J.D. Cheshire; Major Bousfield; Brandon Mozley; Frederick Mozley; Francis Shand; J. R. Jeffery, &c. Upwards of 600 persons were present.

[We have been informed that the result of the ball has enabled the Committee to hand over to the Treasurer of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution the handsome amount of £135 in aid of its funds, which is most gratifying. This Institution was established in 1852 by a few of the brethren in Liverpool, who are worthy of all praise in originating it, as it has for its object the education and advancement in life of the children of deceased and distressed Freemasons. The principle on which it is worked is such that it cannot fail in realising its object in a greater or lesser degree, as the interest only of donations (now forming a capital of £4,400) is used so that every contribution to the funds puts it in the power of the executive to admit further candidates for its privileges.]

CHOICE OF WORDS.—When you doubt between two words, choose the plainest, the commonest, the most idiomatic. Eschew fine words as you would *rouge*; love simple ones as you would native roses on your cheeks. Let us use the plainest and shortest words that will grammatically and gracefully express our meaning.

Obituary.

BRO. THE REV. THOMAS GILBERT.

Bro. the Rev. Thomas Gilbert died on the 22nd December, 1863, at Trinidad, aged 47 years, of apoplexy. Bro. Gilbert was born at Barlow, Derbyshire, on the 30th March, 1816, had been a resident at Trinidad for 25 years, and was at the time of his death rector of the parish of St. Paul. He was a Past Master of Trinity Lodge (No. 572), under the registry of the Grand Lodge of England. He has left a widow, four children, and a numerous number of friends and brethren deeply to deplore his loss.

BRO. JOSEPH WALKER.

On the morning of the 26th ult., the W.M. of St. John's Lodge (No. 827), Dewsbury, received intelligence of the death of the respected Bro. Joseph Walker, Dir. of Cers., after a very brief illness.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed have just added to their popular illustrations a new "Anglo-Egyptian Entertainment," written by Mr. Shirley Brooks, and entitled the "Pyramid; or, Foot-prints in the Sand," which affords ample opportunity for the development of dramatic character—Mr. and Mrs. Reed and Mr. John Parry being made to alternate variety of impersonations with an amount of dexterity which shows the fulness of their resources, both mechanical and mental. The piece opens with a scene in Alexandria, when a prologue is given by the three performers in their own individual characters. Having explained, in song and otherwise, the object of their meeting under such peculiar circumstances, they immediately start on a tour up the Nile, and a scene is next introduced, representing "the Sphinx, the Nile, and the Pyramid," one side of the stage being occupied by a tent, in which the owner of it has deposited a pianoforte and a bull-dog. Both the instrument and the animal are frequently brought into useful requisition; and it is only to be regretted that, although Mr. Reed discourses such excellent music, Mr. John Parry is not furnished with an opportunity of giving one of those buffo-scenes on the pianoforte, which have been his great speciality as a public entertainer. Amongst the more prominent features are characters representing the Hon. Dangleton Spangledone, the owner of the tent; Miss Rose O'Grady, an Irish young lady; Mr. Barnabas Boanerges Bradshaw, M.P.; Achilles Rododaculos, a Greek; the Pasha Suleiman Ataghan, a very grand Turk; Signor Mongantino, a magician; Mrs. Stratford Bow, a lady from London, &c. All these are admirably rendered by the artists, who sing and act with a degree of taste and skill which it would be difficult to surpass, seeing that each is evidently anxious to promote the general effect without endeavouring to out rival the others. Many of the personations were amongst the best which have been seen at the hands of these deservedly favourite performers; and when the entertainment shall have become more completely under their control than it could possibly be expected to be on the first night, it will be doubtless prove one of the most attractive that they have ever produced. The scene describing the Sphinx, the Nile, and the Pyramid is one of the best illustrations of scenic painting (aided by broad mechanical appliances) which the ability of Mr. Telbin has yet brought to light; and the audience testified their appreciation of it by the heartiest applause.

Poetry.

THE EMBLEMS OF THE CRAFT.

By ROB MORRIS.

Who wears *the Square* upon his breast,
Does in the eye of God attest,
And in the face of man,
That all his actions will compare
With the Divine, th' unerring square,
That squares great Virtue's plan—
That he erects his edifice
By *this design*, and *this*, and *this*!

Who wears *the Level* says that pride
Does not within his soul abide,
Nor foolish vanity;
That man has not a common doom,
And from the cradle to the tomb,
A common destiny;
And he erects his edifice
By *this design*, and *this*, and *this*!

Who wears *the G*, ah, type divine!
Abhors the atmosphere of sin,
And trusts in God alone;
His Father, Maker, Friend he knows;
He vows, and pays to God his vows
Before th' Eternal Throne:
And he erects his edifice
By *this design*, and *this*, and *this*!

Who wears *the Plumb*, behold how true
His words, his walk! and could we view
The chambers of his soul,
Each thought enshrined, so pure, so good,
By the stern line of rectitude,
Points truly to the goal:
And he erects his edifice
By *this design*, and *this*, and *this*!

Thus life and beauty come to view
In *each design* our fathers drew,
So glorious, so sublime;
Each breathes an odour from the bloom
Of gardens bright beyond the tomb,
Beyond the flight of time;
And bids us build on *this*, and *this*,
The walls of God's own edifice!

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and junior members of the Royal Family remain at Osborne. The Princess of Wales has resumed her carriage exercise, and returned thanks for her recovery in Windsor Church. It is said that the infant prince will be christened at Buckingham Palace on the 10th of March, and that his two first names will be "Albert" and "Victor."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—Parliament was opened on Thursday with the speech from the throne. Her Majesty is confident that her people will share with her in gratitude to God, on account of the Princess of Wales having given birth to a son,

King of Denmark, has been a source of great anxiety; but her Majesty, actuated by a sincere desire for peace, has been unremitting in her endeavours to bring about a peaceful settlement of the differences which on this matter have arisen between Germany and Denmark, and to ward off the dangers which might follow from a beginning of warfare in the north of Europe; and her Majesty will continue her efforts in the interest of peace. Her Majesty regrets the late occurrences in Japan, and that the measures necessary to compel the Daimio Prince of Satsuma to meet the just demands made upon him, should have led incidentally to the destruction of a considerable portion of the town of Kagosima. The insurrection in New Zealand continues, but there is reason to hope it will soon be brought to a close. Arrangements have been made for ceding the Ionian Islands to Greece, and a treaty is in negotiation with the King of the Hellenes to carry them out. The estimates have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service. The condition of the country is, on the whole, satisfactory, and there is every reason to expect an increased supply of cotton. Her Majesty has directed that a commission shall be issued for the purpose of revising the various forms of subscription and declaration required to be made by the clergy of the Established Church. Various measures of public usefulness will be submitted for consideration.

HOME NEWS.—The health of London has considerably improved within the last week. In the previous week the deaths were 2,180; since then they have fallen to 1,749. They were still, however, considerably above the average, which upon the ten years would give a mortality for the last week of 1,529, or more than 200 below the actual amount of deaths. There were in the same period 2,107 births; the ten years' average is 2,035. —The committee charged with providing the banquet in the City to the Prince and Princess of Wales have just published an elaborate report of their proceedings. It appears that the whole cost of the banquet, which lasted six hours altogether, amounted to £16,590, afterwards reduced by about £1,500 by the re-sale of a variety of the articles used on the occasion. —Mr. Scholefield and Mr. Bright attended the half-yearly meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, and spoke at some length on the subjects touched upon in the report presented to the meeting. Mr. Bright said he was not alarmed at the possible abolition of the patent law, for he was not sure that either the country or the inventors would lose anything by such a measure. The existing law was "a jumble and chaos," and required extensive amendment. The hon. gentleman also spoke upon the question of maritime law, upon the constitution of the Board of Trade, and upon the functions of chambers of commerce. —A deputation of paper-makers waited upon Mr. Milner Gibson last week and laid their grievances before him. They represented their trade to be in a "really ruinous condition" in consequence of the free admission of French paper into this country, while the export of rags from France is saddled with a considerable duty. Mr. Milner Gibson pointed out that "a great increase" took place last year in the number of licences issued for paper mills, a fact which scarcely appeared to corroborate the complaints of the deputation that the English paper trade was ruined. He stated, however, that the Government were endeavouring to induce the French and other Governments to adopt a full free-trade policy, and that the Italian Government had actually repealed the duty on rags exported to this country. —Captain Weir, Dr. Turnbull, and Lieut. Fitzsimon, of the Inniskilling Dragoons, have been placed upon half pay. The Duke of Cambridge's "remarks" on the Crawley court-martial left no doubt as to the ultimate fate of Major Swindley, Dr. Turnbull, and Mr. Fitzsimon; but some sur-

The state of affairs on the continent, caused by the death of the prise is expressed at the removal of Captain Weir, who is described as a veteran who rose from the ranks, and who has seen close upon forty years' service.—It is asserted that the military authorities at Portsmouth received instructions on Saturday "to make the necessary preparations for an influx of troops."—It appears that the authorities at Frankfort have declined to grant a concession to draw the *Great Eastern* lottery in that city; and the ship will be offered for sale at Liverpool on the 17th of February, "without any reserve."—The notorious Yelverton matrimonial case, which has caused so much excitement in Ireland and in Scotland has at last found its way into the English courts of law. An application was made in the Court of Common Pleas on Saturday to allow Mr. Thelwall, of Hull, who obtained a judgment against Major Yelverton in the Irish courts for money advanced in support of his wife, to serve notice upon the major otherwise than personally, as it was alleged that he kept out of the way to avoid the service. The Court, however, held that sufficient proof had not been laid before them of all necessary diligence having been used to discover the defendant, and for the present they refused the application.—The divorce case of O'Kane against O'Kane and Lord Palmerston, has been before the court on a question of compelling the petitioner to proceed with his suit, or have it struck off the file. The petitioner has withdrawn from the suit "solely," as he says, "for the sake of his young children," and "not from any inability to establish the allegations contained in his petition." The petitioner, according to an affidavit put in by his solicitor, says the case has been compromised. He does not say with whom the case was compromised, and the solicitor for the lady makes another affidavit on her part, denying that she was any party to the compromise, and the solicitor added that he was informed by the solicitors to Lord Palmerston that they too knew nothing about a compromise. When the case came before the Court, Mr. Browne, for the petitioner, was at great pains to state that neither respondent nor co-respondent had anything to do with the compromise. The Queen's Advocate, who appeared for Lord Palmerston, said he had not even seen these affidavits, in consequence of which the Judge refused to proceed further, but adjourned the case till Thursday, when the petition was dismissed, the Judge remarking that "the chastity of the respondent, who has challenged the fullest inquiry and proof, should receive no tarnish from the ordeal," and it was a matter of satisfaction as regarded the co-respondent, "that a name which is never mentioned in England without a just pride, should have passed from its annals without a stain."—The strong representations made to Sir George Grey on the Townley case by the Magistrates of Derbyshire have led to an unexpected result. The convict has been condemned to penal servitude for life. It will be remembered that when the County Justices of Derby recently urged that a full inquiry should be made into Townley's state of mind, the reply was that Sir George Grey had no power to order such an investigation. The Home Secretary appears, however, to have been imperfectly informed as to the full extent of his powers in such a case, for we find that "with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor" he a few days ago requested Dr. Hood and Dr. Bucknill, visitors of Chancery Lunatics, together with the medical superintendents of Bethlem Hospital and the Criminal Lunatic Asylum at Broadmoor, to examine and report upon the mental condition of the convict. These four gentlemen, who are described by Sir G. Grey as men "of great experience in mental diseases," have unanimously arrived at the conclusion that Townley "is of sound mind." The Government "are of opinion that it

would not be right that the capital sentence should now be carried into effect," and it has, therefore, been commuted to penal servitude for life. It is the intention of the Government to propose an amendment of the act under which the certificates of insanity in this case were given.—Mr. Paget, one of the members for Nottingham, has given a matter-of-fact reply to Mr. Bright's statements as to the condition and prospects of the agricultural labourer in this country. The hon. gentleman stated, at a meeting of his constituents on Tuesday night, that on reading the member for Birmingham's speech, he looked over his rent-roll, and there found that five out of the seven of his tenants who pay rents of upwards of a £100 a-year had formerly worked as day labourers, and that seven out of seventeen tenants occupying farms of from £30 to £100 a-year, had begun life in the same position. Mr. Paget contended that the condition of the labourer had been greatly improved of late years; and his idea was that Mr. Bright had based his remarks upon what he had either seen or read of the state of the labourers of Dorsetshire and other southern counties during the agitation for the repeal of the corn laws.—The eight foreign sailors who stand charged with the murder of the captain, the mate, and other officers of the ship *Flowerly Land*, on the high seas, were on Wednesday put on their trial before Mr. Baron Bramwell, at the Central Criminal Court. They all pleaded not guilty, and elected to be tried by an English jury. The Solicitor-General, in person, conducted the case for the prosecution. His speech, and the evidence given against the prisoners, occupied the whole of the day, and the defence is still proceeding.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—Field Marshal Wrangel, who holds the supreme command of the Austro-Prussian army, summoned the Danish Commander in Chief to evacuate Schleswig; and the *Nord Deutsche Zeitung* declares that "Austria and Prussia will not abandon their just demands," and that "the personal union with the Duchies required of Denmark as a guarantee may perhaps no longer be sufficient after a rupture has taken place." The Danes refused to agree to the terms of the summons, and the Prussians endeavoured to force the positions of the Danes at Missunde. The official report of the Danish General Meza says the Austro-Prussian army advanced against Eckenforde on Monday forenoon, and their outposts in the course of the afternoon were pushed towards the Sorge and Bistenso. The Danes fell back and took up a position on the Schlei, and occupied the works near Missunde. The Prussian Army numbered 9,000 men, and the Danish 1,200. After four attacks the Prussians gave way and the Danes regained their original position. The people of Eckenforde have proclaimed Duke Frederick of Augustenburg. Such a proceeding, under the protection of the Austro-Prussian army, in direct violation of the *London Treaty*, is not likely to incline the Danes to pacific counsels or to further submission to the German Powers. King Christian left Copenhagen during Sunday night, in order to join the Danish army, and was enthusiastically cheered by the crowds who had assembled to witness his departure. Before leaving his capital he fulfilled his promises, by issuing a provisional law convoking a session of the Rigsrad or joint Parliament of Denmark and Schleswig, whose assent alone can revoke the November constitution, which is the cause, or pretext, of the entrance of the Austro-Prussian troops into Schleswig.—The Prussian House of Deputies passed a resolution declaring that the Upper House's rejection of the budget on Saturday is null and void. In consequence of this vote the session was summarily and immediately closed, after a speech in which Count Bismarck, as King William's mouthpiece, set forth the obstinate persistence of the deputies in the course which

their predecessors had taken, besides the special offences and refractoriness of which they had themselves been guilty, and declared that the King must renounce for the present the hope of a reconciliation between the House and the Government. —In replying to the address presented by the Legislative Body, the Emperor Napoleon told his attentive and submissive legislators that their debates had not been useless, although they had lasted three months. They had served to refute the accusations levelled against the Government, which had now a more compact and devoted majority. France required stability, and liberty must not be used as a weapon wherewith to overthrow governments. Such ameliorations as might be possible must be expected from time and concord; and meanwhile let the members of the Legislative Body "enlighten and control the progress of the Government," while the Emperor "takes the initiative in all that may promote the prosperity of France." —Accounts of a horrible and unparalleled catastrophe at Santiago, in Chili, have been brought by the West India mail steamer *Atrato*. On the evening of the 8th December, on the occasion of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the church of La Campana was filled by a congregation composed, besides some hundreds of men, of more than 3,000 ladies, most of whom were young, and members of the wealthier families of the Chilian capital. The church was hung with drapery, and was lighted by 20,000 lights, arranged in festoons. Hardly had Divine service begun when the lights near the Virgin's image over the high altar set fire to the drapery, and the flames spread quickly over the building. The congregation rushed to the doors, which were blocked by the multitude outside, and though most of the men escaped, the ladies were trampled down on all sides, while flakes of fire fell on them from the roof. Within a quarter of an hour, as we are told, more than 2,000 ladies perished; and when all was over more than 200 cartloads of burned corpses were removed from the ruins.

AMERICA.—There is not much intelligence of military interest in the American advices brought by the *Africa* or *London*, though the news is to the 23rd ult. There was a rumour, of which the foundation is altogether uncertain, that the Confederates under General Longstreet had been reinforced by two divisions from General Lee's army, and were advancing to attack Knoxville. General Gilmore and a portion of the Federal troops had left Charleston for Hilton Head; and the siege operations had been suspended, excepting that the Federal batteries on Morris Island continued to throw shells into the city of Charleston, in the hope of destroying the buildings. It was supposed that the troops withdrawn by General Gilmore from Charleston were intended to undertake some expedition against the Confederate coast, but nothing was known as to their destination. General Banks had issued a proclamation declaring that more than one tenth of the population of Louisiana desired to return to the Union, abrogating the state laws concerning slavery, and ordering that a convention shall revise the state constitution, and that members of Congress shall be elected. It was asserted that some Confederates had assembled at Point Pelée, in Canada, for the purpose of rescuing the Confederate prisoners confined on Johnson's Island, in Lake Erie, and that a detachment of British troops had been sent to watch their movements. The enormous volume of diplomatic correspondence laid before Congress contained some 700 pages of communications between the British and Federal governments. In one letter Secretary Seward declared that the Federal Cabinet must persist in maintaining that England is responsible for the losses sustained by American citizens by the *Alabama's* depredations, and in urging consequent claims for compensation. In complaining of the outfit of "iron-clad

rams" in British harbours, he said that those "rams" must be expected to assail some of the great American ports, and that the Navy Department had not a sufficient number of disposable vessels to protect all. In the event of such an attack, "a retaliatory war would be inevitable." After Earl Russell's intimation that orders had been given for the seizure of the "rams" at Liverpool, Secretary Seward directed Mr. Adams to inform the English Cabinet that "the Federal Government will hereafter hold itself obliged with even more cause than heretofore to endeavour to conduct its intercourse with England so that the civil war, when terminated, will leave to neither nation any permanent cause for discontent." —A Singapore despatch, received by Mr. Renter, contains the news that the Confederate steamer *Alabama*, after sailing from that port on the 24th ult., had burned in the Straits of Malacca the ships *Sonora*, *Highlander*, and *Martaban*. The most remarkable part of the intelligence, however, is a statement that, of the three ships thus destroyed by Captain Semmes, only two, the *Sonora* and *Highlander*, were American vessels, and that the third, the *Martaban*, was a British ship bound from Moulmein. It remains to be seen whether this account of the *Martaban's* nationality is correct, and whether, in the event of its correctness, she was laden with coal or other supplies for the Federal Government's cruisers. It can hardly be supposed that Captain Semmes, who has hitherto been very cautious and courteous in his treatment of the English merchantmen which he has encountered, and who must be presumed to care for the safety of his ship and himself, can have ventured to burn a ship under British colours, unless he was satisfied that he could show her not to be entitled to bear those colours, or could otherwise offer a justification which would suffice to prevent the English Government from ordering its men-of-war to pursue the *Alabama*, or from seizing her if she should be compelled to enter a British port.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S.D.—We are not aware whether the "British, Irish, and Colonial Calendar and Pocket Book," for 1863, has yet been published. We will make inquiries.

P.M. 404.—We have not failed to notice what a disgracefully emasculated production the English Calendar is this year. Amateur editors are not always the best, and the publication now before us is a proof that too many cooks spoil the broth.

M. BENOIT is quite right. We shall not publish his communication, even though it should appear in other papers.

BRO. SHAW has omitted to send us No. 5 of his communication, which is consequently held over.

BRO. R. F. G., Shanghai, shall hear from us by the next mail.

III.—1. By the Junior Warden. 2. Uniformly from W.M. to I.G. 3. By the Immediate P.M. 4. A lodge having been opened in the three degrees, may be resumed at the pleasure of the Master in the first. 5. Scotch and Irish P.M.'s are not eligible for the Master's chair in an English lodge, without first serving the office of Warden. 6. A Scotch Companion may wear his Scotch Jewel in an English Chapter, and the same rule applies to an English Companion in a Scotch Chapter. 7. There is no rule for the separate admittance of candidates. 8. A lodge being formed in a remote district of our colonies or abroad, could no doubt obtain a dispensation for the installation taking place without a full Board of Past Masters. Should the brother appointed as W.M. have been installed before, the ceremony might be dispensed with altogether.

ERRATA.—In Bro. Purton Cooper's communication, page 3 of the present volume, for "letters of the two books," read "titles of the two books;" and for "Amore" read "André."