

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1864.

THE INTERIOR OF A GOTHIC MINSTER.

(Concluded from page 502.)

The Crypt was the Christian's burial place without the city (Frances, c. xxvi. p. 447), being a subterranean city of the dead; and serving as a church (p. 448). Cemeteries within the city were made round the church after the reign of Constantine (p. 449), and interments, at first permitted in the outer court itself, were of later introduction within the church. The first lay person buried inside a church was the Emperor Basil (n. 216, p. 458). Special exemptions, by canon law, were made for internal interment in the case of saints, bishops, canons, distinguished clergymen, abbots, monks, and lay patrons and benefactors, and eminently worthy laymen (Mayer, i. 80). The crypt was a development also of the confessio, in which the martyr's relics were enshrined in the basilica, in allusion to Rev. v. 9, and is so called by Eadmer (A.S. ii. 195). The crypts of Canterbury, Winchester, Gloucester, Rochester, Worcester, York, Repton, were all founded before 1085; after that date they were not made, except as a continuation of former crypts, as at Canterbury and Rochester. Probably the construction of upper chapels and treasuries led to their disuse. For some reason unknown many Norman churches, such as Durham, and some, as Chichester, owing to an unfavourable site, have no crypt. Those of Christchurch are little known: they form three of very early date, one being situate under the presbytery and wings of the transept respectively. At St. Paul's the crypt was called the Shrowds; at Canterbury it retains its old name of Undercroft. The exceptional instance of an early English crypt occurs at Hereford, and at Wimborne there is a crypt open to the choir aisles, which was a decorated contrivance for creating this adjunct in a church which was never intended to have one. Occasionally we find a crypt under only a chapel, as at Waltham and Exeter; or occupying a portion of a nave aisle, as at Dorchester and Bosham; or beneath the chapter-house, as at Westminster and Wells. But the earliest crypts which we possess are those of Hexham and Ripon. In the former there were three entrances, one used exclusively by the priest serving at the altar, the others for the ascent and descent of the worshippers. On descending the central flight of stairs the pilgrim gained an antechamber, from which a view through a round-headed archway was permitted into a chapel containing the saint's relics and altar. In the wall are three niches with funnel-headed openings for lamps, a similar niche provided for light to the antechamber; the pilgrim, having performed his devotions, turned northwards into a similar chamber, and by a vaulted passage on the north side

of the chapel returned to the upper church. In the other crypt of St. Wilfrid, at Ripon, the passage on the north leads to the choir, while on the south the passage of the pilgrims conducts into the chapel, which has its altar and relic recesses and lamp niches: one of the latter had been perforated, and forms the well-known Needle on which Camden is communicative and Fuller witty. At Oxford, in 1856, a small crypt with two recesses was discovered under the crossing. Another has been indicated by Gunter at Peterborough. At Winchester, a low arched doorway below the screen of the feretory led down to the relic chamber, which was in consequence called the Holy Hole. The Norman crypts form large subterranean churches, and ordinarily were apsidal; that of Canterbury, 1096, was filled with altars. In the centre was the altar of St. Mary, below the high altar of the presbytery, and enclosed with perpendicular stone screens. The bracket, image niche, and rings for suspending lamps still remain, as well as the aumbries, and drains of some other altars. Two flights of stairs on the west, and two additional flights communicating with the transept, gave ample means of access. Besides some interesting paintings in tempera, there is a large recess for the preservation of relics and treasures in times of danger. In this, as in the three other apsidal crypts, Winchester, 1079; Worcester, 1084; Gloucester, 1089, the processional paths round the east end; Worcester has three rows of intermediate pillars (Gloucester and Canterbury having two, Winchester but one) in the central alley, and in each aisle a dividing range. From the central pillar and radiating vault of the eastern apse of the crypt, the idea of the central pillar of the chapter-house has been supposed to have taken its origin. At Canterbury the crypt follows the lines of the eastern limb of the church, at Gloucester the transept and choir foundations. At St. Paul's, in the west end of the Shrowds, was the Jesus Chapel, where the Apostles' mass was sung daily at four or five a.m., and the eastern portion formed St. Faith's Church. The crypt of York is of four aisles, with a transept, and is approached by two staircases; it contains a lavatory and well. At Rochester, the crypt of seven aisles, and not completed until the thirteenth century, was always square ended, and contained nine altars. Some water-drains and wall-paintings remain, besides a small groined penitential cell, perfectly dark, and receiving air only from above by a small flue (the only access being by a stair in the thickness of the wall leading to the upper church); and also the so-called "indulgence-chamber," a large apartment reached by a wall-stair, and used to secrete the treasures in times of danger. No one was admitted to this crypt except for mass. At Gloucester there is a cruciform wall-recess of the same design, and the chapels retain in several instances their drains. The entrances were from the transept. The crypt of Winchester contains a well.

At Christ Church the crypt below the north wing of the transept was recently found to be full of bones. At Hereford, the crypt under the lady chapel was appropriated as a charnel in the fifteenth century.

Our minsters form a history of the country, of the progress of art and science, the varieties of costume of every class, and galleries of national worthies in the effigies which they contain. The spandrels of the aisle of Lichfield, the angel choir of Lincoln, the corbels of Manchester, and the minstrel gallery of Exeter, illustrate musical instruments; the window framing of Canterbury, and the screens of Salisbury, Canterbury, and Westminster, metal works; the copes of Ely, Durham, Carlisle, Romsey, and Westminster exhibit the embroiderer's art, once known throughout Europe as English work. The weapons at Canterbury of the Black Prince, at Westminster of Edward III.; the portions of armour at Carlisle, York, and Chichester; the clocks of Exeter and Wells; the bishop's rings at Winchester, Chichester, York, and Hereford; the retables of Exeter, Norwich, Westminster, and Ripon; the cope and record chests of Chester, Westminster, and York; the dyptych of Gloucester; the money trunks at Chichester and York; the horns of York and Carlisle; the font covers of Beverley, Selby, and Durham; the *mappa mundi* and portable shrine of Hereford; panel paintings at Llandaff, Ripon, and Romsey; the glass of Dorchester, Lincoln, Lichfield, Bristol, Exeter, York, Wells, Canterbury, Salisbury; relics of St. Cuthbert at Durham; the staffs of York and Winchester; the chalices and maze bowl of York; the old chairs of York, Winchester, Lincoln, and Hereford, are all precious memorials of the past, invaluable to the artist, the architect, and the archæologist, as the true models for imitation. The development of monuments would form a chapter in itself; ranging from the sepulchral cross of Ovin, the incised slab, the coped tomb, to the stellated canopies of Bristol, St. David's and Tewkesbury; the high tomb with its weepers, the screened tomb, the chantry, the complete chapel and double oratory; and embracing the cadaver, the low relief, the semi-effigies of Lichfield and Worcester, the brasses of Carlisle, St. Alban's, Ely, Dorchester, Manchester, Hereford, Salisbury, and Westminster.

Time will not admit, and deference to the professional architect would forbid any details with respect to the marvellous transformation of a Norman into a perpendicular nave at Winchester; to the curious method by which the Norman walls of Gloucester were hung with later work; the remarkable proofs of a permanent body of local masons offered at Wells; the identity between the skeleton vaultings seen in Bristol and St. David's; or the parallel arrangements in the eastern portion of the latter cathedral and Sherborne.

An interesting inquiry might be prosecuted into the determination of the names of the actual

designers of our minsters. We can point, indeed, to Wykeham at Winchester, to Elias de Dereham at Salisbury, to Richard of Saxmundham, and Alan de Walsingham at Ely; we are enabled to recover the names of "Walket," custos and procurator fabricæ, in the thirteenth century, at Chichester; and of Horton at Gloucester, as supervisor operis. It is, however, an unpractical study at this period: we can no longer expect the clergy, as the monks of Gloucester, to construct vaulting with their own hands; and it will be our wisest course to delegate our future works of restoration or construction to those eminent men who, by deep study and careful inquiry, and long experience, are no followers of the destructive Wyatt of the last century, or his more recent and less excusable and far less able imitators, but the true and earnest conservators of the sacred trust confided to them. I am quite sure that these are the very persons who would be the first to desire the co-operation, advice, and supervision of the clerical guardians of the fabric as those most familiar with the suitable arrangements.

According to a Parliamentary return recently issued, £500 was granted for the restoration of York Minster in 1841 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and £2,938 18s. 10d. for Ripon Cathedral in 1842. Under the authority of orders in council of several dates given below, the following chapters transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners their corporate estates in consideration of the annexed sums:—Bristol, June 7, 1862, £6,000; Canterbury, August 6, 1862, £20,000; Carlisle, November 10, 1852, £15,000; Salisbury, Oct. 11, 1861, £10,000; Winchester, April 16, 1861, £5,000; and Worcester, November 29, 1859, £15,300: total, £71,300. With respect to the chapter of Worcester, it is noted that "the commissioners, being possessed of a lease for lives under the chapter, agreed to pay to the chapter for the addition of two lives, in the place of two that had died, a fine of £5,160, the chapter undertaking that the whole of it should be appropriated towards the repair of the fabric." Rochester, St. David's, St. Asaph's, and Norwich are the only cathedrals still left neglected.

Every accessory is now carefully studied; the recumbent effigy, the inscribed brass, the memorial window, are revivals of the last few years. Still it is to be feared, with too much reason, that very many of our so-called restorations have been merciless reconstructions, and not, what they ought to have been, repairs when indispensable without disturbance of that which could have been and ought to have been reverentially retained.

For the prevention of similar outrages, we must look, I believe, not, as has been supposed, to the appointment of a Government inspector of public monuments, but to the force of popular opinion and the education of every class in all that relates to art—an office signally belonging to the designs of this museum.

The interiors of our minsters give evidence to that wonderful transition which tentatively, for constructural reasons, at first, and afterwards eagerly, by an improving taste and a noble hardihood, exchanged the Norman flat ceiling of wood, Titanic round arches, and massive pillars, for the pointed arch, the shafted column, the coved vault of later styles. We wonder at the life, the prolific ingenuity, the elevation of devotion which form the glorious characteristics of these structures; but the solution is they were built mainly by free-will offerings and free labour, while, as soon as one part was completed, they rose, not as the first temple, in silence, but with the simultaneous sound of the axe and workman's tool, and the almost ceaseless chanting of the service of God. The true reason, I believe, why we can now ascertain few of the names of our architects is, that the works gradually passed from the hands of ecclesiastics into those of fraternities of artisans—artisans, or artists, I say, for art can never be dissociated from the actual workman—directed by a lay master of the works, the clerical treasurer being still the master of the fabric and its funds. They had but one object—layman or clerk—to work so as to raise upon earth structures least unworthy of their lofty destination: their work was in common, one and all together; but the glory of its inspiration they gave to God only. With them, *laborare est orare*, or, as the statutes of Hereford say, "No work without devotion, no devotion without work." Their great ideal was yearning towards heaven, towards what is infinite and everlasting; and they have left its impress on the breadth of the vast aisles, the soaring height of vaults, the inexhaustible multiplicity of never-ending and ever-varying views, extending in every direction, and stimulating alike imagination, sacred love, and devotion.

Grand, indeed, are the majestic avenues of the pillars of stone; the tempered hue cast by the stained glass; the glittering lights—grand the results of the taste, hardihood, and skill of architect, carpenter, mason, goldsmith, embroiderer, glass-stainer, worker in iron and brass, simultaneously labouring in unison! Grand are those two great voices of the church—the music of the organs, and the soft thunder of the bells; grand all the exquisite beauty of the solemn worship hallowing the place! But on these points we must be silent here.

Still, we may point to the interior of a Gothic minster as being the first exclusively Christian building which ever gathered under one roof all worshippers; catholic, indeed, and each a true church of the people, as being the joint product of layman and clerk, and the long unbroken work of many generations, so uninterrupted even now; and also of that style which, whatever differences there may be in designating its gradations, or elucidating its origin, is truly the Mediaeval style of England—indigenous, national—in which an honest pride at home is centred, and on which our

real architectural reputation rests abroad. It has grown with this country's growth, and shall last, I trust, until the great globe itself and its gorgeous temples shall crumble into dust, and they who erected and wrought, and they who worshipped in them, shall pass into that great city wherein there is no other temple but God himself. Whilst I advocate the retention of all that is ancient and of worth in the past, and its guardianship by us for the future, let me add the conviction which relates to the present, that our cathedrals are now once more being made available and inviting to the largest congregations which can be accommodated, and so becoming, what they are in constitution and design, not only the ornaments of our cities, but each the central parish and mother-church of the entire diocese (Frances, c. xv., n. 173; xvi., n. 16; xxi., n. 17; Mayer, i. § 3, p. 35). They are no longer regarded as a college-chapel, or church of the close, instead of the church of counties, and the models for parish churches (Mayer, i. 47); but with a ritual celebrated in its highest and most musical form, with open doors for the reception of all comers, with capacity for fulfilling the largest diocesan requirements, and as far as possible enabling every worshipper to see and hear; in one word, they are fulfilling the great want of the period, and being recognised as the free and frequented churches of the people.

A MASONIC SCHOOL IN BOMBAY.

"The objects of true charity among Masons are merit and virtue in distress; persons who are incapable of extricating themselves from misfortunes in their journey through life; industrious men who, from inevitable accidents and acts of Providence, have fallen into ruin; widows who are left survivors of their husbands, by whose labours they subsisted; orphans in tender years left naked to the world; and the aged, whose spirits are exhausted, whose arms are embraced by time, and thereby rendered unable to procure for themselves that sustenance they could accomplish in their youthful days. This is charity, the keystone to our mystical fabric."

Upwards of a century and a half has elapsed since the introduction of Freemasonry into India, and although some millions have been expended during this long period in various charitable works, still there was something of a permanent nature wanting to perpetuate the name and fame of the Order; to keep before the eyes of Masons the object for which they have united themselves in that holy bond which is the admiration of a wondering world. This we are at last about to accomplish in Bombay; the mantle of the late benevolent Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini, the founder of the first Masonic school in England, has fallen on the shoulders of one who is both willing and able to carry out the project he has undertaken, and we will answer for it every Mason will lend his aid according to his mean sto raise up so grand a superstructure as this institution now proposed.

There are many orphans of Masons now in the Bombay Presidency who would find a home in the proposed School, where they will receive an education adapted to their situation in life, be trained up in the knowledge and love of virtue, and such habits of industry as are necessary to their condition, and of impressing on their minds a due sense of subordination, true humility, and the principles and practice of social, moral, and religious duty.

At the last meeting of Lodge Concord, Bro. Dr. T. Diver, the Master, gave notice of a motion he intended to move at the next meeting, for the establishment of a Masonic School in Bombay with the objects above detailed. It is proposed that at starting the number of children be limited to the funds raised for its support; the institution to be under the patronage of the English and Scotch Provincial Grand Lodges; children to be admitted by the votes of the governors and subscribers; the number of votes to be regulated according to the amount of individual subscriptions. A Provisional Committee will be immediately formed, of which the Provincial Grand Masters, their Deputies and Wardens, and the Master of every lodge, are invited to become members, when further arrangements will be made.

We little thought whilst advocating in our last the cause of the widow and orphan, that it would be our privilege so soon to record its good effects, though in a different channel. We hope yet to see the accomplishment of the first-named project. God-speed say we to both—one will subscribe the other. Masonic Charity is like the work of a good wife, which is never at an end; it will always seek out work, and the establishment of one charitable institution will give an impetus for another and another.

We will anxiously look forward for the speedy consummation of the good work now taken in hand.—*Masonic Record of Western India.*

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

FREEMASONRY AND THE GUILDS.

What guild is the one from which Freemasonry is derived?—A YORKSHIREMAN.—[None. The mere assertion ought to show to any one of common sense that, by according to the Craft a guild parentage, its antiquity is seriously impaired. The earliest guild—*i.e.*, an incorporated trade mystery—dates about 1370 to 1400. Now, if Freemasonry is the daughter of such a guild, what becomes of all the pre-Christian legends of the Order, those of Solomon's temple, and various other topics which will naturally occur to you? Those who advocate such a doctrine must be very illogical in their ideas, and those who take such assertions as facts upon the mere *ipse dixit* of any one—great light or otherwise as you term them—must be very easily led away from history or common sense. We do not know who your country's

"great light in Masonry" is, all we know of "great lights" we learned in a lodge and that there are three such. There is a design running throughout the whole of the production, but it is not one which is founded on catholic Freemasonry, it merely seeks to inculcate the doctrine, "I have said so, you must not think otherwise."]

BINCKES ON TEMPLARY.

[In an answer to a correspondent in these columns we gave the title of Sir Knt. Binckes's *Sketch of the History and Persecution of the Knights Templars*, and omitted to say it was "a paper" read by that worthy knight. Some idea having gone abroad, through our inadvertence, that the book is an original essay by Sir Knt. Binckes we feel it our duty to correct that impression by stating it to be exactly as he describes it "A paper read," and as we all know such papers are, in the majority of instances, more valuable than original essays, because they presuppose a condensation of what has been done before, and some show an authoritative statement, where an original essay might be any and everything an imaginative person chose to make it. We have much pleasure in setting this matter right, because we pride ourselves in never advancing a theory without data, and Sir Knt. Binckes has the literary honesty to make his quotations and cite his authorities, a course so different to some would-be teachers, who indulge in random statements and perverted facts, that we are the more inclined to notice it when carried out as all such inquiries should be.]

THE BIBLE AND THE UNIVERSALITY OF MASONRY.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence present a very interesting report, in which they very courteously review the proceedings of our own, among the other Grand Lodges. The committee are not in favour of the "new test," and yet yield to none in their reverence for the Bible. They regard it as the "reflex of the Divine mind, a light radiating from the Eternal Throne." They seem to be terribly harassed with the idea that the universality of Masonry will be destroyed, if the candidate for initiation into our mysteries be required to avow his belief in the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures; Brother Turkey, and Persia, and old father Zoroaster, cannot be embraced as Masons! And then, still further, they look away down the history of future years, to the time when further aggressions shall be made upon our institution, and Masons may be required to believe "in the divinity of the Messiah," "the mode of administering the Sacraments," "the order of Priesthood," and, as a climax to the whole, they see the utter overthrow of Masonry. It strikes us that our brethren allow their fears to overcome their sense of propriety, and reduce their own argument to an absurdity; for they declare "the Bible to be a reflex of the Divine mind," and yet would not have the initiate required to acknowledge it, even as such. They teach us that the Bible is "justly cherished as the great light in Masonry," and yet he who disbelieves it, is just as eligible to the mysteries of the fraternity, as he who founds his faith upon it. We can hardly believe our brethren would themselves willingly follow their own argument to its legitimate conclusion; and yet the vein of scepticism which runs through their remarks upon the Bible, leads us

to the suspicion that this inestimable gift of God to man is not held in as high estimation by our Georgia brethren as it should be. We hope our fears on this point are groundless.—*Vermont Report on Correspondence.*—Ex. Ex.

HINTS TO MODERN SOLOMONS ON TEMPLE BUILDING.

At an adjourned, or special communication of the Grand Lodge on Wednesday, Sept. 25th, 1857, it was voted to sell the Masonic Temple in Boston, a liberal price having been offered for it by responsible parties. The discussion upon the subject was animated and earnest, but the measure was finally carried by a large majority. Having disposed of the old temple, we understand it is the desire of our Boston brethren that a new, and more magnificent and costly edifice should be erected, on some eligible spot in the city, to be used for the same purposes. This is a matter which deserves careful thought, and we hope it will receive it. It is a debatable question whether it is policy or right for the lodges of this commonwealth to run in debt for such a purpose. So far as the meetings of the Grand Lodge is concerned, we are of opinion that it would be far better for the Craft, if at least the quarterly communications were held in some other city than Boston. This would afford our country lodges an opportunity to be represented in Grand Lodge without drawing so hard upon their means at present, and at the same time measurably neutralise those influences that always will be active in alienating the feelings, where any city in a state is the recipient of a large share of the honours and profits. The country lodges pay a large tax to support the Grand Lodge, and if anything can be done to lessen the burden, without injury to the cause, it should receive our careful attention. We do not believe it advisable that the Grand Lodge of Mass. should build another Masonic Temple, if the present one is sold, either in Boston or anywhere else. If the Masons in that city wish for a Temple to rival or surpass Phila., or any other city, let them build one themselves. They are abundantly able to do so. But let not the money of our poorer brethren in the country be taken for such a purpose. They are taxed full strong now. Having already a large fund for charity, we do not believe in taxing the present generation any further for the support of future ones. They will doubtless be as well able to support their own poor as we are to support both ours and theirs. While the Grand Lodge of Maine, with an equal number of lodges, can support itself handsomely with a small tax of two dollars on each new initiate, and at the same time they can publish a large and instructive volume each year, beside which ours is miserly small and meagre, we do not see why our Grand Lodge need tax its subordinates six dollars each, annually, and five dollars for each new initiate. The cost of printing cannot be half as much, and the labours of the Grand Master, D. D. G. Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary cannot be much greater than in the above-mentioned state. Look at it in any way we can, it seems to us that the subordinate lodges in this commonwealth are already paying too large a tax for the benefit received, and had better institute measures to lessen it rather than to increase so grievous a burden, whether it be to ornament a city, or support the poor of a future generation. We hope, therefore, that our country lodges

will fully consider this matter, and when the time comes to act will instruct their representatives how to vote in the Grand Lodge, that there may be no mistake, and no undue influences brought to bear to favour any city or the state. The Grand Lodge use a hall but a few times in the course of the year, and as they now, with a Temple of their own, hire a room for the use of the Grand Master, Treasury, and Secretary, we think they would do as well to hire a hall for their communications, as they may want to use one. We have reasons to doubt the justice of the lodges in this commonwealth furnishing our Boston brethren with superior accommodations for less money than it costs many of our country lodges—or even at any price. We can see no reason why our money should be invested for such a purpose. The lodges in Boston have been highly favoured in times past, both in regard to their use of the Temple, and in the selection of so very large a proportion of the Grand Officers from their ranks. We can see no sufficient reason why either should be so. We beg to be understood as expressing in this matter not merely our own individual opinion, but the feelings of very many of our best members, and we do it with frankness and earnestness, and without bitterness or ill-will to any. We have before our eyes, in New York and Pennsylvania, sad examples of the accumulation of power in the hands of a single city, and now is a favourable time for the fraternity to guard against a possible occurrence of a similar state of things in this state. The universal testimony is against such a centralisation, and we hope before taking measures to invest the funds arising from the sale of the Masonic Temple, the brethren in all parts of the state will carefully consider what is best to promote the general interests of the Craft throughout our whole commonwealth, and act accordingly.

FLUDD'S TRACTS IN DEFENCE OF THE ORDER OF ROSE CROIX.

A third letter from "Omicron" has been forwarded to me. I fear he professes more than he performs. Were he, although "not a subscriber," yet still, as the word used by him must be taken to imply, a "constant reader," of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, my answer to the inquiries of his first letter could not have escaped his observation. Let him get the number for the 5th of March last. What he will find there accords with his suggestion respecting John Valentine Andre. The residence of my grandson, Arthur, Viscount De la Guèrivièrè is, as "Omicron" supposes, the Chateau of Coulomsues, near Rheims. The pinnacles may be seen from several parts of that famous old city. The distance is about an hour's easy walk. The brother, described as "Travelling on foot through the Eastern Departments of France, and visiting the lodges in his way," has not made his appearance at Coulomsues, and "Omicron's" second letter, intrusted to his care, has not reached its destination. "Omicron" now asks some questions as to Robert Fludd. My Masonic Common Place-book, however, contains no information concerning him, that may not be obtained from many sources, acceptable to all literary men. According to my *Denton Court Jottings*, Fludd was a member of the Order of Rose Croix, and wrote two tracts in defence of it, both extremely rare:—*"Apologia compendiaris, fraternitatem de Rosea-Cruce suspicionis et infamiae maculis aspersam*

ablucens. Leyden, 1616, in Svo. Fractatus apologeticus integritatem societatis de Roseâ-Cruce defendens. Leyden, 1617, in Svo." There is another tract by Fludd, in defence of the Order of Rose Croix, but dedicated to it, not less rare than the two foregoing. "Tractatus theologies philosophicus de vita, morte, et resurrectione, fratribus Roseæ Crucis dicatus. Oppenheim, 1617, in 4to." Fludd was, I believe, born in a village to the west of the Medway. If so he was a Kentish man, and not a man of Kent.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

A FREEMASON'S KNOWLEDGE.

What should a Freemason know?—FELLOW-CRAFT.—[His duty to God and to his neighbour, with such other branches of human knowledge as will fit him for work and leisure "in that state of life in which it has pleased God to call him."]

THE DEATH OF THE PHŒNIX.

In what degree is the death of the Pelican alluded to as being burned amidst sweet herbs?—V. N. V.—[In none that we know of. You have made a mistake, too, about the bird. Ovid says—

"Upon a shady tree the Phœnix takes her rest
And on the highest bough her funeral nest
Her beak and talons build; then strews thereon
Balm, cassia, spikenard, myrrh, and cinnamon:
Last on the fragrant pile herself she lays,
And in consuming odours ends her days."]

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

HIRAM'S TOMB.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your last week's number, your correspondent, "G. C. S.," in his hasty censorious desire to find fault has made a sad blunder. His remarks refer to an extract and drawing I sent you, from an excellent work, I saw a few years ago, in Mudie's Collection, named "The Land and the Book," by Dr. Thompson, giving much interesting and valuable information respecting the Holy Land and Holy Writ, but not having the slightest direct reference to Freemasonry in it.

"G. C. S." says that "'E. W. S.' has sent a representation of what he is pleased to term Hiram's tomb." I ask "G. C. S." what state of mind he was in when he perused the short extract I sent you, and further to point out any page in your MAGAZINE wherein I have given a representation of Hiram Abiff's tomb, or any dimensions respecting it.

I much regret the tone of "G. C. S.'s" remarks, and certainly shall decline entering into any Masonic controversy with him, as little good would ensue from discussing matters with one who so wilfully misrepresents another's statement or quotation.

I must apologise to you for this intrusion on your space, the necessity for which would not have arisen had "G. C. S." asked any well informed Master Mason, the difference between Hiram and Hiram my father, or Hiram Abiff.

Faithfully yours,
E. W. S.

Bradford, June 25th.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEMS.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey is to be held at Reigate on Saturday the 23rd July, at three o'clock p.m.

The next Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire will be held at Pontefract on the 6th of July. The brethren will meet at 11:30. a.m.

PROVINCIAL.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

AYLESBURY.—*Buckingham Lodge* (No. 591).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 21st June, at the George Hotel, when there was a fair gathering of members and visitors. The latter included Bros. W. F. Farrer, W.M., Castle Lodge 771, Prov. S.G.W.; Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.M., Prov. G. Chap., Bucks and Berks and P. Prov. S.G.W., Durham; F. Gotto, W.M. 948; J. Shrimpton, S.W. 948; Oswald M. Holden, Apollo University 357; Rev. Charles Lowndes, P.M. 591, P. Prov. J.G.D., Berks and Bucks; F. Fowler, St. Andrew's Lodge, Lower Canada. The lodge was opened by Bro. W. J. Beauchamp, W.M., assisted by Bros. Herbert A. P. Cooper, S.W.; D. Lovell, J.W.; George States, W.M. 173, S.D.; W. H. Baker, P.M., as J.D.; T. Williams, P.M., as I.G. The usual routine business was got through and the alteration of by-laws 1 and 12 unanimously confirmed. Bro. George States then took the chair, and after forming a board of installed masters, consisting of Bros. Beauchamp, Horwood, Williams, Baker, Farrer, Simpson, and Gotto, proceeded to instal Bro. Herbert A. P. Cooper W.M. elect, into the chair of K.S., which was done in Bro. State's usual impressive manner, and called forth the hearty approval of the brethren present. The W.M. was then installed in the usual manner, and proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Bros. W. J. Beauchamp, P.M.; D. Lovell, S.W.; W. H. Baker, J.W.; Rev. O. J. Grace, Chap.; James James, Treas.; John Williams, Sec.; Thomas Horwood, S.D.; Isaac King, J.D.; Charles Hooper, I.G.; Joseph Wall, Tyler. All business being ended the lodge was closed in proper form, and the brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment. The cloth being removed the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts in terse and appropriate language, which were cordially and loyally responded to. The toasts of the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, the D.G.M. Earl de Grey and Ripon and Grand Officers were then given and acknowledged in a manner truly Masonic. In proposing the health of the acting Prov. G.M. and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers, the W.M. remarked it gave him great pleasure to see such a number of Prov. G. Officers, two of whom had come from Windsor to assist at his installation, viz., the Prov. S.G.W. and Prov. G. Chap., and he thanked those brethren on behalf of himself and the lodge for their visit, and the efficient help they afforded at the ceremony, concluding by coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Farrer, Prov. S.G.W., and calling upon the brethren to respond with Masonic honours, which was most heartily done. Bro. Farrer, in a kindly warm-hearted speech, expressed the pleasure it afforded him in being present at the installation of Bro. Cooper; alluded in general terms to the present efficient state of Provincial Grand Lodge; and in referring to the expressed wish of the members of lodges in Bucks that the two counties should be separated, spoke favourably of the movement, assuring the brethren that such an alteration rested entirely with themselves, and that if they united and worked together, the day would not be far distant when Bucks would rank as an independent province. Bro. Farrer strongly advocated lodges of instruction without which a lodge could hardly hope to be perfect, and concluded by proposing the health of the W.M., and had no doubt, from the interest he took in Masonry, that during his year of office the Buckingham Lodge would prosper and increase in numbers and

efficiency. Bro. Cooper briefly replied, thanking the brethren for the cordial manner in which they had drunk his health, and assured them that with the assistance of the efficient officers he had that evening invested, he hoped to realise Bro. Farrer's prognostications. Before sitting down he would propose the health of Bro. Simpson, Prov. G. Chap. It would be needless in his presence to speak of his Masonic qualities. Everyone knew the deep interest he took in all things connected with the Craft, particularly the Masonic Charities, and he felt sure that the toast would meet with due honours. Bro. Simpson, who was most cordially received, in returning thanks, expressed the pleasure he felt in being again present at the annual meeting, and in an eloquent speech alluded to the progress made in the Masonic Charities, particularly the Boys' and Girls' Schools, and warmly advocated the support, by every Mason, of these great ornaments of the Craft. The next toast was that of the P.M.'s, coupled with the Installing Master and I.P.M. The W.M. regretted that Bro. States was obliged to leave before the cloth was removed, and called on Bro. Beauchamp to return thanks, who briefly responded. The toasts of the Officers, Visitors, replied to by Bros. Gotto, Shrimpton, and Holden, joining member, Bro. Captain King, Secretary, and Tyler closed one of many pleasant evenings enjoyed at this lodge.

CHESHIRE.

CHESTER.—*Lodge of Independence* (No. 721).—The regular monthly meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on the last Tuesday in June. There were present—Bros. A. F. Watt, P.M. and Treasurer; J. H. Lyon, P.M. and Hon. Sec.; S. Brown, P.M.; Adam Winlaw, 393; and P. Prov. J.G.D. of Northumberland; W. R. Bambridge, S.W.; Gwynne, J.W.; W. Ellis, S.D.; J. Harrison, J.D.; Shepherd as I.G., and a large number of brethren. The W.M. Bro. Lord Richard Grosvenor, *M.P.*, being unavoidably absent, Bro. A. F. Watt, P.M., opened the lodge in due form, when the minutes were read, and declared to be unanimously recorded. Mr. W. B. A. Bainbridge being a candidate for initiation, and Bro. Bainbridge, the S.W., claiming the privilege of a M.M. to have his son (who is only nineteen years of age) initiated, and having been successful in obtaining a dispensation from the Prov. G.M., the Right Hon. Stapleton Viscount Combermere, was duly balloted for and accepted, when he was initiated by Bro. A. F. Watt, in a most efficient manner, Bro. Bainbridge, S.W. acting as Deacon. The veteran brother, S. Brown, P.M., who is the father of the lodge, expressed himself very much pleased to see his old friend the S.W. deacon his son, who, he felt sure, would reflect credit upon the choice of the lodge. Bro. C. Williams, being a candidate for the third degree, was proved, which being satisfactory, he was entrusted, and retired. The lodge was then opened in the third degree by Bro. J. H. Lyon, P.M., and the candidate having been admitted, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, in Bro. J. H. Lyon's usual very impressive manner. The chair was again resumed by Bro. Watt, P.M., who closed down, when the J.W. received command to call from labour to refreshment. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. gave "The Newly Initiate," which was received with enthusiasm. Bro. W. B. A. Bainbridge returned thanks not only for the manner his health had been received, but for the kindness of the brethren in admitting him into the honourable Order. He said he scarcely knew how to express himself properly, so as to convey what he wished, but stated that as long as he lived he would do his utmost to perform his duty to Masons and Masonry, it having been stated to him that he was the first at his age who had been admitted into Freemasonry in this province; all he could say was, he trusted he would not be a bad precedent. The evening concluded with the Tyler's toast, when the brethren were called to labour, and the lodge was closed, and adjourned till the next regular lodge day. The brethren departed, highly pleased with the proceedings of the day.

CORNWALL.

MILLBROOK.—*Lodge Meridian* (No. 893).—The installation of W.M. of this lodge took place on Wednesday, the 22nd ult., when the impressive ceremony was ably conducted by Bro. P.M. Rodd and Bro. P.M. Worth, in the presence of a great number of brethren from Devon and Cornwall. After the installation of the W.M. (Bro. O'Neil), the brethren sat down to an admirably served banquet, provided for the occasion by the worthy host. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and warmly

responded to. In proposing the toast of the Immediate P.M. (Bro. Worth), Bro. P.M. Rodd, in a very eulogistic speech, presented to him, in behalf of the lodge, a very handsome P.M.'s jewel, with the following inscription engraved upon it:—"Presented by the Brethren of Lodge Meridian, 893, to Brother E. J. Worth, for the zeal, ability, and great attention he has shown in filling the office of W.M. during the years 1863-4." Bro. P.M. Worth responded to the toast, and in thanking the brethren for the handsome jewel they had just given him, said he should still consider it his duty to assist the W.M. on every occasion in his responsible duty. The toast of "The Visiting Brethren" was responded to by Bro. P.M. Clase, of Devonport, in an excellent and truly Masonic speech. Bro. O'Neil, the W.M., invested the following officers for the year:—Bros. R. P. Stephens, S.W.; R. G. Blackney, J.W.; W. Veale, Treas.; J. Henwood, Sec.; G. Roach, S.D.; W. Bickford, J.D.; G. Foot, I.G.; A. Fisher, Tyler.

DEVONSHIRE.

PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. RODDA.

On Wednesday the 23rd ult., there was a considerable gathering of brethren, who dined at the Globe Hotel, Plymouth, kept by Bro. Isaac Watts. The meeting was convened for the purpose of presenting to Bro. Richard Rodda, P.M., Prov. G. Reg., a testimonial of the esteem of the members of the Craft for his faithfulness and zeal as a Freemason, and especially for his efforts in promoting the success of the Fortescue Memorial Annuity Fund—a local annuity fund established to do honour to the late noble Earl Fortescue, and to benefit decayed Freemasons. The testimonial to Bro. Rodda, in the first place, took the form of a presentation of a silver tea and coffee service and a salver, and the gift was rendered the more valuable by its being presented at a public dinner, at which not only the members of his own lodge—*Lodge Fortitude*—might be present, but members of other lodges in Devon and Cornwall could also have the pleasure of assisting. As Bro. Rodda is well-known in the West, the subscriptions were as general as they were handsome.

The following gentlemen were present:—Bros. Rodd, L. Jew, F. C. Nettleton, J. Row, W. Derry, J. S. Phillips, W. Chapman, R. Jackman, Rev. J. W. St. Aubyn, W. Worth, I. Watts, P.M.'s; I. Latimer, Stavenhagen, Easterbrook, C. J. Carey, Groom, Stoneman, Ball, W. W. Arliss, William Hill, Richard Hill, H. Davis, W. Jefferson, T. Low, G. Hilson, G. S. Norman, G. B. Eyre, F. M. Cooper, J. Head, W. C. Elliott, S. Samuels, N. Finemore, W. H. Anthony, W. Michell, G. Warren, G. Spinks, J. J. Hamby, A. Woolf, J. J. Bate, J. Thomas, R. Hill, S. Nickells, W. Hicks, J. Snawdon, J. Bray, P.M., J. Rich, S. Ramsden, J. Bradshaw, S. Roach, E. Little, and J. Henwood.

Bro. R. Robinson Rodd presided, and Bro. I. Watts acted as Vice-president.

After the withdrawal of the cloth,

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Queen," "Prince and Princess of Wales," "The Army, Navy, Militia, and Volunteers," all of which were drunk with loyal and enthusiastic applause.

Bro. SPINK and Sergeant CAREY returned thanks in appropriate addresses.

The CHAIRMAN said he now rose to propose the toast of the day. It was the health of a brother who, though young in Masonry, had very properly earned the good-will, the respect, and esteem, not only of his brother Masons of this locality, but also in the neighbouring province of Cornwall. He was held in very high esteem by his fellow-citizens, and he (the Chairman) therefore rose with pleasure to propose "The Health of Bro. Rodda," who, as a Mason, carried out of the lodge those beautiful precepts which he learned in it. He was a Mason to whom it might be said that the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrows—the distressed prefer their suit; whose heart was guided by justice, and whose hand was influenced by benevolence. (Cheers.) The Chairman then referred to the Fortescue Memorial Fund, and said that it had been established on a firm basis, and would long continue a testimony to the charity and benevolence of Freemasons. They had excellent working minds on the committee that promoted the fund; but to Bro. Rodda's exertions they owed its just success—(cheers)—and to those exertions was mainly attributable the success which it had attained in these towns. (Cheers.) Out of esteem for work so worthily rendered had sprung up this testimonial, to mark the feeling of regard held for Bro. Rodda by brother Masons;

and I would now read the inscription that had been engraved on the beautiful service now before them. It was as follows:—

Presented to
P.M. RICHARD RODDA, P.G.R.,
by his

Masonic Brethren, for his strenuous and successful exertions in
assisting to establish
The Fortescue Memorial Annuity Fund;
Also for his great zeal in Freemasonry.
23rd June, 1864.

The reading of the inscription was received with loud applause. The testimonial consisted of a silver tea and coffee service, and a salver; and the CHAIRMAN concluded some appropriate observations by presenting the testimonial, amidst loud cheers, to Bro. Rodda.

Bro. RODDA rose and was received with loud cheers. On these subsiding he said—Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Brethren, such a meeting as this, and assembled for such a purpose, cannot fail to inspire me with much pleasure and great gratification. To have been invited as a guest at such a brilliant assembly should be hailed as a great compliment, and is a position which every man should be proud of; but when it is accompanied by such kind expressions of esteem and regard, coupled with such a splendid present as that which now lies before me, the compliment becomes of much greater value. (Cheers.) I am, however, at a loss to perceive anything that I have done to merit such honourable distinction at your hands. That I have been a little energetic and very successful in collecting donations and subscriptions for that excellent charity the "Fortescue Memorial Annuity Fund," I do not affect to conceal or deny; but I could not have accomplished such a fact unless I received the assistance, I may say of all the brethren present, and many who are not here present with us on this occasion. (Cheers.) I only acted as the auxiliary of the R.W.D. Prov. G.M. Bro. Huyshe, to whom alone this province is indebted for the idea of establishing this fund as a memorial to our late highly respected P.G.M.; and it is because the brethren of the province knew it was his scheme that they came so nobly forward to promote this praiseworthy object. There is no brother in this province who lives so venerated and beloved in the hearts of the brethren as our R.W.D. Prov. G.M. and there is no one whom the whole province would so delight to honour as their Provincial Grand Master as Brother Huyshe. (Cheers.) Therefore, it is the desire to do him honour that the success of this scheme is due. (Cheers.) It is impossible, Mr. Chairman and brethren, to look back to the expectations and hopes which animated the promoters of this institution three years ago, with reference to its ultimate position, without feeling that the exertions put forth on behalf of this charity have met with signal success. It was then thought that perhaps by a great effort one annuitant might be secured at £30 a year to be a living lasting memorial to the memory of our late revered and universally and deservedly respected Prov. G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Fortescue; and, under the direction of Brother Huyshe, the committee commenced their canvass. We met in some quarters, it is true, with rebuffs and obstacles—we were told that we were "interfering with the grand fund of benevolence in London"—by others, "Oh! I have so many demands on my purse." True, doubtless, they have demands on their purses; but then, sir, there are many gentlemen who make those demands a common pack-horse, on which to ride out of all giving; but those rebuffs and excuses invariably came from gentlemen who never in their lives were in any very great danger of erring on the side of excessive charity—(cheers)—and they strikingly remind me of a story of a kind old friend, who, having had two apples, ate one and kept the other for himself. (Laughter.) Happily, however, these cases were the exceptions, and not the rule, and we did not allow such little clouds to appear to darken the dawn of this enterprise to prevent us pursuing the good work we had commenced. The little barque of speculation was launched with some timidity, it is true, but she has proved herself perfectly seaworthy, is now got into the open channel of prosperity and I trust will continue her cruise until she has sailed into every cove and creek of the sea of this province, and until every lodge and every brother shall become a subscriber to this institution. (Cheers.) That which three years ago was a speculation is now an established fact—a great reality; we have three annuitants on the funds, and I trust the liberality of the brethren will soon enable the Committee to secure a

vacancy for a fourth. (Cheers.) And now, Sir and Brethren, in accepting this beautiful, chaste, and magnificent present, I do so with feelings of profound gratitude and thankfulness. I cannot but feel proud and highly complimented at this marked and distinguished proof of the esteem and regard of my brethren. I accept this gift, and with it I accept your love and esteem, and shall treasure this present as a memento of the same as long as I shall live; and when my labours in this degree are ended, and I lay down my working tools, I trust it will be to ascend to the Grand Lodge above, there to receive from our Great Grand Master the crowning plaudit of "well done;" but whenever that event may happen—whether sooner or later—this, the mark of your kindness, will still live—live to perpetuate the small beginnings of the Fortescue Fund, which I trust will grow to a great institution—live, I trust, to stimulate those I leave behind me to labour and strive to do all the good they can in this life—live to teach my children and their posterity the great and grand lesson which I now so sensibly feel: that next to the approbation of his God, a man should strive to cultivate and secure the esteem and good will of his fellows and brethren. (Loud applause.) And now I will say no more but to urge upon you to continue your praiseworthy efforts on the behalf of this Charity, and above all not to forget the other excellent Charities of our Royal Order, and to induce others, by your example, to go and do likewise. A pious writer once said that "the memory is the exchequer of the soul, where God's commands are treasured up." Let us then go into that treasury, and we shall find that one command of the Great Architect of the Universe is "Love one another." Now charity is love; therefore, if we wish to exemplify the great principles of the Craft, we should entreat our Great Grand Master for ability to perform our duty with sincerity and conscientiousness. (Cheers.) An orator being asked what was most eminent in oratory and eloquence replied, "Pronunciation, pronunciation, pronunciation." So if I should be asked what I thought would improve all the vital graces of the heart, increase and enlarge our comforts at home and abroad, kill covetousness, cure envy and malice, disarm revenge—in short, make man what he was originally intended to be, I should answer—"Charity, charity, charity." (Great cheering.)

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "The Health of the Testimonial Committee, coupling with it that of Bro. Jew, to whose exertion they were indebted for getting up so handsome a testimonial. (Cheers.)

Bro. JEW responded in a neat speech, in which he expressed his gratification, and that of the committee, in finding that their efforts had been appreciated. He trusted that Bro. Rodda would live long to enjoy the present himself, and that it would be a source of pleasure to his children, and to their children after him. (Cheers.)

Bro. STAVENHAGEN also returned thanks. As one of the committee, he said there were no exertions necessary; for wherever they had made an application for funds, the application had met with a warm and cordial response. (Cheers.)

Bro. LATIMER then proposed "The Health of the Chairman." He warmly eulogised Bro. Rodda as a Freemason, who was as zealous in carrying out the objects of the Craft as he was able and learned in all its duties. They were indebted to him for presiding on an occasion when he could not have expected to be called upon to fill so important a position, and for that, as well as for the ability and kindness which he had manifested, he deserved all the honours that could be accorded to him. (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN expressed the pleasure which he at all times felt in doing what he could to promote the best interests of Masonry.

Bro. HILLSON then passed a warm eulogy upon the vice-chairman, and proposed his health.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, in returning thanks, remarked upon the stability and the extent of the Annuity Fund, and expressed a hope that in the course of a very few years they would have a fund which would be large enough not only to support a fourth, but a fifth and a sixth decayed Freemason. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the "Visiting Brethren." Bro. BRAY, of Redruth, expressed the pleasure that he felt on being present, to show his esteem for his old townsman, Bro. Rodda, P.M., whom he had known all his (Bro. Bray's) life; and if it had been convenient there would have been a number of his brethren from Redruth, where Bro. Rodda was as much esteemed by those of his mother lodge, the Druid's

Lodge, as he was by those with whom he was now more immediately associated. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "The Press," associating with it the name of Bro. Latimer. The toast was received with great enthusiasm.

Bro. LATIMER acknowledged the compliment, and in doing so said that he had read with very great interest indeed the whole of the proceedings connected with the raising of the Fortescue Memorial Fund, in honour of the memory of a deceased nobleman whose heart was always warm in charity towards brethren of the mystic tie, and was succeeded by a nobleman as benevolent, as charitable, and as good as himself. (Cheers.) It was a matter of great satisfaction to the brethren who lived in the south of Devon to see that by far the largest portion of the subscriptions towards that valuable fund came from the three towns, and now, having reaped the harvest, it was gratifying to see that the man who had exerted himself so successfully in the cause was himself honoured and rewarded by his brethren. These charities were a credit to Freemasonry, and these acts of brotherly kindness conferred honour on the Order. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN next gave "The Wives and Sweethearts of Masons," which was responded to in a honourable manner by Bro. Bradshaw, an officer of the 2nd Queen's Regiment.

Bro. HAMBLY proposed "The Health of Brother Rowe, the Secretary of Lodge Fortitude." The toast was received with enthusiasm.

Bro. ROWE returned the compliment with thanks, and remarked that he was proud of being Secretary of Lodge Fortitude, in which position he had endeavoured to keep up the dignity of Masons. Their late highly esteemed Provincial Grand Master was averse to giving provincial honours to Masons who did not belong to the professions, but he (the speaker) had stood up for the rights of others who did not belong to the professions, and he was the means of bringing down that honour to respectable tradesmen, which had before been kept from them. (Cheers.)

Bro. LATIMER proposed "The Health of the Host and Hostess," and said that, regarding price as an element in the matter, he had rarely seen so elegant a banquet, and one which was in all respects so praiseworthy as that which had been placed before them that day.

Bro. WATTS returned thanks for the toast, which had been most heartily received.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed, and it was drunk in silence, "Our Distressed Brethren all over the Globe; wherever dispersed, speedy relief to them."

This brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

MORICE, TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*Lodge St. Aulyn (No. 954).*—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 24th ult., when the minutes of the previous lodge were read and confirmed. Bro. Kent, the Master elect, late S.W., was presented and installed into the chair of K.S., and appointed as his officers for the year, Bros. Spry, S.W.; Bird, J.W.; Clemens, Sec.; Chapple, Treas.; Gudridge, S.D.; Hawton, J.D.; Bickford, I.G.; Heath, Dir. of Cers.; Austen and Trounce, Stewards; and Thomas, Tyler. After the usual formalities and the election of a joining brother, the brethren proceeded to the Crown Hotel, Devonport, where a banquet was served by the host, Bro. Hawson, to the entire satisfaction of the guests assembled. On the withdrawal of the cloth, the following toasts were given:—"The Queen and the Craft"—solo, God save the Queen; "The Earl of Zetland—Great Kings, Dukes, and Lords"; "The R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. Bro. Huyshe"—From the Prince to the Boor. The next toast, "The Worshipful Master," was given by Bro. Chapple, I.P.M., who, on rising, was greeted with the most enthusiastic cheers, said he was fully aware that the toast was one deserving their attention, and hoped they would fill a bumper for the occasion. Bro. Kent, the W.M., was a Master he had every confidence in, and he felt assured he would quit the chair at the end of the year with the same good feeling from the brethren that had been shown on his rising to propose the toast which he now asked them to drink. (Drank with great enthusiasm. "Air—"Thus we even may enjoy those pleasant moments." The W.M. responded in suitable words, and proposed "The Health of the Immediate Past Master;" and in so doing took occasion to say that on the last lodge night he had the pleasure of tendering one-half of a present, which had been subscribed for by the brethren. He now, in the name of those subscribers, begged to tender Bro. Chapple the other moiety, consisting of a very handsome ring, Masonically designed. Bro.

Chapple, in a neat speech, thanked the brethren for this further mark of their esteem. The remainder of the toasts was then proceeded with. The brethren separated at an early hour, highly amused with the entertainment.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.—*Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 951).*—The usual monthly meeting of the brethren of the above lodge was held on Monday, the 20th ult., when Bros. Smith, Hartley, and Bower having passed a most satisfactory examination as F.C. were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremony was performed by the W.M. in his usual impressive manner, and will long be remembered by the brethren on whom the degree was conferred. The ballot was then exercised on behalf of Messrs. H. E. Hartley, Frederick A. Heatt, and John Allcock, who were unanimously approved, and duly initiated as E.A.'s in the ancient form. The brethren then adjourned from labour to refreshment. The banquet was served by Bro. Charles Gardener in a manner which in this, as well as on other occasions, gave the greatest satisfaction. After the usual loyal and customary toasts, the brethren separated at an early hour.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

Merchant's Lodge (No. 241).—The installation of Bro. Ralph Robinson as W.M. of the above lodge, took place on Wednesday the 22nd ult., in the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool. After the conclusion of the ceremony, which was conducted by the Immediate P.M., Bro. A. C. Mott. The brethren adjourned to Roby, where a banquet was prepared for them at the Stanley Arms Hotel. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given during the evening, and amongst them that of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Fund, with which toast the W.M. coupled the name of Bro. Youngusband, the Hon. Secretary of that institution. In responding to the toast Bro. Youngusband, after alluding to the highly satisfactory state of the affairs of the institution, remarked that at present upwards of thirty children of poor or deceased Masons are, by this means, receiving the advantages of a liberal education; and the prospect of hereafter holding such positions in life as could not otherwise be anticipated. At this stage of the proceedings, and in accordance with the custom of the lodge at this festival, a subscription was made, in aid of the funds of the above charity, when the sum of £25 was at once subscribed. The W.M. also proposed the health of Bro. Mott, P.M., and in doing so presented him with the P.M.'s jewel, and the Life Governorship of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, voted at the last meeting of the lodge, as a mark of the esteem and regard in which he is held by the brethren. Bro. Mott, in appropriate terms, acknowledged the high compliment thus paid to him by the lodge.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

CONSECRATION OF THE SHAKESPEARE LODGE (No. 1018).—This lodge was founded on the 23rd day of April last, the tercentenary of the birth of Shakespeare, and was so named in honour of the immortal memory of the poet. The petition to Grand Lodge bears the above date, and was recommended by the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and all the Past Masters of the Lodge of Harmony (No. 600), Bradford. The warrant from the Grand Lodge having been granted, the necessary arrangements for the consecration of the lodge were made, and the rites and accustomed ceremonies were duly celebrated on the 15th June last, at the Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford, under the presidency of Bro. Bentley Shaw, the Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire. In addition to the D. Prov. G.M., there were present on the occasion the Rev. Bros. J. Hope, M.A., Prov. G. Chap.; the Rev. Bro. W. Fearnside, M.A., P. Prov. G. Chap.; Bros. J. Pease, of the Lodge of Harmony, Huddersfield, P. Prov. G.W.; A. Hunter, W.M.; H. O. Mawson, P.M.; and M. Rhodes, P.M. of the Lodge of Hope (No. 302), Bradford; John Burnley, W.M.; J. A. Unna, P.M.; S. Barsdorf, P.M.; A. Engelmann, P.M.; T. Johnson, P.M.; J. Abrams, P.M.; S. O. Bailey, P.M. and L. Goldstein, P.M., of the Lodge of Harmony, Bradford, along with other brethren from the above lodges, and the Pentalpha Lodge (No. 974), Bradford. The lodge was opened the three degrees by Bro. Shaw, D. Prov. G.M., and solemn prayer offered up by Bro. Hope, the Prov. G. Chap. The warrant from the Grand Lodge was then read, and the brethren of the new lodge signified their approval of the officers

therein named; after which the Prov. G. Chap. delivered an eloquent address illustrative of the principles and beauties of Freemasonry. An anthem was then sung, and the invocation delivered by the D. Prov. G.M., in a most impressive manner; after which the lodge was uncovered and dedicated to Freemasonry, with the usual solemnities, Bros. Unna, P.M., H. O. Mawson, and M. Rhodes, P.M., carrying the consecrating elements round the lodge. After the conclusion of the ceremony of consecration, Bro. Pease, at the request of the D. Prov. G.M. installed Bro. John Dodd, P.M. of Lodge Harmony, Bradford, as the first W.M. of the new lodge. The ceremony of installation was conducted by Bro. Pease, in a very creditably manner and must have been highly pleasing to the brethren present, and have satisfied them that he is well versed in the ritual of the Craft. Bro. Dodd, as W.M. of the new lodge, then addressed the D. Prov. G.M. and visiting brethren, thanking them most cordially on behalf of himself and the brethren of the new lodge, for their presence and the kindly interest manifested by them on the occasion. He then invested the following brethren with their respective badges of office, viz.:—Bros. Dr. J. Shillito and Henry Ward, as Wardens, J. Peel as Secretary, J. Ward as Treas., J. Nicholson and J. Jennings as Deacons, J. Laycock as I.G. and also addressed each of them as to his duties. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren of the new lodge then adjourned to refreshments at the Bowling Green Hotel, which were of the choicest character, and served in Bro. Lupton's best style. They were honoured with the company of the D. Prov. G.M., and most of the visiting brethren at the festive board. The usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured, and the evening spent in the most harmonious and agreeable manner.

IRELAND.

PORTADOWN.—*Wellington Lodge* (No. 82).—After having lain by for a number of years under care of Grand Lodge, this well-known number was regularly granted to Portadown, and was opened for working on the first Monday in June. No. 82 formerly met in Tindragee, Co. Armagh, and was a flourishing lodge at that time, but, from some cause or other, it was thought proper then to remove it to Portadown (four miles distant), where, alas! it met with a worse fate, for members enough could not be got to work it. It was then sent into Grand Lodge for safety. Freemasonry having progressed in this town and neighbourhood from that time, some of the brethren met lately to consider the propriety of again getting 82 into working order. Through the exertions of Bro. Thomas Carleton, Chairman of the Town Commissioners, this was accomplished, and it was formally opened on the first Monday in June, and the officers appointed. The lodge then adjourned until the 24th. On St. John's Day accordingly, at five o'clock, the brethren met in due and ancient form, Bro. Green, of Lodge 134, Lurgan, acting as W.M. The following were then appointed the officers of the lodge for the next six months:—Bros. Wm. Montgomery, W.M.; Arthur Thornton, S.W.; John H. Farrell, J.W.; J. Brereton, S.D.; W. Hall, J.D.; W. Atkinson, I.G.; and Thomas Carleton, Secretary and Treasurer. The lodge having been closed, the brethren, on the invitation of Bro. Carleton, proceeded to partake of a sumptuous dinner, provided by Bro. Hall, of the Imperial. Every delicacy of the season was there, and everything was in first-class style, doing great credit to the hospitable host, Bro. Carleton, and to the caterer, Bro. Hall. Bro. Carleton occupied the chair, and Bro. Victor the vice. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, and hearty success wished to Lodge 82. The brethren expressed their thanks to Bro. Carleton, in the first place, for his exertions in getting the lodge raised, for without him it could not have been done; and secondly, for his hospitality. The members have secured very fine lodge rooms, and are determined to spare no efforts to raise 82 to be a first-class lodge.

An idle man is a kind of monster in the creation; all nature is busy about him. How wretched it is to hear people complain that the day hangs heavy upon them, that they do not know what to do with themselves! How monstrous are such expressions among people who can apply themselves to the duties of religion and meditation, to the reading of needful books; who may exercise themselves in the pursuits of knowledge and virtue, and every hour of their lives make themselves wiser and better than they were before.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Tuesday being the 26th anniversary of her Majesty's Coronation, the occasion was celebrated by bell-ringing, cannon-firing, and a gay display of flags from the public offices, and other buildings. Her Majesty came to town and visited the House of Lords. The Prince of Wales, the Captain-General of the Hon. Artillery Company, inspected that corps on Wednesday on its parade-ground in Finsbury. The Princess of Wales accompanied his Royal Highness, and presented to the regiment the new colours given by Mrs. Robinson, the wife of Major Robinson. The whole affair went off most successfully. A grand State ball was given at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday night, by the Prince and Princess of Wales, in the name and on behalf of Majesty. The invitations were on an extensive scale, in fact the list included all the rank and fashion now assembled in the metropolis.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS on Thursday, June 23, Lord Brougham brought in a bill which was read a first time, providing that bribery at elections should be punished by imprisonment instead of by fine.—The Bishop of Oxford's bill, authorising the performance of divine worship in collegiate schools still unprovided with chapels, was read a second time, after some discussion, in the course of which the measure was opposed by Lord Shaftesbury, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Grey, and other peers.—The royal assent was given by commission to several bills.—On Friday, Earl Stanhope called attention to the present position of the Royal Academy, and asked what further steps the Government intended taking in reference to it. Earl Granville said, with respect to the first question of the noble earl, the House of Commons had rejected the proposal to leave the Royal Academy in Trafalgar-square with enlarged space, and to that decision the Government would bow. With regard to the second question, nothing would be more unwise than for the Government to take upon itself the regulation of fine arts, but without doing this they might usefully insist upon certain regulations calculated to popularise the Academy, more especially for public purposes in return for facilities which it gave to it. The Government had not had time to consider these details, and he could not give a pledge as to any particular course.—On Monday, Earl Russell made an elaborate statement relative to the unsuccessful efforts of the neutral Powers to bring about an understanding between Denmark and Germany. With regard to the policy of her Majesty's Government, it was intimated that while they were not prepared in the present state of the question to interfere single-handed on behalf of Denmark, it would be open to them to re-consider their decision if hereafter it should be found that the existence of the Danish monarchy was at stake. Lord Derby and others criticised the course pursued by the Government, but of course no motion was made on the subject.—On Tuesday, several unimportant bills having been advanced a stage, Lord Brougham urged that as the Brazilian slave trade was now at an end, the "Aberdeen Act"—a measure passed by the British Parliament, authorising English men-of-war to seize Brazilian slavers—should be at once repealed. He further suggested that this was a favourable opportunity for our Government to seek to restore friendly relations with Brazil. Lord Russell said the Aberdeen Act was inoperative as long as there was no slave trade; but he reminded Lord Brougham that a party might come into power at Rio which would haste upon resuming the inhuman traffic.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, Lord Clarence Paget defended the *Research* against the strictures of Sir John Hay, who appeared to insinuate that Mr. Reed's ship could "neither fight nor swim."—The system

of national education in Ireland was again the subject of discussion.—The O'Connor Don opening the adjourned debate on Sir Hugh Cairn's motion relative to the grants made to conventual and monastic schools, but led to no result.—On Friday, on the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. Morbitt, in an able speech, moved a resolution to the effect, that, in the event of any modification of the indirect taxation of this country, the excise on malt required consideration. The Chancellor of the Exchequer agreed to the propriety of the resolution in the abstract, but said it would be unadvisable to pledge the House to any particular course of action in dealing with the remission of a specific impost. After some discussion, the House divided—for the motion, 166, against, 118; majority against, 48.—On Monday, Lord Palmerston made a similar statement to that in the House of Lords relative to the Danish question, and Mr. Disraeli promised that no time should be lost in giving the House an opportunity of expressing an opinion with regard to it.—On Tuesday, Mr. Baillie Cochrane moved for correspondence relating to the granting of pensions to colonial governors, but upon an explanation from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Government would be prepared with a measure on the subject next session, the motion was withdrawn.—Mr. Doulton moved a resolution declaring it to be the duty of the Government to prevent the gradual diminution of open spaces in and around the metropolis. The motion was opposed by Mr. F. Peel, but on a division the Government was defeated by a majority of 39, in a house of 119.—Mr. Percy Wyndham moved that the grant for Queen's Plates should be discontinued, as it no longer encouraged the breed of good horses. The motion was ultimately withdrawn.—Mr. Disraeli gave notice that he will, on Monday next, move an address to the Crown, thanking her Majesty for the papers relating to the Conference, but expressing "great regret that while the course pursued by her Majesty's Government has failed to maintain their avowed policy of upholding the integrity and independence of Denmark, it has lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and thereby diminished the securities for peace."—On Wednesday, Mr. Hennessy moved the second reading of the Poor-law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill. The object of the bill was, he said, to assimilate the law in England and Ireland as regarded out-door relief. Lord Naas moved the rejection of the bill. Its principle had been condemned by the select committee which sat upon the subject. After a short discussion, the second reading of the bill was negatived by 291 votes to 24.—The Tests Abolition (Oxford) Bill passed through committee without opposition, but Mr. Selwyn gave notice that on the motion for the third reading of the bill its rejection would be moved.—The House then went into committee on the Street Music Bill, and a very amusing discussion ensued, which lasted until a quarter to six o'clock, when, in accordance with the standing orders, the debate was adjourned. The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at six o'clock.—Mr. Kinglake put a notice on the papers of the House of Commons of an amendment to Mr. Disraeli's vote of want of confidence in the Government. The amendment is to substitute for the sting of the Tory motion the following:—"To express the satisfaction with which we have learned that, at this juncture, her Majesty has been advised to abstain from armed interference in the war now going on between Denmark and the German Powers."

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of London for the last week amounted to 1262, of which more than one-half were under 20 years of age. The deaths of young persons have been increasing of late, while the deaths of old persons over 60 years

of age is on the decrease. The general mortality was high being about 100 in excess of the ten years' average. There were 1897 births, which was only four below the average.—The Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the case of Mr. Bewicke, of Threepwood Hall, who was sentenced to a term of penal servitude for an offence which he never committed, have sent in a report, in which they state that they do not consider that Mr. Bewicke has made out a case for compensation from the public purse. They, however, recommend that the full value of his goods, which were forfeited upon his conviction, should be paid to him, *minus* the net produce of the sale by auction, which has already been handed over to him by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital.—The annual meeting of the Cotton Supply Association has been held, and the Committee had to tell of anxious, and, in the main, successful, exertions to excite an interest in the cultivation of cotton in those countries capable of producing the plant. India was the great exception in this respect, and hits were freely levelled—to use the language of Mr. Hugh Mason—at the administration of Sir Chas. Wood. Mr. Cheetham was very cautious in speaking of the probable supply for the present year, but he seemed to be of opinion that it would show "a considerable increase" upon that of last year.—Three new bishops were consecrated at Canterbury on Wednesday. They were, Dr. Francis Jeune, to the bishopric of Peterborough; Dr. C. F. Bromby, to the bishopric of Tasmania; and Dr. Samuel A. Crowther, to the bishopric of the Niger. The last-named is a coloured clergyman.—A new church has been erected on the site of the gardens of Vauxhall, Lambeth, which was consecrated on Tuesday by the Bishop of Winchester, with the ceremony usual on such occasions. The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, has had a district assigned it out of the parish of St. Mary.—The hearing of Bishop Colenso's appeal to the Privy Council against the sentence of deposition pronounced against him by the Bishop of Cape-town, has been ordered to stand over until the Michaelmas sittings.—The adjourned inquest on the unfortunate victims of the railway accident at Egham has been concluded, and a verdict of manslaughter returned against the driver and guard of the train which ran into the one at the station.—The adjourned inquest on the body of the woman Louisa Dyer, supposed to have been murdered, has concluded. There are two men in custody charged with being concerned in the wretched woman's death, and a verdict of wilful murder was returned against them, the evidence being wholly circumstantial.—There have been several changes among our metropolitan police magistrates of late. We learn that Mr. Hall, the chief magistrate of Bow-street, is about to retire from that office, which he has held for the last twenty-five years. Mr. Henry, who has been his colleague in Bow-street for a considerable time, is to succeed him as chief magistrate; and it is said that Mr. Flowers, at present Recorder of Stamford, will succeed to the vacancy thus created.—On Tuesday a coroner's inquest was held on the body of Mr. Washington Wilks, who died suddenly whilst speaking at a public meeting, on Monday, on the subject of reform. The post-mortem examination revealed apoplexy as the cause of death. Effusion of the brain was no doubt produced by the excitement of public speaking. The deceased was a writer on the *Morning Star*.—A woman named M'Murrough was charged at Alfreton, on Friday, with the horrible offence of setting fire to her husband. The husband had come into the house drunk, and the wife, in revenge, set fire to him as he lay asleep. The poor fellow's life is considered to be in danger.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—As was expected the Conference formally closed on Saturday, and the failure of its object was

confessed. The members met to put the protocols into formal shape, and to take leave of each other.—The Prussians lost no time in availing themselves of the termination of the period of armistice and the failure of the Conference. On Sunday morning, at six o'clock, the bombardment on the island of Alsen was begun, Ravenskobbel and other batteries having opened fire upon the place. Eleven battalions of their army crossed the sound north of Sønderborg on Wednesday, and drove back the Danes after some fighting. The Danes retired to their ships and embarked in haste. They made, no doubt, for Fnen, where a strong Danish force is placed. The capture of Alsen was an expected, and indeed, an inevitable event. The Danes had neither men nor artillery to enable them to defend the island. It is now stated that Austria and Prussia intend to occupy the whole of Jutland, and to keep it as a guarantee; and that they will collect the taxes there, and apply the proceeds to meet the military expenses. It is probable that Schleswig and Holstein will shortly be placed, with the concurrence of the Diet, under the joint administration of the two great German Powers until the question of the succession shall have been decided. The Prussians are erecting batteries on the Jutland coast, opposite Funen, and will, no doubt, in conjunction with the Austrians, presently attempt to become masters of that island.—A disaster has occurred to interrupt the great fair of Nijni Novgorod. On the 4th ult. a fire broke out, which destroyed all the wooden erections for the business of the fair. The theatres, the shows, thirty *restaurants*, fifty hotels, public-houses, and baths—in fact, almost the entire town has fallen a prey to the conflagration.—A private telegram received in Manchester gives information of the total defeat of Juarez at Matchuel, by the combined Mexican and French troops. A thousand prisoners, 18 guns, and all the *materiel* were captured by the French.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The mail from the Cape of Good Hope has arrived with news to the 22nd of May. There is nothing of political importance from the colony, but in commercial circles much excitement had been caused by Parliament having passed an act increasing the import duties by 25 per cent., and giving a retrospective effect to the increased impost.

AMERICA.—General Grant has once more changed his base of operations, that is, from White House on the Pamunkey, to the James River. In Kentucky General Morgan captured Cynthiana on the 11th, and took two Federal regiments, but on the following day he was attacked by General Burbridge, and defeated with the loss of 600 killed and wounded, and compelled to retreat. The last accounts from Georgia represent Sherman to be at Big Shanty, within 500 yards of Johnston's lines. The Federal general was said to be entrenching—a report that had caused much alarm in New York. But what is of real importance to General Sherman is the complete defeat by Forrest of the Federal expedition under Sturgis, which left Memphis to check Forrest's movements in Johnston's rear. The position of the Confederates in Georgia is now a very critical one. By the Edinburgh we are informed that Grant's army had crossed the James River to operate on Richmond from the south. No sooner was the army across than General Smith, with 15,000 men, was sent forward to Petersburg, and succeeded in capturing the main line of defences, with 13 cannon and 400 prisoners. Hancock, with his division, was moved to Smith's left, and it is rumoured that on the next day (Thursday, the 16th June), Petersburg itself was captured, and the railway between that place and Richmond destroyed by Butler. The taking of the city is given as an unconfirmed rumour, but there is every probability that it is true. If so, a most important point has been gained; for Petersburg is the junction

of the railway lines running east and south from Richmond. President Lincoln, at Philadelphia, had said that Grant had taken up a position from which he could not be dislodged until Richmond was taken. General Lee reports that Sheridan's cavalry force had been defeated with a loss of 500 prisoners; the place is not mentioned. A force is also said to have been despatched to confront Hunter in the Shenandoah Valley. Sherman was reported to be advancing on Kenesaw. His communications with Chattanooga were said to have been damaged by the Confederate General Wheeler at Calhoun. Captain Semmes's official report of the action fought off Cherbourg on Sunday week has been published. He states that when he found that his ship was going down he struck his flag, "in order to prevent the further destruction of life;" but, although the combatants were within 400 yards of each other, the Kearsage fired five times after the Confederate ensign had been hauled down. Captain Semmes remarks that "it is charitable to suppose that a ship of war of a Christian nation could not have done this intentionally." He states that his opponent had the advantage of him in ship, battery, and crew but, he "did not know until the action was over that the Kearsage was also iron-clad." This armour, he says, consisted of chain, constructed for the purpose, placed perpendicularly from the rail to the water's edge, and the whole covered over by a thin outer planking, which gave no indication of the cuirass beneath. In the action the Alabama had nine men killed, and 21 wounded. The commander of the Kearsage has also given his version of the action. He denies that he challenged the Alabama, and affirms that the challenge came from Captain Semmes. He endeavours to show that there was no serious inequality between the ships as regards guns, crew, and so forth, and boasts that he "supposed the action for hot work had just commenced when it ended." He declares the statement that the men of the Alabama stuck to their guns, even when the ship was sinking, to be "twaddle;" but he makes no attempt to deal with the charge openly made by Captain Semmes that after the Alabama struck her colours the Kearsage fired several times at her disabled opponent. The commander of the Kearsage has also made a demand for the delivery of the men belonging to the Alabama who escaped drowning and were carried into the port of Cherbourg. His requisition is addressed to M. Bonfils, the Confederate agent there. M. Bonfils answers in a spirited manner the claim of the Federal officer to the men as prisoners of war. He is not aware, he says, of any law of war which prohibits a soldier making his escape from the field of battle, and he cannot see why a sailor should be debarred the privilege of swimming away from his enemy.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** Several reports, in consequence of our limited space, unavoidably stand over.

F. W.—Your question came too late to be answered last week, as requested. The bye-law in question cannot be legally suspended. If a candidate rejected a ballot, and the law says he cannot be ballotted for a second time under a less period than six months, he must wait that period or you must amend your laws. There is no alternative.

A. and A.—Apply at the Grand Secretary's Office.

E. V.—Answered next week.

Z.—Too late for publication in this week's number.

D. C. (Ireland).—No!

MASS.—Lay it before the Board of General Purposes.

J. M. (Belfast)—The numbers can be had at the office.

