

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1865.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER OF FREEMASONRY IN FRANCE.

We extract the following from the December issue of the *Journal des Initiés*, which, for the last few months, has conducted a brave and most laudable struggle against the spirit of atheism that sought to introduce itself into and sap the very foundations on which Freemasonry has ever been based. We hail with delight the splendid result that has been attained by these champions of true religion—the utter failure of all the pernicious endeavours of the so-called “positivists” to bring about such modifications in the constitution of French Masonry as would have eliminated, if not entirely destroyed, the essential character of our institution.

Although the reports submitted to the Grand Orient on the proposed new constitution do not exceed one hundred and twenty in number, the affirmation of God and the immortality of the soul will be maintained by an immense majority, notwithstanding all the endeavours that have been repeatedly made to discard these principles in the name of absolute toleration, being the *conditio sine quâ non* of absolute liberty. A very satisfactory result has thus been obtained; but the idea of toleration, which necessarily possesses a powerful influence on every liberal mind, has been strangely misconstrued, for toleration must always be one of the chief principles that entitle Masonry to public esteem, so long as it does not become a pretext for undermining the very foundations of social and moral order.

However, the fact must not be lost sight of that, amongst those brethren who adhere to the principle of divinity in the Order of Masonry, there are many who do not consider it indispensable, and want to maintain it merely out of respect for the Masonic tradition. For the remainder, they would rather prefer absolute toleration. This error is the greatest evil that has arisen from the endeavours to obtain a change in the foundations of Masonry.

It is, therefore, of the highest importance to dispel this grave mistake. We beseech all unprejudiced minds to ask themselves whether toleration can involve the authority of demolishing the essential unity of an institution which nobody is allowed to join unless he take an oath of allegiance to, and be initiated in, the name of this very unity.

If they were to contend that they do not want any affirmation imposed upon them, we should be compelled to reply that such language must exclude them; for no one can be admitted into the Order unless he has previously declared his desire to join the Craft of his own free will.

If toleration permitted persons to join an association for the purpose of destroying its foundations, no institution of a moral character could possibly exist. This is acknowledged by the dissentients themselves, who are very careful not to admit into their councils of management any but such men as profess their fundamental principles; besides, their practices are a permanent proof of the necessity of this unity.

Well, then, on what plea do they mean to submit Masonry to an excess of toleration which they will not acknowledge in their own doings? Why, instead of endeavouring to destroy an existing unity, do they not rather establish one on fundamental principles of their own? In Masonry they might have constituted certain unities in those lodges they superintend. Why have they not been satisfied with this result, instead of going into other Masonic communities to excite a contention, the object of which is to dissolve the organic unity of the labour that used to be performed under the ægis of Masonic law. If the dissentients to the present system consider it necessary for their own purposes that the unity which has been established by the founder of their school should be preserved, why do they endeavour to demolish it in the case of other associations? Is this what they term the inviolability of the sacred right of every man of establish a collective moral unity? let alone the inviolability of man's individuality.

Have these parties ever been molested in their doings so long as they confined themselves to social groups of their own? Certainly not. In these they live under the shelter of toleration; and Freemasonry would repel any encroachment on their rights by repudiating the very doctrines they profess.

Freemasonry has only defended that grand moral unity they endeavoured to demolish. The power of this defence had to be in proportion to the power of the aggression to be repelled—otherwise we should have been utterly devoid of moral courage.

Our object is to draw the attention of all unprejudiced minds to these facts, for we strongly apprehend that, by an excess of toleration, the very foundation of moral truth would be undermined.

BLOCK-SINKING; OR BRICK AND MORTAR REMINISCENCES IN THE EAST.

(From the Builder.)

During a roving tour in Northern India, some years ago, undertaken for the combined purpose of seeing a little more of the world, and escaping the much-dreaded rigours of an English winter, I happened to visit, on my way to the "Hills,"—that Paradise of Anglo-Indians,—a somewhat dull but profoundly philosophical little station far away in the north-west (shame on me for forgetting the name of it!), and thus became acquainted with the particulars of some very important engineering works going on in the immediate neighbourhood. Though but in an embryonic stage of existence when I saw them, these brick and mortar performances were so different from anything of the kind I had seen before in my wanderings about the world, and the circumstances connected with them so particularly interesting, that I shall endeavour to give the reader—not already over-primed on the subject, it is hoped—a brief account of what I saw on that occasion; and again on another one some years afterwards, when on a flying visit to the Western Presidency, that steaming, suffocating, odoriferous haven of bliss for "land reclamation companies (limited)," and money-making Parsees, unlimited.

The noble art of block-sinking is brought into play, it seems, for constructing the foundations of buildings, under circumstances which, in other and more civilized parts of the universe, would necessitate a recourse to pile-driving, or some wonderful mechanical arrangement involving the use of steam-power, and which, as far as the latter are concerned, would be wholly unsuited to such an out of the way part of the world as that secluded name-forgotten abode of the brick and mortar art so especially was in those days of yore. Complicated machinery of any sort would be sure to go wrong in the hands of the unsophisticated Hindoo, and then everything would be at a stand still for want of the necessary means to repair damages. So, for matters to go on smoothly and uninterruptedly in that part of the country, simplicity, I was easily convinced, must clearly be the order of the day. As an instance of native genius for misunderstanding the use of common things beyond their ken, it may be mentioned that a friend of mine had indulged in the luxury of very ordinary brass locks for his bungalow doors; and sure enough every one of them became quite useless before long; and, in many cases, the handles wrenched off in trying to do what any one of our own blessed infants acquires a knowledge of as soon as it is old enough to reach the much-coveted object.

The works that came under my observation, and on which swarms of natives were working away as busy as bees—though such instinctive industry is by no means a remarkable attribute of that interesting people—were the foundations of a gigantic

aqueduct, compared with which all other conduits of water, ancient and modern, were verily not to be mentioned in the same breath; in short, nothing like it on the planet. Operations were being carried on in the bed of a river of some considerable width, as dry as the table I am writing at for several consecutive months in the year, and during the rainy season the scene occasionally of such very heavy torrents, that it was difficult for uninitiated man to conceive by what scientific means anything could be constructed to withstand their violence; especially when it is known that the integrity of the river bed, consisting of sand and water of unknown depth, can be only permanently secured by the most consummate skill and good management, failing which it would be scooped out here, there, and everywhere, and every blessed thing along with it.

The difficulty of laying in the foundations of a work 20ft. deep by any other process than the one to hand can be easily understood, from the fact of the perennial spring water lying so near the surface that it was utterly impracticable digging down more than 5ft. or 6ft. in the usual way, and that by no means an easy matter. It is true that the means employed for overcoming a difficulty of this nature are extremely simple, and, after all, but an improvement on the plan that has been in use by the natives of India from time immemorial; but it is on this very account they are so well worthy of notice, as not only being admirably adapted to the comprehension of the Asiatic and the undeveloped resources of his charming but very tepid part of the globe, but also as being so desirable of introduction elsewhere.

It may be stated, in a few words, that the native method of obtaining foundations for their bridges, and such like, is sinking a number of brick cylinders—or "wells," as they are generally called, I believe—which are afterwards filled in with earth or concrete, domed over, connected together, and built upon as they best may. In the work that I am presuming to scribble about, the choice was said to lie between pile-driving and "blocks," the relative merits of which, and the reasons of preferring the latter to the former, though duly impressed upon my bewildered mind at the time, is really much too serious and recondite a matter to take in hand just at this moment—much to the reader's satisfaction, no doubt.

The advantages of rectangular blocks over circular wells, to build upon, are far too manifest, one would think, to need any special disquisition on that head, substantiality and their adaptation to the form of superstructure being not the least important of them; and yet these wells have since been extensively used on some important works now in progress in another part of the country, which will be noticed hereafter. In regard to the system adopted on this occasion, the style of procedure appeared to be as follows. After divers optical feats had been performed with level and

theodolite, to fix with mathematical accuracy the position of piers and abutments, operations were commenced by clearing away as much of the sand as the walls below would admit of, and this appeared to be about 2ft. or so below the surface of the river bed, a damp, uncomfortable looking place being now exposed to view. The next part of the business was to lay down enormously massive timber frames, consisting of roughly squared trunks of common jungle trees, firmly fitted and bolted together, all arranged in apple-pie order for the walls of the blocks which were to be built upon them.

To make the matter sufficiently intelligible, and speak in round numbers—though very near the mark—we will assume the foundations for one of the piers to be 200ft. long, 20ft. wide, and 20ft. deep; this would consist of nine cubes of 20ft., placed between 2ft., and 3ft. apart, and which are built first of all to a height of 12ft. The walls of each block are so constructed as to form four cavities, or “wells,” as they are called, 6ft. square, for the convenience of getting out the sand, as will be seen further on. Common trestle windlasses are next placed on the top of the blocks, one over each well, and strong wooden troughs laid in a slanting position against the walls, to perform the twofold office of an inclined plane for the work-people to go up and down upon, and a slide for the sand that is to be scooped up from the bowels of the earth.

Coincident with the later operations is the very important one of digging away the sand as deep as can be managed from a distance of 20ft. or 30ft., parallel to the lines of blocks; for the sand not so excavated, be it known, would, in the course of undersinking (as the operation is called) find its way into the wells, which, for obvious reasons, would be a much more troublesome and expensive way of getting rid of it than by digging after the usual manner of mortals. Each of the windlasses is provided with a large ponderous iron spade, scoop, or whatever the correct interpretation may be of the tool called, in Oriental parlance, a “jham,” and to manipulate which a pole is used, varying in length as necessity requires, from 12ft. to 24ft. or so.

Sinking operations are commenced by inserting the end of the aforesaid long handle into the nozzle of the “jham” as it hangs dangling from the windlass; the men then let go the latter, and the whole affair, pole and all (not including the windlass, of course), is allowed to fall to the bottom as fast as it can go, and woe betide the incautious Hindoo who gets in the way of the handles, which spin round with a force enough to pulverise even a much thicker cranium than his. The long-handled apparatus is now worked vigorously to and fro, with a downward pressure, in order to get a good hold of the bottom; after which the pole is disengaged from the jham, and rested against the inside of the well, preparatory

to being hoisted up, hand over hand, for another good dig.

It may be remarked that this very effective iron implement, though drooping down as a matter of course vertically, is by a delightfully simple self-acting contrivance, drawn up horizontally, and when fairly loaded, may be considered to hold about two cubic feet of sand. On this reaching the surface, after the customary hauling, shouting, and frantic attitudinising, so essential to the success of any combined muscular efforts on the part of Indian workmen, it is tumbled out of the jham, shovelled into the trough, and carried away—not in wheelbarrows, exactly, but, after the fashion of the East, in baskets, on the shaved and thickly covered heads of her Majesty’s faithful and loyal black lieges. Speaking of wheelbarrows reminds me of having seen, or heard it mentioned, that on occasion of their being introduced for the first time on some work in that country of solar influence and “solar topees,” these simple-minded people, after filling them with earth, proceeded to put the whole affair bodily on to their heads, basket fashion. Oh, ye navvies of England, think of that!

It has been remarked that the sand is cleared away to some distance all round the lines of blocks, and this is a territory carefully preserved from sandy encroachments of any sort, for reasons already stated. As the work proceeds, the sides of the cutting subside with serious intentions of sloping towards the blocks; but this can be prevented by taking a hint from the premonitory cracks as they appear now and then. The cavity occupied by the sinking block is called the “crater,” but the term, to my limited understanding, was vastly more suggestive of Vesuvius than anything so decidedly aquatic as block-sinking; but this may be considered hyper-criticism, perhaps, by the learned in such matters.

Something often goes wrong down in the lower regions of the well; either the rope breaks in one of those frantic efforts above spoken of, or, what is worse, a piece of drift-wood, of unknown antiquity, gets athwart the timber underneath. This was evidently a fruitful source of tribulation to every one concerned, always excepting of course the insouciant operatives, who instantly assume the sitting attitude of our alleged quadrumanous primogenitors, and are soon oblivious to everything around them in the transcendent delights of the beloved “hubble-bubble.” At this critical juncture in block-sinking operations, a primitive looking functionary—if *not in puris naturalibus* exactly, at all events something alarmingly near it—steps forward to the rescue.

This amphibious specimen of the order Vertebrate, yclep’d the diver, though a more commonly useful member of the well-sinking community at one time, when improved jhams were not, than he was at the time when I first beheld the light of his countenance, is nevertheless an indispensable

personage in cases of accident—in fact, he seems to have been wisely and specially created to get well-sinkers out of their scrapes, and that, too, without the aid of Siebe's or any other wonderful patent diving apparatus.

It struck an outsider like myself very forcibly that no self-denying, cylindrical-tiled, swallow-tailed Feringhee would wish to change places with this "man and a brother," on a cold windy morning, as he stands on the edge of the well preparing to slip down the rope on his watery errand; or again, when reappearing from the deep, after a wonderfully long time it appears, dripping, shivering, and the very picture of misery, to warm himself by the few embers always kept at hand for these resuscitating purposes.

The blocks above described take from twelve to sixteen days sinking the first 12ft., after which, the remaining 8ft., are built up, and the under-sinking recommenced as before. This last is a much more tedious operation than the first, for several reasons, and occupies from twenty to thirty days. Blocks are always found difficult to start again after a long rest, from being so tenaciously gripped by the sand which has settled about them in the interim; herein, though, consists the secret of their future immovability and perfection as a means of support for any weight that may be put upon them. The jham poles, moreover, become of unwieldy length; much of the sand, too, gets washed off—and has to be hauled up again, of course—in its ascent through the ever increasing depth of water; add to this the friction against the sides of the monster when deeply submerged.

Blocks are often capricious in their movements, and, from some unexplained cause or other best known to themselves, will stick hopelessly, even unto being abandoned sometimes after months of patient and unremunerative toil, as may be gleaned from the ancient chronicles of block-sinkers. Various outrigging expedients are resorted to for loading blocks, as *weight* is an element of the first importance in helping them down to their subterraquean destination; in fact, but for the inconvenience in various ways of sinking blocks 20ft. high, and their provoking tendency in so doing to get out of the perpendicular—especially in their first or tottering stage—they should on this account be built up first of all to their full height, and thus derive the benefit of their whole weight.

The foregoing remarks have been confined to blocks with four wells in them, and which are comparatively easy to sink, as by an intelligent use of the windlasses they can be kept straight; but there were a number of disorderly, narrow two-well blocks which seemed to resist in a most pertinacious and obstreperous manner all attempts to get them down; some of these gentry were as much as 4ft., and even 5ft. out of the perpendicular, as ascertained from actual measurement—the fellows manning the crazy-looking craft were

obliged to hold on by the main brace. Most of these blocks were fitted up with the outrigging apparatus above mentioned, and heavily loaded with sand, one side or the other, in the vain hope, alas! of restoring them to their lost equilibrium, the sand only holding them up. To follow up the metaphor with a simile, the grotesque appearance, from a distance, of these leaning towers, with their strange-looking appendages, reminded one of ships with studding-sails set rolling about in a heavy sea. I prefer this, at least, to the "drunken man" simile which was current at the epoch.

Another essential element of success in block-sinking, I found to be the prevailing idea, is uninterrupted progress day and night. Some of the ill effects caused by stopping work to build up the last 8ft. have already been noticed, and they must be proportionably less, no doubt, when sinking operations are suspended at the end of the day, and not resumed until the following morning, especially when a Sunday intervenes. Any cessation of work then must cause a loss of time in re-starting the block, which, when once on the move, should, as far as its own interests are concerned, have no repose, nocturnal or Sabbatical, until finally disposed of. Night sinking is dearer, of course, than day sinking; for the simple and universally believed reason, that blackey never works properly unless he is properly looked after; and a dark night, with the darkness rendered more visible by torchlight, is not very favourable, it must be admitted, for exercising the vigilance of the watchful eye. If night sinking economise time, to what extent, if any, it is *pecuniarily* profitable deponent sayeth not, because no one could enlighten him.

It has been observed that these undersinking operations are necessarily restricted to the dry season of the year, and, as enterprising people are generally ambitious of doing more than they can well get through within a given time, the latter commodity is therefore very precious with our block-sinkers, and their brick-and-mortar pets are always on the move long before they are sufficiently hardened for the trials in store for them; the consequence is that, as the four walls cannot all be operated upon exactly alike, an unequal strain is thus brought to bear upon the timbers underneath, and the walls are given to splitting in divers directions. On looking aghast at these cracks of ominous import, I was assured, with unsurpassed equanimity, that they would all close up again as the blocks went down, and that the cracks were really only formidable in a superterrestrial point of view. It need only be said, then, that the results fully justified this disregard of any such trifles as would drive a house-builder to commit suicide on the spot. If a block *did* come to grief, however, when far down, its *disjecta membra*, I opined, would be an insuperable obstacle to sinking a new one in its place.

To the practical mind, "hoop-iron" bond had

of course suggested itself as an antidote for this disorder, and had been used in considerable quantities, it appears, but was afterwards discontinued on the important discovery being made that blocks *did* always fulfil their destiny somehow, no matter how much cracked; under which happy circumstances it was quite immaterial whether they had hoop-iron in them or not, and that using it, therefore, would be a sheer waste of the sinews of war. Thus another proof had to be recorded that there are many more wondrous things in the world to be noted than were ever dreamt of in this poor traveller's philosophy.

When the blocks have been sunk to their full depth of 20ft., the wells are filled in with sand (there was certainly no necessity for using anything else that I could see, all things considered, but which there is no use enumerating here); then strongly arched over inside by means of the notches—cacophonously styled “skew-backs”—left for this purpose with such exquisite forethought when building the last 8ft. of the block. The spaces between the blocks are also filled in with brickwork, and presto! the whole foundation is then complete, and approximates to what is so neatly delineated on the plan. But why not exactly? Simply because it is invariably found that the blocks when sinking have shifted more or less from the positions originally assigned them, though, generally speaking with the four well blocks—to no very embarrassing extent. With the narrow nautical looking affair, though, whenever they *did* get a chance of going down properly, they turned about to every point of the compass, utterly uncontrollable members, in fact, of the block fraternity.

To an individual who, situate like myself, had never seen anything of the kind before, several long rows of these sinking blocks, with the crowds of people working on them, present a very curious spectacle, even in daytime; but at night, by torch-light, the scene is indescribably cold and picturesque; the effect being so much enhanced as it is by the whole of the *tableau* being reflected from the still surface of the lake in which the blocks have become gradually and totally isolated. A distant view of these nocturnal well-sinkers, with all their paraphernalia of office, working away “by the light of the moon,” when there is one, and always with torches, whether there is or not, might be likened, for want of something better, to swarms of belligerent black ants illuminated in their conflict by an army works corps of fire flies. Something better and more appropriate than the above may suggest itself, perhaps, to the more fervid imagination of the reader.

Speaking of scenic effect, though, let me pay a passing tribute to the enchanting view from the place where all these interesting works were going on. About ten or twelve miles off were the low rugged outlined hills of the Siwalik range, so full of geological interest; these were backed by the

“hills”—*par excellence*—on a fine day could be seen some forty miles off, dotted about on their summits between 6,000ft. and 7,000ft. above sea-level, the comfortable domiciles of that very celestial retreat already spoken of, and happy indeed the man who can flit thither from all the turmoil and abominations of life in the plains. The finest features in the landscape, though, are the magnificent peaks of the “Snowy Range,” standing out in such bold relief against their background of blue sky;—altogether, in fact, as pretty a picture as can well be seen, and highly refreshing to the poor wretches with “liver” and blue devils who can't get there.

The end of the working season, *i.e.*, a little before the middle of June, in the beds of rivers, is characterised by all the hurry scurry usual in mundane affairs when preparing for any great event, and when something or other *will* always be left to the last. All the “*res impedimenta*” of brick and mortar life are now cleared away from the scene of action, and everything supposed to be in readiness for the burst of the rains, and one of those terrific looking floods or “*raos*,” as they are called in the vernacular, which so scared the poor writer once when he was caught in one of them, and with not a moment to lose in reaching *terra firma*: a decided case of *sauve qui peut* it is on such occasions, let me tell you. On the river bed being deserted in favour of its legitimate owner, nothing but the tops of the submerged blocks, and the huge mounds of sand excavated to make room for them, remain to show how much has been made of irrecoverable opportunities.

These mounds are fortunately but perishable relics of human industry, and their soft masses soon yield to the first rush of mighty waters, leaving the surface of the river bed afterwards as if nothing had happened to disturb the serenity of its repose.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE ASMOLE MANUSCRIPTS AT OXFORD.

Mr. W. H. Black, well known in the archaeological world, is, as I believe, the individual most likely to possess the information desired by a brother who writes from Birmingham. The Ashmole MSS. at Oxford were examined whilst I held the office of Secretary to the Record Board, and to the best of my recollection about the year 1835. In the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, Vol. 10, p. 179, it is stated that a German professor and brother, with whom I became acquainted at Leipsic about forty years ago, ascribed the rise of modern Freemasonry to a literary club, of which Elias Ashmole was a principal member. The club, in fanciful imitation of the mediæval secret societies, used a system of signs and symbols, borrowed from the Knights Templar and the Rosicrucians. If I may venture to form a conjecture on the point, the above-mentioned examination of the

manuscripts of the Historian of the Order of the Garter was made without any view of obtaining materials that might possibly throw light on the origin of existing Freemasonry.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

TWO NUMERICAL MASONIC CYPHERS.

I send two numerical Masonic cyphers to test your cyphering.—O.

4, 18 8 13 9, 12, 15 20 24 24 2 8, 18 14, 2 8 19 18, 18 8 8,
4 7, 23 14 20 17 8, 12 18, 10 2 8 21 8 17, 12 18, 4, 11 8.

Then

33 15 83 15 84 70 60 80 85 33 15 83 91 80 86 84 33 80 86 10 12
9 60 80—38 85

38 20 91 80 86 12 80—33 91 85 33 15 60 38 86 84 85 84 33 80
—38 85.

[Quite; though we do not recognise your initials as one of the Ill. Major or Minor. 'Tis done. 30°.]

THE HOURS OF MASONRY.

The Masons of the York Rite have only the terms "high twelve" and "low twelve" to designate particular Masonic times, that is, noon and midnight; and, in relation to the hours of labour and of rest, they seem to have preserved but one tradition, namely, that Masons begin to work at six in the morning, are called to refreshment at high twelve; called on again an hour past high twelve, and continue their labour until "low six," or evening.

But some of the Masons of the continent and of the continental rites have paid more attention to this system of Masonic horometry, and have found or invented a variety of terms and legends in relation to Masonic hours. Among these rites, that of Zinnendorf, established about the end of the last century in Germany, has some curious details. The following extract from the ritual is translated from Lenning's *Encyclopædia of Freemasonry* :—

Q.—"How many hours are there in a Freemason's Lodge?"

A.—"Five."

Q.—"How are these hours called?"

A.—"Twelve noon, high noon, midnight, and high midnight."

Q.—"When is it *twelve*?"

A.—"Before the lodge is opened, and when the lodge is closed."

Q.—"When is it *noon*?"

A.—"When the Master is about to open the lodge."

Q.—"When is it *high noon*?"

A.—"When the lodge is duly opened."

Q.—"When is it *midnight*?"

A.—"When the Master is about to close the lodge."

Q.—"When is it *high midnight*?"

A.—"When the lodge is closed and the profane are allowed to approach."

Q.—"How many consecutive hours do Freemasons work in their lodge?"

A.—"Three hours."

Q.—"What are these three hours?"

A.—"Noon, high noon, and midnight."

Q.—"What are the hours when Freemasons do not work?"

A.—"Twelve, and high midnight."

There are other divisions into Masonic weeks and years, but what has been given above is enough to

show the care with which Masonic symbolism is cultivated among these philosophical rites, for all these answers are of course allegorical and symbolical. One more answer in this catechism of the Zinnendorf ritual may conclude this paragraph, as it is highly suggestive of a deep religious truth.

Q.—"How long is a Mason's day?"

A.—"From the beginning of the year to its end."

And so, indeed, it is. The work of a true Mason is never done—his day of labour never ends—and at all hours and in all seasons, his task still goes nobly on for the search—the untiring search after truth must be ever employing him, from week to week, from month to month, and from year to year, until days, and weeks, and months, and years, shall all have passed away, and life ends with the search still pursued.—R. M.

ATTENDANCE AT LODGE.

If, as we know, a lodge is composed of individual members, how can it meet or open without their attendance? Hence, all should attend, &c. Now while I admit that full meetings are highly desirable and gratifying to all and to each, and that it is very pleasant and delightful to every true Mason to be present at every meeting of this lodge, yet, as Masonry enjoins that we should on no account neglect our business and private and social duties (so the Ancient Charge has it), as citizens and heads of families, how are we to reconcile the doctrine of those who advocate never being absent, with neglect of duty outside of the lodge? I presume it should be conceded *à priori*, that, when a member is not present, he has calls of duty elsewhere which keep him away. This would be charitable. And yet we hear those who have much happy leisure to attend, often making rather un-Masonic remarks about the absence of others.—REGULARITY.

TEMPLAR NOTES.

The Prov. G. Commander of Canada, Sir Knt. Captain W. B. McLeod Moore, furnished some notes on Templary, which are worthy of preservation.—Ex. Ex.

"I send you a copy I took in Malta of the Grand Master's vow, as also the vow of the Scotch Order of the Temple—I mean the Order not connected now with Masonry, as there is still one, I learn, attached to it. I also send a copy of the titles, and some little description of the Order of the Temple and St. John, taken from one of our late works on heraldry.

"There are many points in your Templar costume that puzzle me. Why do you wear black mantles, black caps, &c.? The ancient Templars always wore white, the Knights of St. John wore black. As to its being mourning for the suppression of the Order after Jacques De Molay's martyrdom, it is a mere farce. The Order, as a political power, being suppressed, merged into the Knights of Malta—excepting the few who kept up the Order in Scotland—and we know they (the Knights of Malta) always wore the white mantle and a red cross. (See the Investiture of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the Pretender, at Holyrood.) We, in many points, do not agree with Gourdin's *Historical Sketch of Knights Templar*, which contains many inaccuracies and misstatements, though it bears evidence of being got up with great care. It is chiefly compiled from modern publications.

Dr. Oliver's works are frequently cited, from which several questionable statements are made.

"For instance—the Doctor says that the original Encampments of Bristol, 'York,' and 'Bath,' are encampments of Baldwin, but he gives no authority, and I doubt the accuracy of the statement. The encampments at Bath and York are called Baldwin Encampments. The former was the 'Antiquity,' of seven degrees, the latter the 'Redemption.'

"Again—Gourdin's statements respecting the 'Observance' Encampment, London, and the Duke of Sussex's connection therewith, are incorrect. So is the statement that the Baldwin Encampments do not send representatives to the Grand Conclave. At the first Grand Conclave, after Col. Tynte's election, the Grand Commander and another frère from the Baldwin encampment did attend. From 1791 until about 1835, the Baldwin Encampment regularly paid dues to the Grand Conclave; but as no account was rendered, and no Grand Conclave held, they, with many other encampments, refused to pay dues afterwards.

"Now, as to the Baldwin Encampment—which it is certain is very ancient—to insist that it was founded by Baldwin, King of Jerusalem, or a delegate from him, merely because it bears that name, is illogical. Yet I believe the Bristolians have no other ground for it. Neither are there any grounds for the old, extinct Dermott Encampments of Bath and York being called encampments of Baldwin, save Dr. Oliver's authority. They are not so called in the list of encampments printed in 1806, or 1837. The 'York Encampment' there is styled 'Redemption,' and the 'Bath' Encampment 'Antiquity.'

"It is difficult to determine why, upon the authority of Frater Nash, the 'Observance' Encampment, London, should be called 'The original encampment of the Duke of Sussex.' For this encampment had an existence long before the Duke of Sussex was initiated. He cannot mean the duke was initiated in that encampment, because (as Gourdin says) the duke was initiated in Paris, and it is doubtful if he was ever a member of the 'Observance.'

"Again—It is incorrect to say that there is no ceremony for the Knights of Malta. I have a beautiful one, supposed to have been given to the Templars on admitting them to the Order after their suppression at De Molay's martyrdom. Many parts of the ceremony I had translated from the Latin statutes, taken from the old Knights' library at Malta. The truth of the matter is the Order of the Temple got jumbled up with that of St. John, and the black costume, &c., is taken from that.

"I observe that there is, in the United States, a banner of St. John, a cross of nine points—I understand it as a star—with a motto. Now, I think I know that no such cross or star ever existed. The Maltese cross is of eight points, and white; but the star is altogether a modern and Masonic innovation. In the Templar they have it of nine points, we of seven; but, with us, it is strictly (I may call it) a Masonic commemoration of the vision of Constantine, with cross in the centre.

"The eight-pointed white cross was worn on the left shoulder, on a black mantle; while a white cross was worn on a red surcoat, both on back, breast, shoulders; and this is the true cross of St. John. I have in my possession some of the old crosses.

"I give you an heraldic description of the Seal of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Knights Templar of Canada, under the Supreme Grand Conclave of England and Wales:—'On a cross patee gules (red) a shield quartered; 1st and 4th argent (white). The Templar cross (patee gules) 2nd and 3rd (quarters). The Beauseant (party per fesse sable and argent) on an escutcheon of pretence, by the old Templar Arms. Argent, a plain cross, gules and (brochant sur le tout) the Holy Lamb bearing the banner of the Order, surmounted by a red cross. A sword of State and Abacus en saltier behind the shield. The whole surmounted by a ducal coronet.' This is from a design of my own, as also is the following seal of Geoffrey de St. Aldemar Encampment, at Toronto, Canada West:—

"On a cross patee alisé gules, and within the mystic Templar Triangle, three greater, nine lesser lights, viz., or (gold) twelve lights 'gules.' An escutcheon of the arms of St. Aldemar, viz., azure (blue), a fesse or (gold) in chief. The Templar cross. The large cross patee charged with the sacred Templar symbols, viz., the dove descending over the cross of Calvary. The Holy Lamb, the Cock, and the emblems of mortality, all argent. Outside the upper arms of the cross patee the emblems of the Craft and Royal Arch Masonry, or.'

"The true seal and banner of St. John (or of Malta) is thus sketched:—'Gules, a plain cross argent, surmounted by a crown, *Domus Hospitalis S. Joannis Hierosol. in Anglia.*'

"The cross of Knights of Malta, 'British langue,' is a white enamelled cross of eight points set in gold. Four lions of England joining the arms of the cross, the whole surmounted by the coronet of the Grand Master, attached to a black ribbon, and worn on the left breast or round the neck. The mantle was black, with white linen, eight-pointed cross on left shoulder. The surcoat or tunic red, with plain white cross on the breast, back, and shoulders.

"The points of the Maltese cross, or St. John of Jerusalem, denote the *Eight Beatitudes* (Matt., 5th chap.) in the bearers thereof, and are also symbolical of the eight languages of the Order.

"The true Templar cross is the cross patee alisé, that is, the cross patee with a crural inwards on the outside of the arms, instead of being made up of four equilateral triangles.

"The Patriarchal cross, worn by Eminent Commanders of the English Order, is a perpendicular line, crossed twice, to denote the work of redemption, which was wrought on the cross, and extended both to Jews and to Gentiles.

"In relation to the Scotch Orders of the Temple and St. John, I would say, to the list of Orders of Knighthood in Great Britain and Ireland may be added two (though not strictly State Orders) which exist as corporate bodies, under Royal Letters Patent, holding upon the Crown its heirs and successors for ever. 1st. The Religious and Military Orders of the Temple was founded A.D. 1118, and from that time to the present never has ceased to exist, although so much persecution and cruel oppression have been heaped against them, and their sixteen thousand lordships taken from them by Royal decree. The Order is now flourishing in Scotland: it consists of three degrees, G.C.T. (Grand Cross of the Temple); K.C. (Knight

Commander of the Temple); K.T. (Knight of the Temple). Ribbon is rose colour, with a broad white border. (In England all white.) 2nd. The Seventh Langue of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and which was incorporated in England by Philip and Mary in 1554, and revived in 1834, under powers derived from Continental Langues. It also consists of three classes, G.C.J. (Grand Cross of St. John); K.C.J.; and K.J. The ribbon for the cross is black, watered.

"The Shield (armorial bearing) of the Scotch Templars has the cross patee in chief, a Knight's helmet, a paternoster chain round the shield, to which is attached a red cross of the Temple. The Beauseant or Red Cross Pennon, and Abacus en Saltier, at the back of the shield.

"The old Knights of St. John had their shield on an eight-pointed cross, with their arms quartered with the arms of St. John. These may be seen over the entrances of the doors in Malta.

"The following form is used on receiving a Masonic Knight Templar into the Scotch Order or Preceptory of the Temple in the Lothians: 'To the very noble and venerable the Prior and Brethren of the Priory of the Temple in the Lothians, the memorial of ——— humbly sheweth that your memorialists, who belong to the respective Masonic Temple Encampments specified after each of their names, are desirous of being received, by affiliation, into the Religious and Military Order of the Temple in your Preceptory; and pray that the suffrages of the Knights may be collected in the manner prescribed by the statutes of the Order, and that they may be received accordingly.'

"The duties of each affiliation, including the Patent of Confirmation by the Grand Master, are £3 13s. 6d. sterling."

ADAM AND THE ANGEL OF PARADISE.

(From the German of Krummacher.)

As Abel lay weltering in his blood, and Adam wept by the side of the slain one, there came an angel of Paradise to the father of the human race, standing silent, and with a serious brow, beside him. Then Adam raised his eyes and spoke:

"Is this a picture of the race that is to spring forth from my loins, and will the earth ever again be stained with a brother's blood shed by a brother's hand?"

The angel answered—"Thou sayest."

"Alas! by what name," asked Adam, "shall this horrid deed be called?"

With a tear in his eye, the angel replied—"War."

Then the father of men sighed and spoke:

"Oh, wherefore must the noble and the just fall by the hand of the unrighteous?"

The angel was silent.

But Adam, continuing his complaints, exclaimed:

"What now is left to me in my wretchedness on this blood-stained earth?"

And the angel answered and said: "The glance towards heaven," and then he disappeared.

Adam stood there until the going down of the sun; and, as the stars came forth, he stretched his hands towards Orion and the Wain, and cried aloud:

"Oh! ye shining watchers at the gates of heaven,

why move ye so silently. Let a mortal hear some sound of your voices, and speak of the land which lies yonder, and of Abel my beloved."

Beulah was silent around him, and Adam fell on his face and worshipped. And there came into his heart a still soft voice, "Behold, Abel thy son liveth."

Then went he forth comforted, and his soul was at peace, though sad.

* * * * *

I do not know if Krummacher was a Freemason, but all of this is but the teaching of the third degree, in which there is ever a still small voice exclaiming, "Behold, thy brother liveth."—SPES.

WISDOM, STRENGTH, AND BEAUTY.

Please give a short illustration of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, and oblige—A CONSTANT READER.—[Take the following—which is most ready to our hand—the production of a well-known brother. We learn from Scripture, that when Solomon, King of Israel, went to Gibeon to sacrifice, the Lord appeared unto him in a vision by night, and said, "Ask what I shall give thee," and the King asked for understanding, which so pleased the Lord, that he complied with his request, and bestowed upon him a "wise and understanding heart." Hence, in Freemasonry Solomon is considered the symbol of Wisdom. Solomon, having determined to execute the pious design of his father, David, and to erect a temple to the Lord, being deficient in men and materials, applied for assistance to Hiram, King of Tyre, who had been the friend and ally of King David. Hiram readily granted his request, and agreed to send him workmen from Tyre, and cedar and fir-trees from Mount Lebanon. Hence, Hiram, King of Tyre, by the powerful support which he gave to King Solomon in the construction of the sacred edifice, has been considered in Freemasonry the symbol of Strength. Among those sent from Tyre by Hiram to assist in the construction of the temple, was Hiram Abif, the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, who is described as having been "a curious and cunning workman." By his skill and ingenuity, the house of the Lord on Mount Moriah was decorated with a splendour and magnificence which made it one of the wonders of the world, whence the ingenious artist has been considered in Freemasonry the symbol of Beauty.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

HONORARY MEMBERS.

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

SIR AND BROTHER,—With reference to honorary members, I think lodges so electing brethren should pay all dues for them, thus making them "honorary subscribing members," and so return them to Grand Lodge; otherwise there is no honour attached to the intended compliment, nor privileges enjoyed by the brother so elected.

Yours fraternally,

H. C.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC MEM.

We would again remind the brethren that the Festival of the Royal Benevolent Fund for Aged Freemasons and their Widows takes place next Wednesday.

METROPOLITAN.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when the business of the day was opened by Bro. Moutrie, P.M., the I.P.M. As it was the installation of the new Master, Bro. Peter Matthews, P.M. (Secretary to the lodge for twenty-seven years, a service he has discharged with credit to himself and honour to No. 11) formed a Board of Past Masters to install Bro. N. Greave as W.M. of the lodge for twelve months ensuing, or until a successor be appointed. The ceremony was admirably performed, and gave evident satisfaction to all present. The W.M. immediately went into harness, and at once most ably initiated Messrs. John Baptist Ciabatta and Henry Fleming Yelf into the mysteries of Freemasonry. He afterwards, with equal talent, raised Bros. Hennell, Light, and Cronin to the sublime degree of M.M. He then invested the following as his officers:—Bros. Dale, S.W.; Ferguson, J.W.; Peter Matthews, Sec.; Jaquet, S.D.; Wallace, J.D.; Jackson, I.G.; Berger, M.C.; F. Ledger, Steward; Venables, Org.; who, with Bro. Watson, Treasurer, and Crawley, Tyler, were duly invested. After other minor business the brethren retired to a most *recherché* and liberal banquet, supplied in Messrs. Shrewsbury and Elkington's best style. Nearly sixty brethren sat down, who were presided over by the W.M., Bro. W. Greaves. The visitors were numerous, and included Bros. W. Scott, 140; Lambert, St. Patrick's, Ireland (8); Figg, 256; Lay, Bavarian Lodge, Truth and Friendship; Hugham, 954; Ware, 12; Job Austin, late of 11; Muggridge, 192; Sloman, 25; Binckes, 10; Berry, 211; Greatrex, 22; Bollaert, of Bonaparte, Paris; Jones, 60; Harvey, 194; O'Connor, 281; Statham, of Albany, Grahamstown, S.A., &c. The vocal and instrumental display was very great, and gave every satisfaction, the artists being Miss Leffler, Miss Taylor, Bro. Donald King, &c. Bro. Berger also contributed much to the evening's comfort with his admirable and artistic performance on the pianoforte.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 147).—**INSTALLATION MEETING.**—This highly prosperous lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 11th, at the White Swan Inn, High-street, Deptford. Bro. G. Bolton, P.M. and Treas. presided (the W.M., Bro. J. Hollins, having died some months ago), and was assisted by Bros. J. Bavin, S. Wand, W.M. elect; J. Lightfoot, J.W.; C. Davis, P.M. and Sec.; G. Chapman, S.D.; J. Patte, J.D.; Batt, I.G.; J. A. Green, J. Porter, H. Ellis, Ponder, Crombie, Ward, Bullock, and very many others, too numerous to mention. Amongst an extraordinary number of visitors we noticed—Bros. J. Donkin, P.M. 73; G. J. Lowe, 73; M. A. Loewenstark, 73; Vinten, J.W. 79; H. A. Collington, P.M. 140, 79, S.W. 871; G. Brown, W.M. 169; C. G. C. Stahr, W.M. 871; J. H. Pembroke, J.W. 871; J. S. Blomeley, J.D. 871; J. Rosenstock, I.G. 871; D. Barber, 871; B. Avery, 169; and others whose names we were unable to learn. The first ceremony was raising two brethren to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The other candidates not attending punctually at the time specified in the summons the ceremonies were put off until the next regular meeting. The next business was the installation. Bro. F. Walters, P.M., presented Bro. J. Bavin, S.W. and W.M. elect, to the W.M. to receive the benefit of installation. The Board of Installed Masters, consisting of seven, was then duly formed, and Bro. J. Bavin was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The board was closed in due form. The brethren were admitted and the W.M. proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees. He then appointed the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year, viz:—Bros. J. Lightfoot, S.W.; G. Chapman, J.W.; G. Bolton, P.M. and Treas.; C. Davis, P.M. and Sec.; J. Patte, S.D.; W. Andrews, J.D.; Batt, I.G. The addresses were then most ably and beautifully given, and, when completed, a hearty burst of ap-

plause followed. Bro. G. Batton, although suffering from a severe cold, rendered every ceremony in his usual painstaking manner, more especially the installation, which was splendidly rendered and commanded universal admiration. The report of the audit committee was received, and two of the auditors informed the brethren of the satisfactory state of the finances. The lodge was never in a better position both for cash in hand and number of members on the books. It was proposed and seconded "That a five guinea Treasurer's jewel be purchased from the lodge funds and presented to Bro. G. Bolton, P.M. and Treas., as a slight recognition of the able services rendered to the lodge, both as the Treasurer for many years past, as also for his efficient services as P.M." It was proposed as an amendment "That five guineas be taken from the lodge funds to purchase a testimonial for Bro. Bolton, P.M. and Treasurer, allowing him to choose the form of testimonial." The original motion was withdrawn and the amendment carried *nem con.* Bro. Bolton, P.M. and Treas., in a feeling speech returned thanks, and selected a Life Governorship of the Royal Benevolent Institution. Several candidates were then proposed for initiation at the next lodge meeting. A committee was appointed to revise the by-laws. Business being ended the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren, nearly fifty in number, then sat down to a superior banquet. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and received. After spending a pleasant evening the brethren separated. It is our pleasing duty to notice that Bro. Porter opened his new lodge room for the first time on this auspicious occasion. It is a splendidly furnished room, and regular in its shape for a lodge, being a parallel in length from E to W, in breadth from N to S. It is well lighted by two tasteful and elegant cut glass jet chandeliers. Everything that could be thought of has been done to make things comfortable. Elegant paintings, lithographs, and engravings adorn the walls. A magnificent mirror hangs over the marble top mantlepiece. The well furnished, comfortable ante-room, with its cheerful fire, lends an additional charm to the comforts already enumerated. Carpets of elegant and chaste patterns enrich the flooring of both lodge and ante-rooms. Every convenience for washing, &c., is on the same floor and in close proximity to the ante-room. We cannot conclude our remarks without wishing our esteemed Bro. Porter may receive a hearty appreciation both from lodge and chapter for the very liberal and extensive manner he has supplied a want long felt in the neighbourhood. Already there is a rumour that one old lodge intends moving there.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 177).—The monthly meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Tuesday, the 10th inst., at Anderson's Hotel, and was numerously attended by P.M.'s, members, and visitors. Bro. John Benjamin Osborne, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Simpson, S.W.; F. H. Smith, J.W.; and the other officers. The lodge having been opened, the first business of the evening was to pass Bros. Knott and Chaplin to the second degree. The lodge was then resumed to the first degree, when the following gentlemen who were candidates were impressively initiated by the W.M. into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry—Messrs. J. D. Rutherford, Thos. Allen, William Edward George, John Biers, and Joseph Malcolm. Other candidates were in attendance, but the initiation of them was necessarily deferred until the next meeting. The lodge was opened in the third degree, when Bro. Henry Thompson, P.M., raised Bro. Harris to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge having been resumed to the first degree, several gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation at the next meeting. The minutes of the last lodge were confirmed, as was a portion of them that stood over for discussion, fixing the future meetings of the lodge for the second Friday in the month. Bro. James Low Edward, Journeyman Lodge (No. 8), Edinburgh, was admitted as a joining member of this lodge. All business being ended, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, which was served up in Bro. Clemow's excellent style, and commanded unanimous satisfaction. After the cloth was drawn, the W.M. gave the formal loyal and Masonic toasts, Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst., responding for the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers. The W.M. said the next toast he had to propose was a very pleasing one to him, and must be very gratifying to the lodge in seeing such a large accession of new members to the lodge. He had that evening initiated five gentlemen into their Order, which was the utmost extent which the "Book of Constitutions" allowed them to go in one evening; and several gentlemen had been compelled to go away and wait fo

another meeting, which was a good sign, and showed the flourishing condition the lodge was in. The gentlemen he had initiated, he believed, would prove worthy members of the lodge and an honour to the Craft. He, therefore, asked the brethren to join with him in drinking the health of their newly-initiated brethren. The toast was received with due honours.—Bro. ALLEN returned thanks on the part of the initiates.—The W. MASTER said the next toast was one equally pleasing to him, as it was the health of those brethren who did them the honour of visiting them. The Domestic Lodge was always pleased to see present a goodly number of visitors, and they offered them a truly Masonic welcome. He gave the health of their visiting brethren.—Bros. STEVENS, S.W. of the Albion Lodge (No. 9), ATTWOOD, of the Garden City Lodge, New York, and two other brethren returned thanks for the kindness and hospitality with which they had been received, and said they felt delighted at their visit to the Domestic Lodge.—Bro. H. THOMPSON, I.P.M., said the W.M. had for a short time delegated his authority to him, and for the brief period which he should possess it, he would endeavour to make the best use of it, and that was to propose the health of their W.M., Bro. Osborne. He was not only entitled to their respect and esteem for his exalted position, but for the kindness and goodwill he had at all times manifested towards them. He (Bro. Thompson) was proud to see him in the chair, after having worked up from the lowest office in the lodge; and he trusted that the brethren would receive the toast with all the honours it so well deserved. Under his rule the Domestic Lodge promised to become one of the most numerous in the Craft, and, therefore, he asked the brethren to drink the health of their W.M. The toast was most cordially responded to.—The W. MASTER, in returning thanks, said he felt greatly obliged to their I.P.M., Bro. Thompson, for the very kind manner in which he had proposed his health, and to the brethren for the cordial way in which they had received it, and he could assure them that it would be his constant study to do all he could to promote the comfort of the brethren, and the interests and prosperity of the Domestic Lodge.—Bro. JOSEPH SMITH, P.G. Purst., P.M., and Treasurer of the lodge, said he had obtained the permission of the W.M. to propose the next toast. He said he was quite sure that he only spoke the unanimous feeling of the members of the lodge when he said they were under great obligations to their I.P.M., Bro. Thompson, for the manner in which he had performed his duties whilst presiding over him, and for the very satisfactory state in which the lodge was now placed, both as regards its funds and its respectability. What he had done met with his (Bro. Smith's) entire concurrence, but he would have been unable to carry out what he proposed, unless he had been so well supported by the members, and they were very much obliged to him for it. He also thanked him for the very efficient way in which he had discharged his duties in the lodge, for he was able to perform all the ceremonies in a correct and impressive manner, and in that respect the credit and honour of the lodge had been fully maintained. It was their intention at their last meeting to have bestowed upon him a small testimonial of their esteem for the way in which he had discharged his duties; but as it was not then ready, he had now the honour of placing on his breast the testimonial voted by the lodge as a mark of their esteem, and for the ability with which he had presided over them, and he trusted he might live long to wear it as a token of the goodwill of the brethren of the Domestic Lodge towards him. Bro. Smith then presented Bro. Thompson with a handsome jewel, manufactured by Bro. Platt, of Beaufort Buildings, Strand, and which bore the following inscription:—"Presented by the Domestic Lodge, No. 177, to Bro. H. Thompson, P.M., in testimony of their esteem, and to evince the high sense they entertain of his valuable and distinguished services in the lodge, and for the admirable manner in which he has discharged the duties of W.M. during his year of office. December 12th, 1864." The toast was drunk with great cordiality.—Bro. HENRY THOMPSON, P.M., said he really felt a loss to find suitable terms in which he could express his thanks for the manner in which the brethren had drunk his health, and for the handsome jewel they had presented to him; but from the bottom of his heart he thanked them for the honour they had conferred upon him. It was their custom to show kindness to any brother who might be placed in the exalted position of presiding over them, but his (Bro. Thompson's) year of office had been rather of an exceptional character, for he had to ask their kindness to an extent that had rarely been given to any one who was placed

in his position; but they had nobly supported him in the hour of trial, and for which he should ever feel deeply grateful to them. He had done what he considered to be only due to the dignity of the lodge and the independence of those who had been selected by them to fill the honourable position of W.M., and the way in which he had been supported by the brethren would be remembered to the latest period of his life. That he possessed their good opinion the splendid jewel which they had presented to him that night was a sufficient proof, and he should always wear it with pride and satisfaction, as an evidence of the esteem in which he was held by the brethren of the Domestic Lodge. Their Bro. Smith had been pleased to allude to the manner in which he had discharged his duties in the chair in the lodge, and he was happy to find that this part of his duty had given satisfaction, for in the performance of the different ceremonies it had always been his desire to impress candidates with the value and high importance of Freemasonry, and to adhere to the ritual to the best of his ability. He would take that opportunity of thanking his brother officers for the very able manner in which they had performed their duties, and for their very punctual attendance; and he had no doubt that the W.M., during his year of office, would find the value of their services. He again thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him; he wished them health and prosperity, and peace and happiness in their dwellings; and whenever an honourable career in this world might be brought to a close, he trusted they might one and all be successful candidates to the Grand Lodge above, where the world's Great Architect lives and reigns for ever. (Cheers.)—The W. MASTER said the next toast was that of the P.M.'s of the Domestic Lodge, Bros. Thompson, Carpenter, Elmes, Smith, Marshall, and Russar.—Bro. CARPENTER, in one of his droll and characteristic speeches, returned thanks on behalf of the P.M.'s of the lodge.—It was announced that Bro. JONES, a member of the lodge, had placed in the hands of the W.M. the sum of ten guineas, to be appropriated to the Masonic Charities; and on Bro. Jones's health being proposed, he said he did not anticipate receiving from the brethren that mark of their approbation. When he entered Freemasonry, he felt desirous that he should carry out its principles, and being associated with the members of the lodge he thought it to be nothing but his duty to do something to help others who were not so fortunate as themselves. That being so he thought he could not do better than hand to the W.M. a small donation to be applied to the society which he considered the most needy and the most deserving; but at the same time he had no wish that his name should be associated with the matter further than to awaken in others the feelings of charity.—Bro. JOSEPH SMITH, P.M., and Treasurer, suggested to Bro. Jones, if it met his approbation, that five guineas should be given to each of the funds for Aged Freemasons and Freemasons' Widows, which would make him a Life Governor of both of those institutions, to which Bro. Jones assented. A subscription was then entered into, and in a few minutes five guineas more were raised, which were placed in Bro. Smith's hands to be forwarded as the subscription of the Domestic Lodge to the festival for Aged Freemasons and their Widows to be held on the 25th inst.—"The Officers of the Lodge" was the next toast proposed, which was responded to by Bro. SIMPSON on the part of himself and brothers, who said it was their earnest desire to give satisfaction. Two or three other toasts were given, a very pleasant evening was spent in the true spirit of Freemasonry, and the brethren adjourned before eleven o'clock.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 188).—The lodge was held on Monday, 2nd inst., at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, Bro. Israel Abrahams, W.M., in the chair. After initiating five gentlemen into the Craft, and passing several others to the higher degrees, Bro. J. Phillips, P.M., in the name of the brethren of the lodge, presented Bro. Israel Abrahams, P.M., with a magnificent gold jewel, elegantly mounted in brilliants, as a mark of esteem for his valuable services as W.M. during the year 1864. Bro. Israel Abrahams, P.M., in an eloquent speech, returned thanks, and congratulated the brethren on the prosperity of the lodge, having funds in hand amounting to £147, likewise £804 to the credit of the Benevolent Fund. Bro. H. M. Levey was installed as W.M., and about eighty of the brethren then sat down to a banquet.

EUPHRATES LODGE (No. 212).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall-street, on Tuesday evening, the 3rd of January inst. The lodge being opened in the first degree, the minutes of the last meeting were read and

confirmed. Bro. E. Banister, who was duly elected on the previous lodge night, having assented to the ancient charges, was obligated in the several degrees, and a board of Installed Masters being formed, Bro. E. Banister was installed into the chair of the lodge in a very efficient manner by that old and respected Past Master of the lodge, Bro. Louis Stean. The board was then closed, and the brethren being re-admitted, saluted the newly-installed Master in the several degrees, according to ancient custom, who proceeded to appoint his officers for the ensuing year, as follows:—Bros. August H. Senger, S.W.; Leo Moritz Tuchmann, J.W.; John Werrett, S.D.; Samuel Stanger, J.D.; James Coverly, Sec.; Francis A. Klamm, Treas.; Jacob L. Frankenstein, I.G.; and G. Longstaff, Tyler, who were severally invested and addressed by the Installing Master, touching the duties of their respective avocations in the lodge. A P.M.'s jewel and a very handsome silver chalice were presented to Bro. Samuel Watkins, the Immediate Past Master, in the name of the brethren, as a token of their regard and esteem for the very able and efficient manner in which the several duties of the lodge had been conducted by him throughout his year of office, the above being presented by Bro. Charles Sinclair, the previous P.M., in an appropriate speech, to which suitable acknowledgments were returned. The lodge then closed, and the brethren, with several distinguished visitors, adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, provided by the worthy host in his usual approved style, the evening being spent in the most perfect hilarity. The vocalists were accompanied with the instrumental talent of Bros. Saqui and Carcass, who presided at the pianoforte during the evening.

BEADON LODGE (No. 619).—A lodge of emergency was held on Tuesday, 10th inst., at Bro. Middlecott's, the Greyhound, Dulwich. Bro. James W. Avery was W.M.; Bro. King, S.W.; and Bro. Swabey, W.M., Fidelity (No. 219), in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Leonard, officiated as J.W. The lodge having been formally opened, Messrs. Robert Dredge and John Williams were initiated. Bros. Cross and Hammond were then passed to the second degree, and afterwards Bros. Snelgrove and Hider were raised to the third degree. The Secretary, Bro. W. F. Blackburn, read a letter from Bro. Pigott, tendering his resignation on account of this lodge's day of meeting being on Wednesday, and that day being always a very busy day with him. The lodge was worked most admirably by the W.M. and his several officers. The business being concluded, the lodge was regularly closed, and the brethren partook of a sumptuous banquet provided by Bro. Middlecott in the long room. After the banquet the usual toasts were duly honoured, and in the speeches that followed Bro. Alfred Avery and Bro. Parker feelingly alluded to the serious illness of Bro. Bell, P.M., and the accident to Bro. Leonard, J.W. Some capital songs were sung by Bros. Seaman, Mountain, Quelch, Hammond, Kennard, Dredge, King, Parker, Hider, and Clarke, and a very pleasant evening was spent. The next regular meeting of this lodge will be on the 17th of May, but press of business may render it necessary to call an emergency earlier.

DALHOUSIE LODGE (No. 860).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, the 12th inst., at Bro. Ireland's, the Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane. At half-past five the lodge was duly opened by the W.M., Bro. E. J. Page, the officers present being Bros. C. Williams, S.W.; R. D. Farmer, P.M., Treas.; A. T. Hayward, S.D.; and N. Mudge, I.G. Bros. John Bates, C. Ireland, and W. Underwood, P.M.'s, were also present. Bro. Thomas Payne was passed, and Mr. J. W. Tinsley was initiated into the mysteries of Masonry. Bro. G. Moore, P.M. 177, and Bro. T. Meekham, J.W. 177, were admitted joining members. The business being concluded, the W.M. closed the lodge. A banquet followed, at which about thirty sat down, among the visitors being Bros. E. Rowley, P.M. 879; E. Humphreys, 879; J. D. Mills, 382; T. Morlock, 186; W. Mann, 186; G. Browne, P.M. 236; and A. Wells, J.D. 15, who was proposed as a joining member. After the repast, which was admirably served by Bro. Ireland, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and a pleasant evening was spent.

CITY OF LONDON LODGE (No. 901).—The regular meeting of this young and prosperous lodge took place on Monday, the 16th inst., at their lodge rooms, 23, Little Bell-alley. The lodge was opened at half-past four p.m., by Bro. S. Osmond, W.M., assisted by Bros. C. G. Smithers, S.W., and W.M. elect; Higgs, J.W.; Salisbury, S.D.; Walter Lean, J.D.; Gibson, I.G. There were also present Bros. E. Sisson, I.P.M.; E. Farthing, W. Dync, Hiscock, Terry, Liuttle, and several other brethren.

Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. H. J. Thompson, P.M. 217, Prov. S.G.W. Herts; D. Shaboe, P.M. 554; Willcox, P.M. 22; J. H. Wynne, P.M. 554 and 101; Cox, 101; and others whose names we did not ascertain. The lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer, and the minutes of last lodge confirmed, the ceremony of initiating Mr. Richard H. Sheppard into the secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry was proceeded with, and rendered in that impressive manner for Bro. Osmond, W.M., is so famed. A brother was passed to the degree of F.C., and Bro. Gordon was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The chair was then taken by Bro. E. Sisson, I.P.M., to whom Bro. C. Smithers, S.W., was then presented to receive the benefit of installation. The ceremony was rendered throughout in a faultless manner, and a cordial vote of thanks was ordered to be entered on the minutes to the Installing Master for his valuable and efficient services. The W.M. then appointed his officers, as follows:—Bros. Higgs, S.W.; Salisbury, J.W.; Walter Lean, S.D.; Gibson, J.D.; Terry, I.G. Bro. Osmond, I.P.M., was invested as Treas., having been elected at the previous meeting. It was then proposed, seconded, and carried, that a Past Treasurer's jewel be presented to Bro. E. Farthing for his valuable services during the last three years. The brethren were then called off to banquet, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were responded to. In the course of the evening, a P.M.'s jewel was presented to Bro. S. Osmond, I.P.M., with a suitable address from the W.M. The presentation was acknowledged in a very pretty speech. The Tyler's toast having been given, the brethren separated in perfect harmony.

PROVINCIAL.

BERKS AND BUCKS.

WINDSOR.—*Etonian Lodge of St. John (No. 209).*—The installation of Bro. W. Johnson, as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and annual banquet took place in the spacious room at the New Inn Hotel, Windsor, on Tuesday, the 10th inst., when there were present Bros. Johnson, W.M.; Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.M., Chap.; Stacey, P.M., Org.; Harley, Pullin, Sharp, Strange, and Powell, P.M.'s; Brudnell, H. Johnson, Gibbons, Butler, Finch, Bridgewater, Marriott, Snowball, Wheeler, Gray, Ridout, Goodall, Dalton, Cross, Wise, Clark, Semark, and Jones, members of the lodge. There were also present the following visitors:—Bros. Wright, P.M.; Schroder, Provost, Buckland, Cole, and Miller, Lodge of Faith. After transacting the business of the lodge, and raising Bro. Jones, the ceremony of installing Bro. W. Johnson, who had been unanimously elected to the exalted position of Worshipful Master at the previous meeting, took place. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Powell, with fervid eloquence; at the close of which, Bro. Johnson was warmly congratulated on being installed to the chair. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. the Rev. R. J. Simpson, Chap.; R. Gibbons, S.W.; G. Simpson, J.W.; J. S. Pullen, Treas.; Jas. Strange, Sec.; Dr. Ridout, and A. Wheeler, Deacons; Gray, I.G.; Case, O.G.; the retiring W.M. being Bro. Nichols, who had discharged his high office to the entire satisfaction of the members of the lodge. Bro. Stacey presided at the organ. The ceremonies occupied three hours, after which the banquet took place at six o'clock in the evening, over which the W.M. presided, the vice-presidential chair being occupied by Bro. Gibbons, S.W. After grace, by the Rev. Chaplain, and the cloth being cleared, the first toast was that to her Majesty the Queen, the National Anthem being admirably sung by Bros. Bridgewater and Marriott, of the Chapel Royal of St. George, and R. Gibbons, of the Church of the Holy Trinity, the following verses being introduced:—

Hail! mystic light divine,
May'st thou ne'er cease to shine
O'er this land.

Wisdom in thee we find,
Beauty and strength combined,
Masons are ever joined
In heart and hand.

Come then, ye sons of light,
In joyous strain unite,
God save the Queen.

Long may Victoria reign,
Queen of the azure main,
Masons, resound the strain,
God save the Queen.

The usual Masonic toasts followed, and the evening was spent pleasantly and harmoniously. It is but justice to this lodge to add that the whole of the proceedings were pronounced by the visitors as being conducted in a manner that would do credit to any lodge in the kingdom.

BRISTOL.

BRISTOL.—*Royal Clarence Lodge* (No. 68).—An emergency lodge was held on Monday, the 9th inst., at which two new members were received into the Order, Mr. Frederick G. Powell and Mr. Goodfellow. At the ceremony one of the oldest Masons in the province, Bro. James Willway, was present, as proposer of the first-named candidate.

CHESHIRE.

BIRKENHEAD.—*Mersey Lodge* (No. 477).—The annual meeting to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist was held on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Hamilton-square. The following visitors were present:—Bros. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., West Lancashire; Thomas Roden (a Swiss Brother), J. Morton, 1035, F. Frisch, W.M. 203; H. Langley, W. Theobalds, J. Stokes, J. F. Lees, 605; J. M. Eccles, 1026; G. C. Liddell and R. McGregor, 724; J. Kilshaw, W.M. 724; and J. F. Williams, the worthy host of the Palatine Hotel. The lodge having been duly opened with solemn prayer, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, the W.M. elect, Bro. Ralph Langley, P.M., of the Everton Lodge, and one of the oldest members of the Mersey Lodge, was installed by Bro. New in that neat and precise manner which always characterises his working. The various ceremonies having been concluded, the brethren adjourned for dinner to the Queen's Hotel. After the usual Masonic toasts, the W. Master proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Treasurer of West Lancashire, Bro. Hamer," commenting upon his assiduity in attending to the duties of his office, and stating that he had witnessed his zeal and energy on several occasions. Bro. Hamer responded, expressing his surprise at the hearty way in which his health had been received, and gave some useful hints to the young Masons, as to the necessity of more careful attention to the work of the lodge, assuring them that merit alone obtains preferment. Some admirable songs enlivened the evening; and, without invidious comparisons, we may casually allude to the beautiful sentimental songs of Bro. Lea, and the admirable recitations of Bro. Eccles. According to usual custom, the lodge was closed at an early hour with the usual Masonic honours.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONPORT.—*Lodge St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—A highly interesting meeting of this lodge was held on the 10th inst. Present—Bro. Kent, W.M., in the chair. Three F.C.'s were raised to the sublime degree of W.M., and two candidates, after the usual ballot, were initiated into Freemasonry, and desired to be enrolled as subscribing members of the lodge. During the evening, Bro. Chapple, I.P.M., presented to the lodge a large coloured portrait of himself in full Craft costume. The brethren expressed themselves highly pleased and gratified at the gift, and a formal vote of thanks was presented to the donor. This being the first meeting in the new year, the W.M. desired each of the brethren to take wine with him, and drink prosperity to Lodge 954. The lodge was closed at half-past nine, after the proposal of two gentlemen for initiation at the next lodge.

ESSEX.

HARWICH.—*Lodge Star in the East* (No. 650).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Pier Hotel, Harwich, on Monday evening, the 9th inst. Present—Bros. Durrant, W.M.; Surridge, P.M.; Wymark, S.W.; Newman, J.W.; W. O. Ward, P.M.; Farthing, Monson, Dickson, Malpas, Raven, Butcher, Morris, Boulding, Barlow, &c. Visitors—Bros. Westgate, 225, 376, and 959; Dunn, 387; Elwood, 225; Johnson, 461; Wheatly, 419; Kegwin, Adair Lodge, Aldboro', &c. The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes

of last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Boulding, having answered the several questions satisfactorily, retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree. Bro. Boulding was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, the ceremony being ably performed by the W.M. The W.M. afterwards proceeded to initiate Mr. Robert Barlow in the mysteries of Freemasonry, the charge and working tools being delivered by Bro. Westgate, after which Mr. R. H. Fisher was unanimously elected a member of the lodge. The lodge having been closed in harmony, the brethren retired to a well-served banquet provided by Bro. Brice. The repast concluded, the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, including the Provincia Grand Master for Essex, coupling with it the name of Bro. W. O. Ward, P.M., P.G.D., who responded in suitable terms. The next toast proposed was the visitors, coupled with the name of Bro. Westgate, who, he was pleased to say, had been of great assistance to them during the past two years. He could only return the visiting brethren his sincere thanks, and trusted it would be his good fortune to be honoured with the presence of many visitors during his year of office. Bro. Westgate acknowledged the toast, and thanked the W.M. for the compliment paid him and his brother visitors. The W.M. next gave the health of Bro. Barlow, whom he had had the pleasure of initiating into the Order that evening. Bro. Barlow, in reply, said he trusted that his conduct would be such as to gain the esteem of the Masonic body. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by the brethren.

HAMPSHIRE.

BOURNEMOUTH.—*Lodge of Hengist* (No. 195).—The installation of Bro. McWilliam as W.M. took place on Thursday, the 12th inst. Bro. Hoskins, of the Lodge of Amity, Poole, acted as Installing Master, and several of the Poole brethren came over for the occasion. Bro. McWilliam then appointed his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Tuck, S.W.; Macey, J.W.; Roberts, S.D.; Bill, J.D.; Rebbeck, Sec.; West, I.G.; Macey, Treas. Bro. Hoskins gave a most admirable lecture on the tracing board. A banquet was provided, and after the usual toasts and Masonic songs, the brethren separated at an early hour, after passing a pleasant evening. We are glad to say that the Lodge of Hengist is increasing fast, and, we believe the ensuing year will be a most satisfactory one to all the brethren. They purpose having a Masonic ball in the course of a fortnight at Bro. Bill's new Assembly Rooms, which, it is expected, will be well attended.

SURREY.

CROYDON.—*East Surrey Lodge of Concord* (No. 463).—On Thursday, the 5th inst., the first meeting of this lodge for the present year was held at the Greyhound, Croydon (Bro. Benjamin Bean's), under the presidency of Bro. J. G. Chancellor, W.M. There were on this occasion no initiations, but Bros. Thomas Goodman, of the Crown, Dulwich, George Buck, and Thomas Hawkins were passed, and Barker raised. A ballot for joining took place, the result of which was that Bros. William Locoek Webb, P.M. of Frederick Lodge of Unity (No. 452), and James Towsey, of Lodge of Prosperity (No. 78), became members of this lodge. As there was no other business to be transacted, the lodge was then closed, and the brethren partook of an excellent banquet served up by Bro. Bean. The evening was spent very merrily and pleasantly.

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

ABERAVON.—*Afan Lodge* (No. 833).—The brethren of this lodge assembled in great force on Friday, the 13th inst., the occasion being the celebration of the annual festival, and the installation of W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened at four o'clock, p.m., by the W.M., Bro. George Newman, when the following brethren were present, viz., Bros. James G. Hall, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Edward J. Morris, P. Prov. S.G.D.; W. Ll. Powell, Prov. J.G.D.; P. H. Rowland, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; F. D. Michael, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. E. Chalinder and D. Longdon, Prov. G. Stewards; H. Ll. Pritchard, W.M. elect; James Richardson, W.M. No. 237; D. Jenkins, J. Jones, R. F. Gillett, Thomas Welsh, T. Daniel, J. Jones, jun., Edward Jones, D. Smith, McOwen, M. Tennant, J. Felton, Conway, Jones, Hewson, Phillips, Fricker, Phipps, Davies, R. Phillipps, Popkin, Williams, and others. The

ballot was first taken for two candidates for initiation, which resulted in their election. The W.M. then resigned the chair to Bro. Edward J. Morris, P.M. and P. Prov. S.G.D., who officiated as Installing Master in the absence of the W. the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. T. Mansel Talbot, who was unavoidably prevented from being present. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. H. Ll. Prichard was duly presented as the W.M. elect by Bro. W. Ll. Powell, P.M. and Prov. J.G.D. The ancient charges having been read aloud by the Secretary, and duly assented to by the W.M. elect, the usual obligation was administered. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and all brethren not being P.M.'s having retired, it was constituted a Board of Installed Masters, when Bro. Ll. Prichard was, according to ancient custom, duly installed as W.M. The brethren were then re-admitted, and the newly-installed W.M. was regularly proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees. The official appointments for the year are as follows:—Bros. D. Longdon, S.W.; John Felton, J.W.; W. Ll. Powell, P.M. and Prov. J.G.D., Treasurer; John Jones, jun., Sec.; M. Tennant, S.D.; T. Daniel, J.D.; W. C. Chalinder, M.C.; Edward Jones, I.G.; J. McOwen, Org.; Daniel Smith, Steward; and W. Barnes, Tyler. The addresses to the W.M. and newly-invested officers having been delivered, the W.M. expressed his acknowledgments for the honour conferred upon him; and after a speech of a truly Masonic character, concluded by promising to do his utmost to add to the happiness of the brethren by carefully promulgating the genuine tenets and principles of the Order. The lodge was then closed in harmony and peace, and the brethren adjourned to the Walnut Tree Hotel, where nearly fifty sat down to partake of an excellent banquet, sumptuously provided by the worthy host, Bro. John Jones, who spared no exertion in catering for the comfort and refreshment of the brethren. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with great cordiality, interspersed with some excellent singing, contributed by the members and visitors, and the brethren separated at a reasonable hour, having spent a most agreeable evening.

WARWICKSHIRE.

WARWICK.—*Shakespeare Lodge* (No. 284).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the Court House on Tuesday, the 18th inst. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. F. Greaves, the member for the borough. The installation of Master and appointment of officers followed two passings, and the brethren adjourned to the Masonic Rooms to banquet. The Master was supported on his right by Bros. Lord Leigh, Prov. G.M.; Chas. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. John Lucy, P. Prov. G. Chap.; Hon. and Rev. James Leigh, Rev. Cockram, &c.; and on his left by Bros. E. Greaves, *M.P.*; Major Muslin, Rev. T. B. Dickens; S. W. Cooke, Redfern, P.M.'s; and about forty members. The evening was spent in the most pleasant way, known only amongst Masons.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Bedford Lodge* (No. 925).—INSTALLATION OF BRO. WORRALL.—This interesting and important ceremony took place on Monday, the 16th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Newhall-street, upon which occasion the lodge was favoured with the following brethren as visitors:—Bros. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. W. Bramwell Smith, Prov. G. Chap.; A. McCracken, W.M. 1016; F. Empson, P. Prov. G.W., P.M. 43, 539; G. Jones, Prov. G.S.B., P.M. 587; Henry Weiss, Prov. J.G.W.; T. James, P. Prov. S.G.W., Staffordshire; J. B. Hebbert, Prov. G. Reg., P.M. 887; W. Hutton, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., Warwickshire, and other distinguished Masons. The lodge being opened in due form after the raising of Bro. First, and the initiation of Mr. Skelton, the installation ceremony was performed by Bro. J. H. Bedford, P.M., S.G.W., Warwickshire, &c., which was rendered doubly impressive from the fact that this very worthy brother, so distinguished by his skill as an instructor, and by his devotedness to the Craft in general, is the esteemed father of the lodge, and from whom the lodge derives its designation. At the close of the ceremony, Bro. F. D. Johnson, P.M., with the name of the lodge, and in highly eulogistic terms, presented to the Worshipful Bro. C. W. Elkington, D. Prov. G.M., a Charity jewel with a clasp, as indicative of their grateful sense of his pre-eminent services as Steward to our Masonic Charities, at the same time expressing the high honour which the lodge incurred by the privilege of the presentation. The P.M. further stated that it had been the intention on this occasion also to present the

R.W. Bro. Lord Leigh, Prov. G.M., Warwickshire, with a Charity jewel, and his lordship had done the lodge the honour of accepting the same; but it was found that although the R.W. Prov. G.M. had been president three successive years of the Charities, he had not been registered as a Steward, and was not entitled to wear the jewel. The D. Prov. G.M., in acknowledging the kind consideration of the lodge of what he had been enabled to do to promote our Masonic Charities, stated that he believed that he was the only Freemason in Warwickshire entitled to wear the jewel with a clasp, and urged upon the assembled brethren that they should stimulate each other in such a worthy cause, and that such a decoration as he now wore should be the object of emulation amongst them. The labours of the lodge being ended, the brethren and a large number of distinguished visitors adjourned for refreshment to Bro. Nock's, Royal Hotel, where a bountiful banquet was provided, and the evening was spent with the usual harmony and brotherly love. The usual Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the D. Prov. G.M. took occasion again, in eloquent terms, to allude to the presentation which had been made him, and stated that the R.W. Prov. G.M., Lord Leigh, would avail himself on a future occasion of the kind intention of the Bedford Lodge. The enjoyment of the evening was greatly enhanced by a company of professionals, provided by Bros. Day and Saunders, who acquitted themselves in the orchestra to the great satisfaction of the assembled brethren.

WESTMORELAND.

KENDAL.—*Union Lodge* (No. 129).—This lodge was opened at two o'clock on Friday, the 13th inst., at the Town Hall, by the W.M., Bro. Johnson, assisted by Bro. Briesley, S.W.; Bro. Bowes, as J.W.; and the rest of the officers of the lodge. The minutes of the last regular meeting and lodge of emergency were read and confirmed. Mr. Thomas Atkinson being unanimously elected for initiation, was properly prepared and presented to the W.M., who performed the ceremony with great care, Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., Past Grand Sword Bearer of England, acting as Deacon. Bro. Captain C. Wilson Braithwaite wishing to be passed to the second degree, was examined as to his proficiency in the former degree, and presented to Bro. J. Bowes, P.M., who, in a most impressive manner, made him a P.C. Bro. Edward Busher, who had been (less one) unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year at the last regular meeting, was presented by Bros. Johnson and Bowes to the Installing Master, Bro. Dr. Grieves, D. Prov. G.M., of Cumberland and Westmoreland, who, having directed the W.M. elect to the qualifications necessary for a candidate to the office of Master, directed the Secretary to read the laws, to all of which obedience was given. The lodge was raised to the Past Master's degree, and in the presence of a goodly number, Bro. Edward Busher was placed on the throne of K.S. by the D. Prov. G.M., with that precision and impressive feeling which should always characterise those who install a Worshipful Master of a Lodge. The W.M. was proclaimed and saluted in ancient form by the brethren, and appointed the following officers for the year:—Bros. John Whitwell, S.W.; Titus Wilson, J.W.; Rev. H. Lumb, Chaplain; Wilson, Treas.; John Mann, Sec.; Joseph Bintley, S.D.; Samuel Gawith, J.D.; Edward Hibbard, M.C.; John Medcalf and J. H. Hogg, Stewards. Each officer was addressed by the Installing Master in suitable terms, and delivered addresses to the W.M. and Wardens of the lodge. Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M., addressed the brethren generally on their duties. Four gentlemen were proposed for initiation. This lodge, which but a very few years since only numbered seven members, will, should the four proposed be initiated at next meeting, number fifty, and comprise some of the most influential gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. The lodge was called from labour to refreshment, and adjourned by dispensation to the King's Arms Hotel, where an excellent banquet was prepared and done justice to by the brethren. The W.M. presided, supported by Bros. Dr. Grieves, D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. J. Simpson, P. Prov. G. Chap., *L.P.M.*; Johnson, Thomas Atkinson, John Medcalf, and Gawith. The West was presided over by Bro. John Whitwell, S.W. On his right by Bro. C. J. Banister, P.M.; Bro. Scarisbrick, P.M.; Rev. Bro. Block, Master of the Grammar School; on his left, Bros. J. Bowes, P.M.; Dr. Thompson, P.M., Prov. G. Treas. Bro. Titus Wilson, in the South, was well supported by Bros. Joseph Bintley, Gawith, Mann, Hibbert, &c. Upwards of forty dined. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were done justice to. The army, navy

militia, and volunteers, responded to by Captain Braithwaite, Whitwell, Gawith, and Hogg; the clergy by Rev. Chaplain; the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, the R.W.D.G.M. Earl de Grey and Ripon, and Grand Officers, by Bro. C. J. Banister, P.G.S.B.; the V.W. Bro. Dr. Grieves, for the Provincial Grand Master and himself; Bro. Dr. Thompson, P.G.T., for the Provincial Grand Lodge; Bro. J. Bowes, for the adjoining provinces. Bro. Dr. Grieves, as Installing Master, in suitable terms, proposed the health of the W.M., who, in a most energetic and feeling manner, responded. Bro. Johnson responded for the P.M.'s and Officers. The S.W., Bro. Whitwell, in a speech full of beautiful and high sentiment, which will be long remembered by all present, proposed the Masonic Charities of the Order, coupling Bro. Banister's health with it, who had served the office of Steward to all the Charities, and could give them some information respecting them. Bro. Banister thanked the S.W. very much for associating his name with those great institutions of our Order, and explained the merits of each, calling upon all present to support them, which was responded to. As they have a candidate for the Boys' School, which has been unsuccessful for several elections, the members will, now that his case has been regularly brought before them, do all they can for him. The visiting brethren, with thanks for their kind services, was proposed by Bro. Johnson, P.M., and responded to by Bro. Dr. Thompson. The last toast brought a most delightful evening to a close, which was greatly enhanced by Bro. Scarisbrick's excellent songs and accompaniment on the pianoforte, and the harmony of Bros. Dr. Thompson, Gawith, Hogg, &c. Bro. Scarisbrick responded to the health of the musical volunteers, and his own, most fraternally, which had been proposed by the S.W., Bro. Whitwell, in such deservedly glowing terms, and the brethren separated, happy to meet again. This will be a red letter day in the lodge long to be remembered by all present.

IRELAND.

CORK.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF ST. FINN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL.

The ceremony of Thursday, the 12th inst.—that of laying the foundation stone of the new Cathedral of St. Finn Barre—was one of the most interesting, imposing, and impressive that ever was witnessed here. It was participated in by not only the wealth of the city and county, but by the nobility and almost every family of distinction throughout the united dioceses of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross; and long will the pleasing recollections of the day linger in the memory of the thousands who had the satisfaction of being present. Close on 200 years have passed since the erection of the cathedral, the foundation stone of whose successor was laid yesterday, amid all the pomp of ecclesiastical and Masonic arrangement; scarcely ever was building parted with with more regret, but its unsightliness and incapacity as a cathedral rendered its removal a necessity, and ere many years elapse a magnificent and stately edifice will occupy its place.

It is only about three years ago since the project for replacing the cathedral assumed a tangible shape. Great progress has been made in providing the means for the erection of the new building, which will be on a plan furnished by Mr. Burges, and, when completed, the church, it is believed, will bear comparison with the most beautiful churches in the United Kingdom or on the Continent, and be a building worthy of the city, of the people, and of the Church it represents. The arrangements for the due performance of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone were very well carried out. A large quadrangular excavation was made around the stone, at the eastern side of which was erected an elevated platform, where were accommodated the principal officials and a large number of ladies; while around the space was room for several hundred persons.

Long before the hour appointed for the commencement of the ceremony, hundreds of people had collected in the churchyard, and when the proceedings commenced there were several thousands there. Amongst them were the Earl and Countess of Bandon, Viscount Bernard and the other members of the Bernard family, Earl of Bantry, the Dean of Cork, the Ven. the Archdeacon, the Vicar-General, the Hon. and Rev. C. B. Bernard, and a large number of the resident gentry.

About 500 of the brethren of the different lodges in the province of Munster assembled at the lodge rooms of the First Lodge of Ireland, in Tuckey-street, and from thence proceeded to the Cathedral, where they assumed their paraphernalia, and prepared to take part in the ceremony of the day. The following lodges were fully represented:—Nos. 1, Cork; 3, Cork; 8, Cork; 15, Skibbereen; 67, Cork; 68, Youghal; 71, Cork; 84, Bandon; 95, Cork; 190, Queenstown; 385, Clonakilty; 555, Fermoy; 557, Queenstown. Prince Masons' Chapter (No. 1), Cork, was in full attendance under the M.W.S. Bro. Wm. Lane Tooker. The high grades of Masonry were represented by Bro. Anthony Perrier, J.P., S.G.I.G., 33°. Bro. Perrier appeared in the splendid full dress and jewels of that exalted degree.

Shortly after half-past twelve o'clock the procession to meet the Bishop at the west gate was formed, and in the following order:—

Verger.
Churchwardens.
The Dean.
Members of Chapter.
Chairman of Committee.
Architect and Builder.
Provincial Grand Master and Grand Wardens.
Building Committee.
General Committee.
Nine Masonic Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge.
Organist and Choristers.

On issuing from the cathedral, immediately after the Earl of Bandon, Chairman of the Committee, came the R.W. Bro. George Chatterton, J.P., D. Prov. G.M. of Munster, in the full costume of the Prov. G. Lodge, wearing the insignia of the different degrees up to the S.P.R.S. 32°, and bearing the cornucopia full of the finest wheat. On either side of the D. Prov. G.M. walked the Prov. G.S.W., Bro. Townsend, P.G.R.C., and Bro. William Penrose, Prov. J.G.W., bearing respectively the chalices, containing the oblations of wine and oil. The Prov. G. Deacons, Bros. John Lloyd and Joseph Guy, with Bro. Henry Bible, Prov. Junior Guard, formed the next rank, followed by Bros. Francis Guy, Prov. G. Treas., and H. S. Noblett, Prov. G. Sec., supporting the Prov. G. Chaplain, Rev. Arundel Hill, A.M., rector of Fermoy, who wore the Holy Bible, square and compass. The Masonic cortege was closed by Bros. Anthony Perrier, Hon. Moore Smyth, and Richard Meara, P.G.S. Wardens. During the passage of the procession the avenue was lined by the brethren of the private lodges, and the Prince Masons in their varied splendid decorations gave a gorgeous effect to the procession of clergy and Masons as they slowly wended their way to the west gate. On the arrival of the Bishop, the procession moved to the platform in the reverse order, the choristers chanting the 122nd Psalm, and followed by a special service for the occasion. At its conclusion the Earl of Bandon, on behalf of the laity, and the Very Reverend the Dean of Cork, on behalf of the chapter, requested the bishop of the diocese to lay the foundation stone, and the following ranged themselves round it:—

Churchwardens.
Architect and Builder.
Six Masonic Officers.
Dean, Chairman of Committee, Vicar-General.
Bishop's Chaplain, and
The Lord Bishop.

The brethren who proceeded to the foundation stone were the Prov. G. Deacons, Prov. G. Chap., and Prov. G. Wardens, with the D.G.M., and the memorials were placed in the chamber hollowed out in the stone. Among them was a scroll engrossed on vellum, as follows:—

"The foundation stone of this sacred edifice about to be erected to the glory of the Most High God, was laid with Masonic honours by the Right Rev. John Gregg, D.D., Lord Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, assisted by the Provincial Grand Officers and Brethren of the Province of Munster, on the 12th day of January, 1865, and of Masonry, 5,865.

"The R.W. Sir JAMES CHARLES CHATTERTON, Bart., K.C.B., K.H., D.L., LL.D., Provincial Grand Master of Munster.
"GEORGE CHATTERTON, J.P., Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Munster.
"HENRY SUTTON NOBLETT, Provincial Grand Secretary."

After the churchwardens had deposited the records, the D' Prov. G.M., applying the golden square and level to the stone, said, "My Lord Bishop, the stone has been proved and found to be 'fair work and square work,' and fit to be laid as the foundation stone of this holy temple."

The Earl of Bandon, as chairman of the Building Committee, then handed to the Bishop the beautiful silver trowel manufactured for the occasion at the establishment of Mr. John Hawkesworth, silversmith and jeweller, Grand Parade. It is richly engraved, and has a carved ivory handle. It bears on it the arms of the see of Cork and the following inscription:—

Presented to
THE RIGHT REV. JOHN GREGG, D.D.,
Lord Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross,
On his laying the Foundation Stone of the
New Cathedral Church of St. Finn Barre, Cork,
January 12th, A.D. 1865.

The Bishop, the Dean, the Earl of Bandon, and several other speakers addressed the assembly, and the Doxology being sung, terminated the ceremony.

The contributions amounted to £3,700, to which many of the brethren contributed handsomely, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Perrier, of Lota, alone giving £50.

During the latter part of the ceremonial the D. Prov. G.M. wore pendant to a blue riband the invaluable Masonic relic, the jewel belonging to Sister the Hon. Mrs. Aldworth. This highly curious and antique Masonic treasure was presented by Bro. Thomas Hewitt to the Masonic body of the Province of Munster as an heirloom in the Craft for ever. The D. Prov. G.M. also bore a beautiful and tastefully wrought mallet, in ebony and ivory, the gift of Bro. Sir John Arnott, M.P., and Mayor of Cork, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of St Patrick's Bridge in November, 1859.—Abridged from the *Cork Constitution*.

INDIA.

(From the *Indian Freemasons' Friend*.)

BOMBAY.

SIMLA.—*Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood.*—Another large gathering of the brethren at Simla took place on Wednesday, the 12th October. The principal object of the meeting was to witness the presentation of an address to Bro. Wood, the Master of the lodge. The original intention had been to present the address in lodge; but, for good reasons, it was afterwards resolved that the ceremony should take place at the banquet table. The first toast, "The Queen and Craft," was followed by the National Anthem, in which all joined. In proposing the toast of the Provincial Grand Masters of India, the Worshipful Master made special allusion to the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, and associated with the toast the name of Bro. W. H. Hoff, as an officer of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal. Bro. Hoff, after briefly acknowledging the compliment which had been paid to him, spoke of the pleasure he had in being one of the ministerial officers of such an active and zealous Provincial Grand Master as Bro. Sandeman, who had a great love of the Craft, and a great desire to promote its interests. Then, being on his legs, Bro. Hoff stated that it was a suitable opportunity for him to proceed with the business of the evening, which was to read the following address:—

"To WORSHIPFUL BRO. THOMAS WOOD,

Worshipful Master of Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood, Simla.

"Worshipful Master,—The time having arrived when we must all be shortly scattered, it has appeared to us to be right that you should possess some tangible token of our sense of your services to Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood, and of your admirable management of its affairs.

"It has been the ancient practice of our Order to symbolise abstractions, and it is only in accordance with that practice that we desire to offer you a symbol of our feelings towards you; so that, in addition to the higher degree of satisfaction you must feel in having done your duty, you may also have the satisfaction of preserving in your family a mark of the recognition of your Masonic worth by your brethren in Masonry, and a souvenir of the happy evenings we have passed together within these walls. Moreover, it is due to ourselves that we should not allow you to lay down your Hiram in silence.

"We are certain, Worshipful Master, that you will not consider it the language of flattery if we allude to a few of the

points in your administration of the affairs of the lodge which have won our approbation. For the encouragement of your successors, and from a strict sense of justice, we beg to record our opinion that the present prosperous condition of the lodge is mainly attributable to your exertions. It was you who reopened communication between the lodge and the Provincial Grand Master, and who removed the causes of its previous languishing condition. Under your careful supervision, the lodge has cleared itself of pecuniary liabilities, even of those which had been incurred before your assumption of the Hiram; and we notice in the report of the Quarterly Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, held on the 22nd of last month, that the Provincial Grand Master has acknowledged the payment by you of all fees dues up to date. Lastly, we beg to allude to your having borne the cares and responsibilities of the office of Master of Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood for three consecutive seasons, during which, by blending tact and courtesy with the proper observance of discipline, you have cherished the growth of much Masonic and social feeling among the brethren, and have enabled them to have many happy reunions.

"We regret that we have not the satisfaction of presenting the testimonial to you at this meeting, it having been out of our power to procure it in time before the close of the season. Care will, however, be taken that we shall soon have the pleasure of knowing that it is in your possession.

"In conclusion, we pray that we may be spared to meet again, and that the Great Architect of the Universe may keep you and yours in His fear and love, and bless you and them with His choicest blessings!"

Having finished reading the above, Bro. Hoff said—"Worshipful Brother Wood, we regret we have not had time to present this address to you in the usual form; but, to plagiarise one of your own puns, we trust that, although the address is not engraved on vellum, it will nevertheless be engraved on Wood!" (Loud and continued applause.) After the demonstration with which the brethren received the reading of the address had subsided, Bro. Wood rose and expressed the great gratification he experienced from the manifestation of such good feelings towards him by the brethren of Simla. He was, however, not prepared to give full expression to his own feelings on the occasion; and he therefore begged that the brethren would accept, as his reply, not the remarks to which he was at that time giving utterance, but the paper which he would send them at some future time. Meanwhile, adverting to the intention of the brethren to provide him with the equipage required for the preparation of the cup "which cheers but not inebriates," he thought that such of the assembly as had "better halves" not disposed to view Masonry with favour, might make skilful and strategic use of the knowledge that the faithful discharge of Masonic duties sometimes led to the possession of what no lady could despise—a silver teapot! (Loud cheering and laughter.) The W.M. then proposed the health of the San Francisco Minstrels, who had so often and so greatly contributed to the harmony of Masonic meetings at Simla. (Loud cheers.) Bro. Pierce acknowledged the compliment on behalf of himself and his brother minstrels. They had always received a hearty welcome in Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood in 1862 and during the present season, and they had been greatly aided in their professional engagements by the Master, Bro. Wood. They had wandered, as real minstrels should do, in many lands, from Australia to the Himalayas; and it would not be surprising if they were to find themselves in a short time in Japan or Kamschatka. But before they bid farewell to Simla, they begged the brethren would accept a small present, which would help to keep the San Francisco Minstrels in their recollection. Bro. Pierce then produced a large handsome Morocco case, lined with red velvet, containing the photographic likenesses of himself, Bro. Dave Carson, Bro. Brower, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Palin. This was passed from hand to hand round the table. The health of the officers of the lodge was acknowledged by Bro. W. H. Wilson, the Secretary. The "Health of the non-Masonic Guests," followed, acknowledged by Mr. Seymour. The brethren soon afterwards separated.

ROYAL ARCH.

RANGOON.—On the 13th October, after the meeting of the Lodge of Burmah, a chapter was opened by the Grand Superintendent, assisted by M.E. Comps. H. Richards and B. F. Duncan, both of the rank of P.H.; and the petition for a

chapter to constitute Chapter Morning Star was then read and handed to the Grand Superintendent, who thereupon installed Comp. George O'Donnell in the three chairs, to enable him to fill the chair of P.Z. of the new chapter. With this the proceedings of the evening closed. The Freemasons' Hall at Rangoon is a brick building, designed in the form of a Tuscan temple, 95ft. by 35ft., with the front so arranged as to form a porch for carriages to drive under, in the same way as the Metcalfe Hall in Calcutta is contrived. This building is being erected at almost the sole expense of the Lodge Star of Burmah, assisted only by such casual subscriptions as visiting brethren may feel inclined to give. The cost of the Hall will be about 15,000 rupees. On the following evening a chapter was again held, and M.E. Principal George M'Donnell, Z., assisted by M.E. Principals Richards and Duncan, P.H.'s, installed Comp. Berrill in the chairs of J. and H., and Comp. Dr. John Dawson in the chair of J. Applications were received for exaltation from eleven brethren; but it was decided to defer conferring the degree until such time as the arrangements for holding chapter could be made more complete than they were just then.

Obituary.

BRO. ALEX. ROBERTSON.

PROVINCIAL GRAND TYLER FOR SUFFOLK.

We regret to announce the death of Bro. Alexander Robertson, which occurred on the 4th inst., at the age of 59. He has been connected with Masonry for a period extending over thirty years, and was, at the time of his decease, Prov. G. Tyler for the province of Suffolk—an office he has honourably filled for many years. He was also Tyler for the British Union, St. Luke, Perfect Friendship, and Prince of Wales Lodges, in Ipswich. He was a man who was deservedly respected by all with whom he was brought into contact, and especially so by the Masonic brethren of Suffolk. His funeral took place at the cemetery on Wednesday, the 11th inst., when members of the various lodges in the town attended to pay their last tribute of respect to so excellent a brother. The service was performed by the Rev. R. N. Sanderson, Prov. G. Chap., assisted by the Rev. Charles Ward, of St. Nicholas Church. The deceased leaves a widow and family.

REVIEWS.

Wines and other Fermented Liquors; from the Earliest Ages to the Present Time. By JAMES RICHMOND SHEEN. London: Robert Hardwicke.

The author of this useful and comprehensive little work truly states that those already existing on the subject are too voluminous and expensive for general use. Mr. Sheen commences with an account of the wines of the ancients, an early history of the vines and the climates suitable to its growth, not forgetting that there have been, and still are, some celebrated vineyards in this country, though our climate will not allow of our becoming producers of wine as an article of commerce—of course we do not regard the so-called British wines as worthy of the name. The chapter on wines chemically considered, with their adulteration, will be read with interest by all consumers of fermented liquors, whilst the list of writers who have written in praise or dispraise of wine shows how popular a theme it has been in all times. The wines of France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Hungary, and of all the various countries which produce anything that can be fairly considered as coming under the denomination are concisely treated of; and the author brings to bear upon the subject a fund of information, backed by competent authorities, which renders this portion of the work of great value to the general reader. Valuable as is the work as regards the history and proper management o

wine, it is no less so respecting the more national beverage—malt liquors, which are nowhere so well understood as in England, Allsopp and Bass having become household words throughout the world. British and foreign spirits have a chapter devoted to their consideration; and though we do not expect that this work will ever become popular with the Band of Hope, who would deprive all men of the enjoyments of the cheering glass, we can strongly recommend it to those who think, with the author, that a glass of good wine or of sparkling October is not to be despised nor foresworn because there are some men in society who do not know how to use it.

Lucas's Tables for Finding the Longitude by the Meridian Altitude at Sea without the Aid of a Chronometer. By WILLIAM LUCAS. Swansea Journal Office.

This is a highly valuable work to a large class of our brethren—those who live upon the ocean, and whose bread is derived from the navigation of the seas. The author informs us that his plan is based on "simple calculations, found to be correct by my own experience in the conduct of valuable ships and property at sea;" and, moreover, Capt. Sopwith, with whom Mr. Lucas sailed as mate to and from the West Indies, for the purpose of testing the system, recommends it to mariners, he having found it to correspond with his chronometer. Mr. Lucas's *modus operandi* is first to ascertain the altitude at noon by means of the gradient or sextant, and next, the mean time at Greenwich, by working the altitude back from the latitude at Greenwich. He then takes the polar distance and the latitude at Greenwich, and with the altitude works as in the old form. He next takes the secant and co-secant, co-sine and sine, as in the system generally in use. He then takes (when south 45°) half the meridian altitude at noon, and, correcting it with the latitude and polar distance, half sum and remainder, works in the same way as in finding the mean time at Greenwich. This gives the apparent time at ship, and applying the equation as in the old system, brings it to the mean time at ship. The difference between the mean time at ship and mean time at Greenwich is the longitude. All this is explained and illustrated by a series of examples which have evidently been prepared with great care; and however involved the rule of work may appear to be, when reduced to figures it becomes remarkably simple. To the work are attached a series of logarithms for working the system, and a calendar, showing the sun's declination at noon, equation of time, high water at London Bridge, &c., for the year. The volume is excellently got up, and Mr. Lucas is much indebted to the editor and compiler (Mr. J. C. Manning) for the way in which he has produced it.

The Railway, Mining, Insurance, and Commercial Almanack. London: Railway Record Office.

Excepting the popular companion to the Almanack, we know of no work of the kind worthy to be compared with that now before us. Comprehensive as is the title, it tells but little the nature of the contents, which comprise not only the usual information of an almanack, with a summary of the leading events of the past year, but well written and carefully prepared statistical essays on cotton supply, mines and mining, railways at home and abroad, agriculture and agricultural machinery, financial and joint-stock companies, banks and banking, trade and finance, and, in short, something of interest to every class of the community.

Abbott, Barton, and Co.'s Almanack. London: Abbott, Barton, and Co.

This is a short almanack, issued by the well-known advertising agents whose name it bears. It will bear a fair comparison with other short almanacks, and is of greater use than the majority, which are issued a little

too early. Thus the almanack before us contains the latest post office regulations, which were only published on the 28th December, whilst the compilers have added a distinctive feature peculiar to this work, by giving the last minute at which letters can be received at the several railway stations, prior to the starting of each train.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

STRAND THEATRE.

On the evening of the 14th inst., after the performance of "Lawrence's Love Suit" and "Grin Bushes," a new farce by Mr. Charles Smith Cheltnam, entitled "Mrs. Green's Snug Little Business," was produced. Mrs. Green, a widow, with a snug business, is discovered making up her accounts, and from statements she makes, it appears that the business is increasing most satisfactorily. This fact has already become known to several would-be candidates for her hand. Thus a clerk in a public office, Mr. John Rattleton (Mr. Belford), offers his hand, he having £90 per annum, with a prospect of superannuation; then Mr. Rapps, a policeman (Mr. Thomas Thorne); Bung, the beadle of St. Bott's (Mr. H. J. Turner), clad in gaudy array, conceives that a parochial officer cannot urge his suit in vain; the water-rate collector (Mr. Collier), and Mrs. Green's shop-boy (Mr. L. Fredericks), all declare they are ready to die for the widow; but the policeman on duty carries off the prize of the widow, and the snug little business. Miss Maria Simpson made the most of the character of Mrs. Green. There are several laughable incidents and situations, and the piece was well received.

LIFEBOAT SERVICES.

It is gratifying to learn that, during the year which has just closed, the lifeboats of the National Lifeboat Institution saved 426 lives from various shipwrecks, in addition to contributing to the saving of 37 vessels. It also appears that, in addition to the above number, 266 lives have been saved during the same period by shore boats and other means from different wrecks on the coasts of the United Kingdom, for which the Institution had granted rewards; thus making a total of 692 lives saved from various wrecks in one year alone, mainly through the instrumentality and encouragement of the National Lifeboat Institution. For these joint services the Society has granted £1,000 in rewards, 22 honorary acknowledgments, Silver Medals, and votes on vellum. The lifeboats of the Society, during the past twelve months, have also put off in reply to signals of distress forty-eight times; but their services were subsequently not required, the ships having succeeded either in getting off from their dangerous positions, or had their crews saved by their own boats or other means. It often happened, on these occasions, that the lifeboat crews had incurred much risk and great exposure throughout stormy days and nights. The number of lives saved either by the lifeboats of the Institution, or by special exertions for which it has granted rewards, since its formation, is 14,260; for which services 82 gold medals, 742 silver medals, and £19,350 in cash, have been paid in rewards. When we remember that nearly every life saved by lifeboats has been rescued under perilous circumstances, it will at once be seen what great benefit has been conferred by the Lifeboat Institution, not only on the poor men themselves, but also on their wives and children, who would otherwise be widows and orphans. How inadequately can words express the aggregate amount of misery which the saving of so many thousands of lives must have prevented; it can only have been fully appreciated by the parties themselves, and by their relatives and friends, whose expressions of gratitude for such important benefits are of the most feeling character. Since the beginning of the past year (1864), the Institution has also expended about £14,770 on its various lifeboat establishments on the coast of England, Scotland, and Ireland; and since its first establish-

ment the Institution has also expended £120,000 on its lifeboat stations. Well, then, may the poet exclaim:—

Now ye who, when the stormy wind is raging wild without,
Do gather round the parlour fire, and shut the tempest out;
And ye who, when the billows roll bursting on the strand,
Lie snugly in your peaceful beds, and bless the solid land;
Think on this scene of storm, wreck, danger, and despair;
Think on these hearts of British mould, ready to do and dare;
Think on this glorious deed, the type of many more,
Performed in storm and shipwreck along the rocky shore.
"A blessing on the lifeboat!" Oh, wish her well, and pray,
And give your gold and silver to speed her on the way.

THE WEEK.

The COURT.—Her Majesty and younger branches of the Royal Family remain at Osborne. The Prince and Princess of Wales are still in Norfolk, where they have been partaking of the hospitality of the neighbouring noblemen. Prince Alfred has paid a visit to Berlin.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly returns of the Registrar General have now become of more than their former importance and value from the fact that they are no longer confined to the metropolitan district, but embrace also returns from Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Leeds, Bristol, and Dublin. In these ten principal cities, including the capital, the registered deaths amounted to 3,287, and the births to 3,838. In the purely English towns the mortality was at the rate of 30 in 1,000 per annum, which is nearly double what it is in the healthiest districts. In the metropolitan district there were 1,669 deaths registered; the ten years' average, allowing for increase of population, would amount to 1,653, so that the actual slightly exceeds the estimated mortality. The greatest number of deaths arose from diseases of the respiratory organs. The births were 2,002, which was slightly below the estimated average.—Tuesday's *Gazette* contains the announcement that the Queen has conferred the dignity of the Garter upon Earl Spencer.—Lady Brougham died at Brighton, on Thursday. The deceased lady was married to Lord Brougham in 1819, and had two children—daughters—both of whom are dead.—The American journals announce the death of Mr. Dallas, formerly Vice-President of the United States, but better known in this country as Mr. Adams's predecessor as American Minister at the British Court.—It appears from the weekly report of the Poor-law Board upon the fluctuations of pauperism in the cotton unions that a decrease of 1,730 in the number of persons receiving parochial relief took place in the second week of the new year. Of that number more than one-half (910) were adult able-bodied recipients. Thirteen unions exhibit diminished relief lists. Among these, Ashton-under-Lyne shows a decrease of 280; Bolton, 150; Burnley, 390; Bury, 250; Chorley, 170; Haslingden, 680; and Preston, 190. Six unions show no change, and nine some increase, the three most notable in this class being Manchester, which has 230; Rochdale, 130; and Skipton, 120 more than on the previous week. The Guardians are now disbursing about £3,000 per week less outdoor relief than they did in the corresponding season of 1864. We have since the winter commenced experienced eight weeks of continuous decline in the numbers dependent upon the poor rates in the distressed unions, and it really seems as though we were steadily descending to the comparatively low limit we reached in August last. The report presented by Mr. Maclure to the Central Executive Committee contains much valuable information respecting the condition of the cotton manufacturing districts. Comparing the month of December with

the preceding month, we find an increase of about 30,000 in the number of operatives on "full time," and a decrease of 26,318 in the number who could not obtain work in the mills. The total number for December, under the head "out of work," is 126,977; but it is explained that "a large number of these persons are earning considerable, though irregular, wages from outdoor and various casual occupations." The average per centage of pauperism in December was 6.4; in the corresponding month of 1862 it exceeded 24, or nearly one fourth of the entire population of the distressed unions. Mr. Maclure stated that the expense of administering the large fund placed at the disposal of the Committee has been under one per cent. on the receipts, or about £10,000 less than the amount allowed for bankers' interest.—Mr. Bright and Mr. Scholefield addressed their constituents on Wednesday evening, at Birmingham. The Town Hall, where the meeting was held, was densely crowded. Mr. Scholefield briefly spoke, expressing his desire that the country should be prepared for war in case a quarrel should unfortunately arise. He reserved to himself the right of determining how he would vote should the question of the recognition of the South arise in Parliament. As to Reform, he advised that any measure which extended the suffrage and amended the distribution of seats should be accepted. Mr. Bright was loudly cheered. He reviewed the proceedings of the last session, and contended that it would have been wicker for us to have interfered in the Dano-German quarrel. He pointed out how the House of Commons, by its division on the vote of censure, had adopted the views which he and Mr. Cobden had long held. The hon. gentleman touched on several other topics. He was warmly cheered throughout his speech.—Mr. Baxter, M.P., delivered a lecture on Tuesday, in the Mechanics' Institution at Blairgowrie. It related almost exclusively to the American civil war, and was, in fact, a history of that unhappy business. Mr. Baxter showed, first, that the South had no constitutional right to secede; next, that slavery was the cause of their secession. They had no constitutional grievance, but when they were beaten at the polls on a question into which slavery largely entered, they seceded. The hon. gentleman expressed a strong and confident hope that the North would put down the rebellion. That consummation was most earnestly to be desired, not merely for the sake of America herself, but in the interests of civilisation. Mr. Tyrwhitt, the Marlborough-street police magistrate, has given a definition of the term "stage-play," which, if upheld on appeal, must put a stop to a class of "entertainments" which are supplied by caterers for the amusement of the public in most of our large towns. He has decided in favour of the theatrical managers who prosecuted Mr. Strange, the proprietor of the "Royal Alhambra Palace, Leicester-square," for having, without a proper licence, represented ballets on the stage. The defendant was ordered to pay a fine; but notice of appeal was at once given.—At the Thames Police-court on Wednesday Mr. Walter, the vestry clerk of St. Anne's, Limehouse, applied for a warrant against Edward Dadd Skillett, the rate-collector of the district, whose defalcations are said to amount to the sum of £2,000. The magistrate declined to grant a warrant, on the ground that the police had full power to act if called upon to do so.—Mr. Commissioner Sanders gave judgment on Tuesday in the case of Mr. Harris, the official assignee at Nottingham, who was accused of having kept in hand certain sums belonging to the Court, and who was called upon, under one of the sections of the New Bankruptcy Act, to pay 20 per cent. on the amount so claimed. The Commissioner complained strongly of the conduct of the Chief Registrar, at whose instance the investigation was instituted, and

stated that, having gone carefully through the books, he must acquit Mr. Harris, and decline to make an order for the penalty of 20 per cent.—The inquiry into the case of Timothy Daly was finished on Saturday. There were examined on that occasion the night wardsman's assistant, who attended Daly in the workhouse, the widow of the deceased man, and the medical officer of the Strand Union, Dr. Goodfellow, also sent a letter which the Commissioner described to be very valuable, tending generally to exonerate the medical officer from the neglect alleged against him. The Commissioner stated that he would in due time make his report on the case to the Poor Law Board, and the inquiry terminated.—A rapidly-falling barometer on Saturday, and the other usual indications of a coming storm, were followed by telegraphic accounts of the raging of a destructive gale on Saturday, which probably extended over the whole of the country. The gale appears to have been also severely felt on the French coast, and its advent was predicted in the bulletins of the French Observatory. In the metropolis, several persons were injured by the fall of a chimney in Shoe-lane upon a lodging-house; and we learn from Liverpool that a blockade runner, the *Zelia*, belonging to that port, foundered on Saturday night off the North-west Lightship. The number of drowned cannot be stated, but it is estimated at 44. To this must be added seven lifeboat men, who perished in attempting to rescue the crew and passengers of the ill-fated ship by the capsizing of the boat. Another life-boat was capsized, at Holyhead, on Saturday, and one of the crew, a man named Hughes, was drowned. The announcement of the melancholy wreck of the *Racehorse* is speedily followed by the intelligence that the *Bombay*, the flagship on the South American station, is lost to the navy, with a large number of her crew. It seems that she was destroyed by fire, at Monte Video, on the 14th of December, but no details are given. The assistant surgeon and 93 of the crew were lost. The *Bombay* was a screw ship of 67 guns, and bore the flag of Admiral Elliot.—The impudent scoundrel who, under the pretence that he was a detective from Carmarthen, "apprehended," searched, and robbed Mr. Charles Ashworth at Shrewsbury, some time ago, was last week handed over to the police at Liverpool by his own father. His real name is Ellis, and it is stated that at one time he was assistant magistrate's clerk at Holyhead. It is said that a few days ago, at Old Swan, near Liverpool, he attempted to repeat his Shrewsbury trick upon a farmer, but, finding that the police were not disposed to assist him in the execution of his sham warrant, he lost no time in getting away from the place. Ellis has been committed for trial. The prisoner acknowledged his guilt, and coolly expressed his amazement at the stupidity which the Shrewsbury police had exhibited in assisting him in perpetrating such a transparent fraud. A previous conviction was proved against him; indeed, he had only just been released from gaol when he committed this robbery.—Joseph Wakefield Terry and Thomas Burch, the manager and secretary of the Unity Bank, have been finally committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court, on the charges made against them of leading the public to believe that the Bank was in a sound and flourishing condition when it was, in fact, insolvent. The Lord Mayor admitted them to bail—themselves in £2,000 each, and two sureties each in £1,000 respectively.—Colonel Brockman, who, in conjunction with some other gentlemen, have taken up the cause of Mrs. M'Dermot, attended before Mr. Sefc on Tuesday, and gave in writing his version of the character of the mother and her family and the conduct of the priests. As the matter is to come before some public tribunal, we need not enter into this correspondence farther than to note

that the writer says Mrs. M'Dermot is in a dying state from excitement and grief at the loss of her daughter.—A terrible accident occurred at Edinburgh on the afternoon of Friday, the 6th inst. The Theatre Royal took fire, and burned so furiously that, though assistance was promptly rendered, the building was presently in flames and the place was gutted. Nor did the mischief stop there; for the high walls tottered and fell, killing several persons who were near them, and among others Mr. Lorimer, the Dean of Guild, whose office it is to exercise a supervision over the buildings of the city. The magistrates of Edinburgh have resolved to offer the testimony of a public funeral to the Dean of Guild. The authorities have expressed their desire to become responsible for the funeral expenses of the other sufferers, and to give temporary relief to their families. The fate of Dean Lorimer is sadly similar to that which befel Mr. Braidwood, the chief of the London fire brigade, for it is supposed that Mr. Lorimer lost his life in a generous attempt to save another from the terrible fate which overtook both. Mournful as is the loss, it is a matter of congratulation that the fire did not take place later, when we should probably have had to record a more fearful calamity.—A melancholy accident occurred in the repairing shed of the Great Northern Railway Company's works at Peterborough on Saturday afternoon. An engine had been brought in for repair, and the workmen were testing the boiler in the usual way, when it suddenly exploded, with fatal results. A man and a boy who were at work on it were killed on the spot; another man has since died from the injuries he received, and there are others more or less severely wounded. It is supposed the accident was caused by the safety valve having been closed.—The Coal Exchange in Thames-street had a narrow escape of being destroyed by fire on Wednesday. Owing, it is supposed, to some defect in a flue, a fire broke out in the cooking department of the building, and at one time had extended to the roof. Fortunately, assistance was at hand, and the flames were soon extinguished.—There were two coroner's inquests appointed to be held over the victims of the Blackheath Tunnel collision. The main evidence is taken in the case of the five men who were killed in the tunnel, and which is held at Blackheath; the inquest on the men who died in hospital at Woolwich is quite subsidiary. This Woolwich jury was summoned to meet on Tuesday, and it was a melancholy coincidence that while the jury were assembling a funeral procession passed the hall conveying the body of one of their number, who had died since their last meeting, to the grave. No evidence was taken, and the inquest was again adjourned till the Blackheath inquiry be finished.—A strange disclosure was made at an inquest on Monday. One day last week the wife of a labourer gave birth to three children. Her husband, who is a Protestant, happened to be from home at the time; and she requested the woman who was attending her to take the infants at once to a Roman Catholic chapel for the purpose of being baptized. One of the children died before it could be removed from the chamber. The other two were wrapped up in a shawl and taken to the chapel, but the exposure proved too much for one of them. It was found dead when the chapel was reached. The third child was still alive, and was duly "made a Christian of."—The high sheriff of Essex has fixed Thursday, the 26th inst., for the execution of Kohl, the Plaistow murderer. On Tuesday the convict was visited in Chelmsford Gaol by his wife and her mother. The interview was a painful one, and they took a final farewell of each other. The prisoner has also been visited, at his own request, by Dr. Cappel, who, it will be remembered, attended Muller to the scaffold and received his confession. Kohl, we understand, still protests his innocence.

Mr. Milner Gibson has promised to consider a proposal, which has already met with the approval of the Attorney-General,—namely, to protect the inventions of working men displayed at industrial exhibitions by a special act of Parliament similar to that passed in reference to the inventions shown at the International Exhibition of 1862.—An interesting discussion on the educational "conscience clause" took place at a meeting of the Worcester Archidiaconal Board, on Tuesday. Sir J. Pakington moved a resolution to the effect that the grants of the board should be made to the Church schools of the Archdeaconry, without considering the point whether the conscience clause was or was not acted upon. In some poor localities, he said, only one national school existed, and the adoption of the course he recommended would be merely an act of justice to Dissenters. The doctrines of the Church of England were, and would continue to be, taught in all their schools; and all he proposed was that the children of Dissenters should be allowed to enter the schools under the protection of the conscience clause. In the discussion which followed, the motion was supported by the Bishop and opposed by Lord Lyttelton and Lord Redesdale. It was ultimately rejected by a vote of 49 against 16.—A case of some importance was decided by the Master of the Rolls on Wednesday. An application was made to him respecting the custody of a young child, the daughter of a Roman Catholic father, who is dead, and a Protestant mother, who survives; and it was not disguised that the paternal uncle, who claimed the custody, wished to educate the girl as a Roman Catholic, while the mother, who resisted his claim, would bring her up as a Protestant. The Master of the Rolls as it was of great importance to a child to have the benefit of a mother's care, decided the case in her favour.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Archbishop of Besançon is to be included with his refractory *confrères* in the Government prosecution, for setting the authorities at defiance by reading the encyclical letter from his cathedral pulpit. The number of episcopal protests against the prohibition of the Minister of Public Worship has now reached 16. The Archbishop of Paris has, it is said, written a mild protest to the Pope against the encyclical. France has suffered from the severe weather which has been experienced here for some days past. At Havre several bathing establishments have been destroyed, and part of the bastions washed away by the sea.—The *Constitutionnel*, in an article on the revenue, attempts to show that the French army is now reduced to what M. Thiers considers its peace footing—that is, to 400,000 men.—Russia would appear to be following the laudable example set by France in the war department of the State estimates for 1865. In the budget just prepared there is a reduction of 24½ million of roubles for the military purposes, and one of 4½ million of roubles in the navy estimates.—A statement appears in the columns of the *Moniteur* to the effect that nearly 90,000 men of the Italian army have received their discharge, and more than 500 officers have been placed on half-pay.—The Austrian Government has refused to assent to the reductions which the Finance Committee of the Reichsrath has recommended in the military estimates; and we may presume that the Reichsrath will have to yield, and vote such sums as the Cabinet may think fit to require.—The Italian Government has intimated to the bishops that the encyclical must, according to law, be submitted for the Royal *exequatur*, and that it reserves to itself the right of deciding on what portions of that document may or may not be suppressed, as contrary to the laws of the country.—The Prussian Diet was opened on Saturday by King William in person, who delivered a speech in which he declared that the present organisation of the army has enabled him to carry on

the war with Denmark without calling out the Landwehr, and that he, therefore, expects the Diet to support him in maintaining the existing arrangements. The navy of Prussia requires strengthening, "even at the cost of great sacrifices," and a plan for the increase of the fleet will, therefore, be laid before the Diet. The Prussian and Austrian Courts are "bound in a close alliance, firmly and everlastingly based on the German sentiments" of himself and of the Emperor of Austria. "The peace with Denmark," he said, "restored to Germany its disputed northern boundaries, and to the inhabitants of those countries the possibility of sharing our national existence. The objects of my policy will be to secure this acquisition by measures which shall facilitate the honourable duty of protecting those boundaries, allow the Duchies to develop their rich resources both by sea and land, and make them useful for the material interests of the common fatherland. For the maintenance of these well-founded claims, we shall seek in their fulfilment to combine the legitimate demands both of the country and the Princes. In order, therefore, to gain a secure basis for the solution of the legal questions, the law officers of the Crown have been summoned to give a legal opinion on the subject. My convictions on the legal side of the question, and my duties towards my country, will guide me in my endeavour to come to an understanding with my illustrious ally, who has shared with me both the occupation and administration of the Duchies." His most earnest wish is to restore a good understanding between the House of Deputies and the Government, and he is resolved to respect the rights of the people's representatives; "but if Prussia is to retain her independence and her proper position as a European power, the Government must be firm and strong, and a good understanding with the representatives can only be secured on the basis of the maintenance of the military organisation, which is a guarantee for the safety and the defensive power of the fatherland." The Roman Catholic members of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies have prepared the draft of an address in reply to the King's speech. It distinctly affirms that an understanding with the Chamber can only be obtained by the Government acknowledging the constitutional right of the Chamber to vote the budget, and likewise taking steps to diminish as much as possible the military expenses of the country. The address also declares that the conviction of the people is against the necessity of much of the system of military reorganisation insisted upon by the Government.—A Vienna journal states that the Austrian Cabinet's late notes to the Prussian Government declare that Austria will not concur with Prussia in any forcible measures against the other German States, and "will not abandon the ground of Federal right;" and moreover that the Emperor Francis Joseph will consent to an annexation of Schleswig-Holstein to the King of Prussia's dominions only upon condition that Austria be "compensated by enlargement of her German territory.—According to a telegram published by the Paris papers, the Governor of Aden has refused to "afford satisfaction for the insults" offered to some French officers in that place; and "it will therefore be necessary to apply to the English Government direct upon the subject." Official accounts published in Paris state that the revolt of the Arab tribes in Algeria may be regarded as terminated, as "the last remnants of the insurgents had manifested their intention of submitting."—The Roumanian Chamber has unanimously voted an address in reply to Prince Couza's speech, sanctioning the *coup d'état* of last year, and the political dispositions made by the Prince since then.—It is asserted that Spain will demand of Peru an indemnity of 15 million francs for the expenses of the expedition,

a demand which, if made, must almost certainly preclude the possibility of a peaceable adjustment of the dispute between the two countries.

AMERICA.—No very important news was brought by the *Africa*. General Butler's troops had reached Fort Monroe, and Admiral Porter's fleet was announced to have left Wilmington. There was, however, a rumour that a fresh expedition would soon be despatched to Wilmington. The Federal corps sent towards the Altamaha river had returned to Savannah, apparently without having effected anything important; and it was said that General Sherman himself was preparing to commence his march towards Charleston. A meeting of the citizens of Savannah, under the presidency of the Mayor, had passed resolutions proffering submission to the Federal authority, and inviting the Governor of Georgia to take a popular vote in that state on the question whether the war shall be continued. The Federal expedition under General Grainger was reported to have arrived within 50 miles of Mobile on the 19th ult. General Hood's army had succeeded in crossing the Tennessee river, and the victorious Federals under General Thomas were said to have abandoned the pursuit, and to be marching in the direction of Knoxville. There had been no important movements in the neighbourhood of Richmond; but an attempt to open the canal planned by General Butler at Dutch Gap, on the James river, had completely failed, the banks having fallen in and choked up the channel. It was stated that the *Confederate Congress*, in a secret session, had authorised General Lee to arm and drill 50,000 slaves for the reinforcement of his army. It was rumoured that Secretary Seward and Secretary Fessenden were both likely to resign their offices. By the arrival of the *Saxonia* we have intelligence from the United States to the 7th inst. From the army of the Potomac there is absolutely nothing to report, and owing to the state of the roads it was not expected that any important movement would take place for some time to come. The Richmond papers publish an apocryphal story of the capture by Hood of a Federal brigade after his retreat from Nashville. Everything was quiet at Savannah, and good order prevailed among the citizens. It is believed that Sherman's next point of attack will be Branchville, where the Charleston and Savannah Railroad meets the Augusta-road. The Confederates are preparing to defend this important position. A proposal to abolish slavery in the United States by a constitutional amendment was being discussed in the House of Representatives, and it was rumoured that Secretary Seward would be superseded by Edward Everett. It appears that the Federals were intended to be supported in their attack on Wilmington by a gunboat expedition up the Roanoke River. According to Southern advices, this expedition met with a disaster. Six gunboats were blown up by torpedoes, and a thousand men were lost. A special despatch from Cairo to New York states that the raid on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad had resulted in the destruction of twenty-five bridges, and the capture of many prisoners, much ammunition, and a great number of carbines and army waggons.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EUPHRATES LODGE.—Our report of this lodge having been sent to an office we left five years since accounts for its non-appearance last week.

B. S.—We do not understand your letter.

K. T.—In Bedford-row, W.C.

R. S.—We will make inquiries.

Several communications are unavoidably held over.