

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1865.

SECRET SCIENCES OF THE ANCIENTS.

The ancients attained great proficiency in chemical and medical science, which enabled them to produce miraculous effects in the various mysteries, as well as to occasionally display them to the astonishment of the multitude, which can now be explained from well-known chemical agency, or the medicinal properties of such bodies as, it may be shown, were in use in former times. It would appear, indeed, that spirituous liquors, and the art of distillation necessary to obtain them, were known in the temples, although not altogether confined to them. Damascius speaks of Asclepiadorus reproducing chemically the deleterious gas exhaled from a sacred cavern; and we learn from Epiphanius that Marcus, the chief of one of the sects which, in the second century, were for amalgamating with Christianity the doctrines and rites of the secret initiations, filled with white wine three cups of transparent glass; while he was praying, the liquid in one of the cups became like blood—in another of a purple colour—in the third sky blue. By the side of this miracle which Marcus had doubtless borrowed from the mysteries of some temple, we may place a wonder of our own time. Professor Beyruss, at the Court of the Duke of Brunswick, had promised that his dress should become red during a repast, which, to the astonishment of all, took place. Professor Vogel, who relates this fact in the "Journal de Pharmacie," does not mention the secret which Beyruss used, but observes that by pouring lime water upon the juice of beet-root a colourless liquid is obtained: that a piece of cloth dipped in this liquid, and quickly dried, becomes red in a few hours by the contact of the air alone, and that this effect may be accelerated in a room where champagne wine, and other beverages charged with carbonic acid gas, are abundantly employed. Still more rapidly would it be effected in a sanctuary of polytheism, in the midst of the emanations from the incense and burning torches; and the veil which covered the sacred things would have been seen to change its white colour into that of blood—a presage of fearful disasters.

The disciples of the men who, in the centre of America, naturalised religious ideas and practices, borrowed from Asia. The Mexican priests anointed their bodies with a fetid pomatum when they wished, they said, to converse with the Divinity.

The base of it was tobacco, and a pounded seed which they called Olohuchqui; a seed, the effect of which was to deprive the man of his sound senses, as that of tobacco was to deaden his sensibility. They then found themselves very intrepid, and very cruel, and doubtless very much disposed to have visions, since the end of this practice was to place them in relation with the object of their fantastic worship. Let us quit the temples for a moment and pursue this secret divulged to the multitude, and fallen into the hands of vulgar magicians. Is everything imposture which the poets and the romancers relate of the effect of magical unctions? It is difficult to believe so. The ingredients of which they were composed had certainly some efficacy. We have supposed that some lubric dreams supervened in the sleep which they occasioned; a supposition the more probable, as it was particularly in cases of love baffled or betrayed, that their assistance was employed. A prey to her passion, let a woman have adopted them; pre-occupied with her desires, and the hope of their being satisfied, she falls asleep, that this sole object should occupy her dreams, and that soon she should attribute to the caresses of the adored being, the voluptuous emotions which the magic slumbers induced. On awaking could she doubt that a charm as powerful as delicious had transported her into the arms of a lover, or restored a false one to her vows? What passion or curiosity required from enchantments, the magic ointment thus imparted in a dream, but in so decided a manner that it was impossible not to take the illusion for reality. The history of the prosecutions for sorcery, the number of which surpasses credibility, proves this. It is at night, in the midst of their sleep, that the sorcerers are carried off and transported to the Sabbath. To obtain this favour they ought in the evening to rub themselves over with an ointment, of the composition of which they are frequently ignorant, but the effects of which are precisely such as we have described. Acosta says, "The Mexican priests employed as materials for this pomatum the ashes or the bodies of insects regarded as venomous, assuredly for the purpose of deception, as to the nature of the drugs which were physically efficacious.

A woman accused of being a witch was brought before the magistrate of Florence—a man in advance of his age and his country. She declares she is a witch, and asserts that that very night

she will be present at the *Sabbat*, provided she is allowed to return home and perform the magical unction. The judge allows it. After being rubbed over with fetid drugs, the pretended witch lies down, and immediately goes to sleep. She is bound to her bed; punctures, blows, and even cauterisation could not interrupt her deep slumbers. Awakened with difficulty the following day, she relates that she had been to the *Sabbat*. In the accounts of her dream are interspersed the sensations of pain that she had really undergone when asleep, and to which the judge limited her punishment. From three accounts, in every respect similar to this, that we might quote from Porta and from Fronman, we shall only deduce our physical observation. Two of the pretended witches thus sent to sleep by the magical unction had announced that they would go to the *Sabbat*, and return *flying with wings*. Both thought that this took place, and were astonished when the contrary was averred to them. One even in her sleep had moved, and made a spring as if she wished to take flight. It is universally known that when in sleep there is an afflux of blood to the head; it is not unusual to dream that one mounts flying into the air. These insane people, while they avowed the use of a magical ungent to transport themselves to the *Sabbat*, could not give the receipt for it. Medicine would find no difficulty in assigning it. Porta and Cardan have indicated two. Nightshade is the basis of one, henbane and opium predominate in the other. The philosophic Gassendi, to enlighten some poor wretches who thought they were wizards, endeavoured to divine and imitate their secret. With a pomatum in which opium was combined, he anointed some peasants, whom he persuaded this ceremony would make them assist at the *Sabbat*. After a long sleep they awoke, well convinced that this magical process had produced its effects. They gave a detailed account of what they had witnessed at the *Sabbat*, and the pleasures they had partaken there, an account in which the action of the opium was evinced by voluptuous sensations.

The power of producing a sudden and dazzling effusion of light, which was one of the arts employed by the contrivers of the ancient mysteries, is thus described in a few words by Apuleius, who was himself admitted to witness the Isiac ceremonies at Corinth:—"Nocte mediâ vidi solem candido correscens lumine."

To these scenic representations in the Egyptian mysteries, there is evidently an allusion in the vision of Ezekiel, where the spirit shows him the abominations which the Israelites learned in Egypt. "Then said he unto me, son of man, hast thou seen the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery?" The mysteries were rendered much more effective by admirably executed pyrotechnic displays, in the composition of which the ancients were wonderfully skilful, the knowledge of which, like the Greek fire, is lost. In tracing the early connection of spectacles with the ceremonies of religion, in these early ages, Voltaire says, "The sacred mysteries celebrated in their vast temples, in the presence of the initiates only, were imposing and terrible representations of veritable grand tragedies. There were decorations and machines proper to give effect, and the subject was the present and the future."

Many writers have fancied that the art of making gold was the great secret that lay hid under the forms of Egyptian theology. "The hermetic science," says the Benedictine Pernetz, "the sacerdotal arts were the source of all the riches of the Egyptian kings, and the object of their mysteries, so hidden under the veil of their pretended religion." The hieroglyphics that formerly covered the Pyramids, are supposed by some writers to relate to the same art.

For admission to the mysteries, we learn from Dupius, that the candidates are exposed several days to travel round a circumscribed space, and being thrown into a large tank of water sufficiently deep to compel swimming and to escape from which was difficult. Red hot iron was applied to their limbs, and they had to pass through flames of fire.

The following verses of Claudian are supposed to have been meant as a description of those imitations of the noise of earthquake and thunder which, by means of the ceranoscope and other such contrivances, were practised in the show of the mysteries:—

"Jam mihi ceruntus trepidis delubra moveri
Sedibus, et clarum dispergere culmina luceu,
Adventum testata Dei. Jam magnus ab imis
Auditur fremitus terris, tel plerunque renugit cecropium."

This happy moment of autopsy was prepared by frightful scenes, by alterations of awe and joy, by light and darkness, by glimmering of light, by the terrible noise of thunder, which they imitated admirably, by apparitions, and by magnificent daz-

zling illusions which at once strike the eyes and ears of all spectators. The sudden and momentary apparitions from utter darkness of splendid palaces, delightful gardens, &c., with which, the current voice of antiquity assures us, the eyes of the beholders were frequently dazzled in the mysteries, the evocation and actual appearance of departed spirits, the occasional visions of these *umbræ* and of the gods themselves, indicate some optical illusions. What must be the effect upon an uninformed mind of a modern diorama? Precisely that which a diorama in its roughest original form, a transparency suddenly exhibited in one of the dark subterranean passages in which the initiations were effected would produce on the terrified aspirant, namely, a thorough persuasion of the reality of what he saw.

The following passage from Damascius, who wrote four books on extraordinary events in the age of Justinian, some portions of which are preserved by Photius, clearly indicates that the phantasmagoria is rather a re-discovery than a modern invention. The extreme simplicity of the camera obscura in its rudest but a perfectly efficient shape, requiring only a small aperture to be made in the side of an otherwise perfectly dark room, would lead to a similar inference respecting it. "In a manifestation which ought not to be revealed . . . there appeared on the wall of the temple a mass of light which seems at first very distinct; it transforms itself, as if in contrasting, into a face evidently divine and supernatural, but of very severe aspect mingled with mildness, and very beautiful. According to what is thought in a mysterious religion, the Alexandrians honour this as Osiris and Adonis."

If we had to describe a modern phantasmagoria, could we express ourselves otherwise? The supposition of the occasional use of some sort of phantasmagoria, in places particularly constructed for the purpose, affords an easy solution of many historical facts, which otherwise must be regarded as fables. Proteus, whose transformations have given rise to a generic distinction, is represented by Eustachius, in his "Notes on Homer," as a worker of prodigies, very learned, dexterous, and skilful, and versed in the secrets of the Egyptian philosophy. Suidas also says that men who know how to surround themselves with deceptive apparitions were denominated magi, or magicians. Saxo-Grammaticus, the Danish historian, speaking of the illusions produced by

the philosophical magicians, says, "Very expert in the art of deceiving the eyes, they knew how to give themselves and others the appearance of different objects, and under attractive forms conceal their true aspect." Joseph Acosta, a Spanish writer of the sixteenth century, who resided in Peru, author of "A Natural History of the Indies," assures us that, in his time, there were existing sorcerers who could take whatever form they wished. He also relates that, in Mexico, the chief of a city being sent for by the predecessor of Montezuma, transformed himself in the eyes of the persons sent in succession to seize him, into an eagle, a tiger, an immense serpent. He yielded at last, and allowed himself to be conducted to the emperor, who immediately put him to death. He was no longer in his own house, no longer on his own theatre; in fact, he had no longer any tricks to employ, even to defend his life. The same power is attributed by the Bishop of Chiapa to the Naguals, the national priests of Guatemala, who studied to bring back to the religion of their ancestors the children whom the government were bringing up as Christians. The Naguals would be giving the child some instruction, and, after performance of some ceremonies, would suddenly assume the appearance of a lion or a tiger, and would enchain the young neophyte in his embrace. These miracles, like the illusions of the Mexican enchanter, were performed in a place previously selected. They prove, therefore, only a purely local power; they indicate the existence of a machine, but afford no clue to the manner in which it was brought into play.

To chemical agency we may apply the phenomena of enabling man to resist the action of fire, for although there might be occasions of delusion, still the power was frequently exerted in too open a manner to admit of denial. Thus we learn from Abel Remusat that the Tartars for a long time observed the custom of making every stranger, an ambassador or king as well as a simple traveller who approached their horde, pass between two burning piles to purge away the malignant influences they might bring. Contract the interval between these two piles and the purification becomes a trial, a torture, a fatal punishment. Let us restore to the initiations a ceremony which doubtless belongs to them: the priest will then have the power of making disappear in the flames any imprudent individuals who place themselves at his disposal after having given cause of offence,

or excited his distrust of their good faith and their secret intentions. The priestesses of Diana Parasya, in Cappadocia, walked with bare feet over burning coals. The same miracle was annually gone through by the priests in the temple of Apollo, on Mount Soracte. Their supposed hereditary incombustibility which exempted them from military service, and other public imposts, Varro attributes to a drug with which they rubbed the soles of their feet. In the Asiatic Researches, various ordeals are recorded as having taken place in Hindostan, which could only have been undergone by the use of some analogous secret.

The miracles, which depended for their performance upon a knowledge of hydrostatics, from the accounts that have come down to us, appear to have been so extremely simple, that the mere elementary principles of the science would have been all that was required.

Pliny speaks of a fountain which discharged wine during seven days, and water the best of the year. In one of the towns of Elis, during the annual feast of Bacchus, three empty urns were closed, and, on being opened at the appointed hour, were full of wine. By employing a machine, to which we give the name of Hero's fountain—which, although probably it was only described, and not invented, by this mathematician—a more striking miracle might have been performed. Under the eyes of the spectator, the water passed into a reservoir would have been emitted changed into wine. According to Ctesias, when Xerxes caused the tomb of Belus to be opened, the body was found in a glass coffin almost full of oil. "Woe," said an inscription, "to him who having opened this tomb shall not fill the coffin." Xerxes ordered that oil should be poured into it. Still, let them pour what quantity they might, the coffin was not filled. This prodigy presaged to Xerxes the disasters which signalled and terminated his life. The supposition of a syphon, concealed by the body, solves the mystery.

No one now would consult a heathen oracle with the hope of receiving a response to his inquiries that might be relied on. The abstruser sciences are pursued for other purposes; and no one would repose on dreams to furnish a system of truth which would meet the wants of man.

(To be continued.)

WHEN dunces call us fools, without proving us to be so, our best retort is to prove them to be fools, without condescending to call them so.

SUMMER RAMBLES.—THE "REAL NATIVES."

Few districts in England exhibit more strikingly the changes which have taken place within the last few centuries in the political and social life of the people than the country round Canterbury. Scarce three hundred years have elapsed since ecclesiastical rule was all-powerful in these regions. Like the kings of old, the grand archbishops, with their immense retinue of priests, knights, and squires, kept moving up and down the country, from one palace to another, sojourning alternately at Maidstone, Oxford, Knole, Lambeth, Charing, Croydon, and Wingham, and on high occasions holding Court at Canterbury, with such pomp and dignity as befit few other sovereigns but those of Holy Mother Church. It is sad to think that all this grandeur should have gone to such prosaic ends in the course of a few generations. Canterbury still has her Archbishop, and he still is Primate of All England, and still holds precedence next to the Royal Family, and still enjoys a salary of £18,000 per annum for his services: but for all that he has fallen deep indeed. No cavalcade of mitred abbots and mailed knights surrounds his chariot when going from Lambeth to Canterbury; there is nothing but the train at Charing Cross, into which he is hustled by an unceremonious porter, who slaps the door in his face, and threatens him with the by-laws of "the company," if he move hand or foot beyond prescribed bounds. And even when the Archbishop has arrived in his own city, the matter is not much mended, for there, too, the visible railway porter and the invisible "company" are beings much superior to the successor of St. Augustine. For has not Canterbury two railway stations, ever filled with snorting steam-engines, whose noise will drown the chant of a thousand priests, and is enough to startle Thomas à Becket himself from his bepainted tomb? And has not the once Royal castle of Canterbury been turned into a very useful gas-work, from which floating light is dispersed at 4s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet? And has not the palace of Ethelbert, which the King gave up to St. Augustine and the first apostles of Christianity on these shores, been converted, until recently, into a very attractive ale-house, tea-garden, and skittle-ground? Surely if there is a city in all England which has seen changes it is old Canterbury.

But it is not only to the city itself, but almost more so to its neighbourhood, that the spirit of innovation has extended. There is a few miles from Canterbury, at the mouth of the Thames, a singular little place called Whitstable, which has actually grown into a social republic, upheld by communistic doctrines, and utterly unmindful of hereditary or other authority. Whitstable once was the port of the great ecclesiastical city, where the ships lay at anchor which brought to the archiepiscopal table the luxuries of France and Italy, and which carried back the golden Peter's pence

to the head of the Church at Rome. Of course, Whitstable in those days was thoroughly ecclesiastic; the hills along the shore were crowded with monasteries, and every inch of ground belonged to religious communities. At the dissolution of the monasteries, however, the land fell to various owners, and underwent a great deal of division and subdivision, owing to the custom of gavelkind, here in force, which distributes real property in equal proportions between all the sons of a deceased owner, and failing them between all daughters. Thus there grew up a race of small freeholders, very independent in manners, and even very turbulent on certain occasions, as, for example, in 1688, when an ill wind drove poor King James II. unto this shore. The ship which carried flying Cæsar and his fortune having been boarded by the Whitstable fishermen, his Majesty was handled very roughly, and might have lost his life, but for the timely arrival of some troops from Canterbury. Whether headed by a Masaniello or not, the fishermen ever after continued Reds, and about the time of the French Revolution showed their independent spirit in a singular manner. Watching a favourable opportunity when there was a good deal of land in the market, the men of Whitstable formed themselves into a close corporation, bought up the whole foreshore, and signed a charter for establishing a social-communistic republic, based on "liberty, equality, and fraternity." That was more than seventy years ago. Empires and kingdoms have sunk and risen since that time, thrones innumerable have fallen into the dust, and the face of Europe has changed in aspect. But the social-communistic republic at Whitstable has not changed a jot: it stands as it ever stood, *une et indivisible*, at the gates of Canterbury.

Nothing is more striking than the first sight of Whitstable from the Canterbury road. Accustomed to see nothing but "watering-places" on the coast of Kent, with endless rows of brick-and-plaster boxes, detached and semi-detached, one is surprised at beholding for once a genuine old fishing village, with not so much as a "marine parade" near the shore. There are long rows of wooden houses close to the sea, all as nice and black as if fresh from the tar-pot; and in front of them on the waves there lie long rows of wooden vessels, as black and as beautifully tarred as the houses. It is clear at a glance that houses and vessels are in the position of brothers and sisters; no doubt, the houses would swim when put upon the water, and the vessels would be quite at home when stuck up among the potatoes and cabbages on shore. Entering Whitstable from the turnpike road, we are startled by the extreme silence pervading the whole place. There seem to be no shops in which any kind of business is transacted; there are no people loitering about, and even the indispensable publichouse is wanting, as far as we can judge. But near to the shore the scene changes, for all the inhabitants appear to have

congregated here. It is a curious shore, strewn thickly with oyster-shells, and ornamented with heaps of sails, masts, chains, nets, and anchors. There is only one building near larger than the wooden dwelling we have passed, and it is this building round which the inhabitants congregate. A few inquiries soon let us into the secret of the crowd—we are standing in front of Government House, the Capitol of the Republic of Whitstable.

To understand the doings of the Capitol and of the multitude around, we must take a glance back into Whitstable history. At the establishment of the republic, as already mentioned, the members were fishermen in general; but before long they began to devote themselves exclusively to a particular branch of fishing, namely oyster dredging. Oysters, from of old, were plentiful on this coast; and the bay in front of the village formed by the mouth of the river Swale being exceedingly well adapted for the breeding of the luscious little creatures, the Whitstable communists determined to leave fish alone, and stick to oysters. Being possessed of more capital than their unassociated brethren on other parts of the coast, they were enabled to dispose of their produce in a far more profitable manner; they not only held it ready at the most favourable season, but took it to the Great London market in their own boats, and appointed their own agents for the sale, thus becoming dealers as well producers. After awhile, they went a step further by increasing their stock of oysters in an artificial manner. The process was simple enough. Whitstable men went all around the coast as far as Ireland purchasing oyster-eggs, so-called "spat," often to the amount of several thousand pounds, and sinking it in their own grounds, or "beds," near the shore, they afterwards sold the chickens for the eggs. Of course the profit by the transaction was very large, and the social republic prospered in consequence, and has kept prospering to the present day. The way the good republicans manage their own affairs is rather instructive. They make it a chief point never to catch more oysters than are really wanted, so as to prevent a glut in the market; and accordingly they let their times of fishing or dredging depend upon the news they get from Billingsgate. Whenever there is a call from this quarter, the street bellman—important republican functionary—goes through the village at five o'clock in the morning, arousing the sleepers. The whole of the citizens are divided into squads, working in turn; and those whose turn it is for the time being take to the boats, and throw out their large ring-mouthed nets. Fishing is easy when the crop is so plentiful as here, and the nets always come out loaded to the top. But the republicans, who well understand their own interest, are not greedy by any means. They carefully select only the very best of the oysters within their reach, and only as many as are required for the day, and throw the rest back into the sea. Then, when the hoys are

loaded which carry the produce to market, the happy fishermen returned home to breakfast, having done their day's work. So it goes on, week after week, all though the oyster season, and the net result is the division of a good round sum at the end of the year, amounting to as much to each citizen of the republic as the pay of a colonel in Her Majesty's Army. So it seems that after all it may not be a bad thing to be a member of a social republic formed on principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

There is an "ancient and fish-like smell" about the Whitstable Capitol, before which we are standing. The republicans within are holding a Water Court, or Witenagemote, debating the important question as to the amount of tax they shall impose upon English people who wish to enjoy "real natives." For it must be understood that Whitstable alone produces that luxury of luxuries, the native oyster, the species itself as well as its name having been originated at this prosperous shore. There was once a great oyster trade between France and England, the foolish epicures of this country being under the impression that the bivalves of Normandy were better than those of the Kentish coast. Against this silly prejudice the Whitstable men set themselves resolutely; they felt sympathy for French orators, but none for French oysters. So they advertised with great perseverance the "real natives" of their own growth, and producing a very good article, carefully selected for the market, they were not long in gaining patriotic gourmands over to their side. At the present time all the world acknowledges that the "native oyster" is the thing which persons who value their reputation and their digestion should take at supper. Thus merit has had its own reward, and the men of Whitstable are now in the happy position of being able to put their own price on the article they manufacture. Last year the Witenagemote resolved, *nem. con.*, to give the real natives for not less than twopence apiece, and anxious British oyster eaters were but too willing to pay the tax. This season there has been a movement among the leading men of the republic to raise the impost on the outer barbarians from twopence to threepence; and it was this matter which was under deliberation in the congress when we had the honour of standing at the foot of the oyster-strewn Capitol. What was the upshot of the solemn discussion did not become known, there being no *Moniteur* at Whitstable, and "our own reporter" rigidly excluded from the well tarred house of parliament. But the result seems little doubtful, the citizens of the social republic being men of sense, who understand the value of pounds, shillings, and pence. Already they are great landed proprietors, and with an improved system of taxation there is no limit to which they might not expand the confines of their commonwealth. For example, it might turn out a fine speculation to buy Canterbury

Cathedral, and convert it into an oyster tank. The gas works installed in Julius Cæsar's castle are said to pay seven and a half per cent.

Much pleased with our visit to Whitstable—and much pleased also to leave it, for the ancient fish-like smell is rather strong—we turn our face eastward, towards Herne Bay. A few minutes' walk brings us to a noble hill, crowned by a fine old castle, with turrets and battlements. It is true, then, that the chivalric age has not entirely fled from these shores, so famous in English history, and that the soil were Hengist and Horsa landed is not altogether given up to oyster breeding. The castle yonder was clearly built in the Middle Ages, and must belong to some old family well known to Dod and Sir Bernard Burke. To satisfy our curiosity, we inquire of the cost-guard, patrolling leisurely at the foot of the hill. "What is the name of this place, and who is the owner?"—"Well, Sir, he replies slowly, the place is called Tankerton Castle, and belongs to a man as lives in London, and is a draper, but I don't know his name."—We walk on, lost in thoughts about knights and drapers, about old monasteries and new railway stations. Fancies are growing wild at this Kentish shore, once the stronghold of monasticism, now the seat of a co-operative republic of fishermen and cherished home of Real Natives.—*Spectator*.

IRISH SCENERY—KILKEE, CO. CLARE.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

The great variety of cliff scenery in this watering place, and the natural grandeur of everything that comes under observation bewilders the minds of those who interest themselves in the many changes that time has developed on this iron-bound coast, the magnificence of which it would take an abler pen than mine to describe. A few friends and myself determined a day or two ago to visit the caves which most visitors to Kilkee must have either seen or heard of.

From the time of our departure, the scenes presented to view were of such a varied character that to describe them fully would take a longer time than I have at my disposal. However, I shall mention a little that attracted my attention.

The neighbourhood of the amphitheatre is about the first place of interest that meets the eye. The general aspect of this place would lead any one to suppose that the hand of man was employed at some distant period in cutting out the various recesses, grottoes, and rows of comfortable seats which the tourist avails himself of with much pleasure when fatigued after his rambles during the day. This place is a general resort for the romantic

ladies staying here. They select retired nooks, and pass away the time in reading some of the latest novels by either Sir Bulwer Lytton, Dickens, or Miss Braddon, with the ocean in all its majesty before them, undisturbed by the continual beating of the sea against the rocks immediately beneath.

Further on you meet high precipices assuming grotesque shapes, in some instances reminding you of the ruins of some ancient Gothic structure. Here there are many small domes, but none of sufficient importance to make mention of. As we proceed on our journey to the caves, we come to the immediate vicinity of the Puffing-Hole. It has not been my good fortune to have seen this natural curiosity in all its splendour. The water rarely ever ascends in summer to any very great height, but in winter, during stormy weather, the sea rushes with such force through the aperture chiselled out by nature in a solid sheet of table rock, that it rises many feet in the air, sometimes descending as it came, whilst at other times the swell breaks and rushes over the rocks in its vicinity sweeping all before it. In its headlong course it has been known to have frequently displaced huge rocks and carried them into the ocean. The melancholy fate of Colonel Peppard, county Limerick, and his intended bride, some few years since, at this place, I have no doubt will be in the recollection of most of your readers. They were to be united in a few days subsequent to the catastrophe, but the Ruler of all events decreed it otherwise, and the betrothed ones never lived to see their hopes consummated. With a party of friends they went to see the Puffing Rock, when they were so carried away in contemplation of the happy event, which they hoped soon to see realised, that they ventured too close to this dangerous spot, quite forgetful of the peril to which they were exposed. Without the slightest warning the returning wave carried them beyond the reach of human aid, locked in each other's embrace. The lady's body was found after some few days, still clinging to the only remnant of her lover's garment that has ever been discovered. The ledges of rock in this vicinity have of late years become more frequented by the fashionables residing here. This place, which is quite even and easy of access, embraces several seats and convenient corners in which to lounge.

As we proceeded we came immediately under Look-out Hill. It is 300ft. high, and quite perpendicular. Intrinsic Bay is the next place of note

to Look-out Hill. This name it has derived from a large ship which was driven ashore at this point of the coast. Although the vessel did not go to pieces until the morning after the fearful accident, not a soul survived to tell the melancholy tale. The poor fellows could be observed in the agonies of despair clinging to the ropes, the sea washing over them mountains high, waiting for assistance, that could not be rendered by the villagers, who congregated overhead.

We arrived at last at the first and most important of the caves, where the visitor becomes lost in admiration, and an involuntary sense of loneliness creeps over him as he enters through its stupendous jaws. The recollection of by-gone days when pirates and smugglers infested the coast, at once recurs to the mind, and fosters up fancies of the romantic tales of "Monte Christo," or some such legend. The washing of the sea has worn away the rock for a distance of 500ft. or 600ft. As you proceed inwards, one naturally feels surprised at the finished appearance it presents. In fact, in some places, the sides are so smooth they resemble polished marble. This, I think, is caused by the water from the earth above. There are slight curves where the cave becomes wider, allowing two canoes to turn easily. The general aspect of the place is truly remarkable. It is about 30ft. to 50ft. high. When you come towards its extreme end a heavy rumbling sound is likely to cause a thrill of fear to pass over your frame, until you become acquainted with the cause, which is none other than the surging of the waves among the many round stones washed in by heavy tides. The echo here is truly wonderful. Speak in a loud voice, and it re-echoes for at least five or ten minutes.

After a careful survey of this remarkable place we took our departure and proceeded to an immense cliff, which projects about 500ft. from the base to its top, and forms a kind of arch perfect in its proportions, *en route* to the second cave in the vicinity of Bishop's Island, which is about an acre in extent, and derives its name from the fact that a bishop at one time resided there. The sheep fed on this island are supposed to yield the sweetest mutton in this neighbourhood. The second cave is somewhat like the first, but not so capacious, either in length or breadth, still it is quite interesting.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

BE punctual to meet all engagements at the time appointed, and never make a contract unless you intend to fulfil it.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE ATHEISTS AND FREEMASONRY, PARIS, 1797.

"A society of Atheists was formed in Paris, in 1797. Freemasons were then numerous in the metropolis of France. A principal object of the society of Atheists was proselytism. Could Atheists be received into Freemasonry, proselytism, it was thought, would be much facilitated. Applications were accordingly made to certain lodges, that, for the future, disbelief in the existence of a God might not be an impediment to initiation. The applications were not successful." The foregoing is the copy of a passage in the manuscript book called "My Denton Court Jottings," and is sent to the FREEMASONS MAGAZINE in compliance with the unusually urgent request of an esteemed brother, contained in a letter just come to hand. It may be useful to draw attention to a communication entitled "Atheism and Freemasonry," made by me to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE two years ago. It will be found vol. 9, p. 238. The copy of the Baron d'Holbach's "Système de la Nature" there mentioned is now in Lincoln's-inn Library.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Degree of E.A.P. illustrated from the New Testament.—Passing the sentries, whose challenge is answered by the guide who is in the possession of the watchword, the candidate, in a state of darkness, poor and penniless, who has already been elected, and the tongue of good report heard in his favour, is introduced into the lodge room and asked if he is free by birth, and of the age of twenty-one years. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, for it is written that "Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman: but he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh, but he of the freewoman was by promise," which things are our allegory; for these are the two covenants, the one from the Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar; for this Agar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem, which now is and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. Nevertheless, what saith the Scriptures, "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So, then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free." (Galatians iv. 3, 4, 5, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31.)

Having answered in the affirmative, the candidate is conducted round the lodge, and pledges himself that he is uninfluenced by any mercenary and unworthy motive, but freely and voluntarily, offers himself as a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, and will steadily persevere through the ceremony of initiation. He is then advanced to the East by three irregular steps.

These steps were formerly depicted on the Master's carpet, and have a threefold allusion—

Firstly, to the three fundamental principles of the Order—Faith, Hope, and Charity. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews ii. 1.) "Hope maketh not ashamed." (Romans v. 5.) "Charity suffereth long, and is kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, endureth all things. Now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity." (Corinthians xiii. 4, 5, 6, 7, 13.)

Secondly, Temperance, Fortitude, and Prudence.—"Temperance shall chasten you, fortitude support you, and prudence direct you" (Masonic Lectures); and, thirdly, to the threefold vows originally taken by the poor fellow-soldier of Jesus Christ (Knights of the Order of the Temple).

Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.

Poverty.—"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head." (Matt. viii., 20).

Chastity.—"This, I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Now, the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these—adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness." (Ephes. v. 16, 19.)

Obedience.—"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordinances of God. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then be afraid of the power? do that which is good." (Rom. xiii., 1—3.) Having taken the obligation of secrecy, the new brother is restored to the blessings of material light, and the Master then points out to him the emblematical lights of Masonry—the three great lights, viz.—the volume of the Sacred Law, the square and compasses. These used, and ought still be placed on a pedestal in the centre of the lodge rooms, and illuminated by three tall candlesticks placed in the form of a triangle, and surrounded by a circle bounded by two parallel lines, extending north and south, and representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, who finished by his learning what the former commenced by his zeal. The candles are symbolical of the three persons of the "Blessed Trinity, of whom the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal, so that in all things the unity in Trinity and the Trinity in unity is to be worshipped." (Athanasian Creed.) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John i. 1.) The three lesser lights are placed in the east, south, and west, representing the sun, the moon, and the spiritual master of the lodges. The brother is entrusted with the secret signs and words, and is conducted by the Deacons three times round the lodge, giving the passwords to the Junior and Senior Wardens, and is then presented to the W.M., and invested with a white apron.

Yours fraternally,

ROSA CRUCIS.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.

Subscribers who are in arrears will oblige by remitting at once to the office, No. 19, Salisbury-street, Strand. [Post Office Orders to be made payable to Bro. William Smith, C.E.]

* * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MASONIC MEM.

The next meeting of the Provincial [Grand Lodge of South Wales (Eastern Division)] will be held at Cardiff on the 28th inst. Full particulars are given in the announcement, which will be found in our advertising columns.

GRAND LODGE.

The quarterly communication of the United Grand Lodge of England took place on Wednesday evening, in Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Victor Williamson, J.G.W., occupied the throne in the absence of the R.W. the Grand Master; Bro. Havers, P.J.G.W., acted as S.G.W. in the absence of Bro. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, *Bart.*, M.P.; and Bro. Moore, P.G. Chaplain, acted as J.G.W. There were present on the dais, Bros. Spiers, D. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; M'Intyre, G. Reg.; Hopwood, P.J.G.D. and President of the Colonial Board; G. W. K. Potter, P.J.G.D.; Charles Hutton Gregory, P.J.G.D.; Locock Webb, P.G.D.; Bridges, P.G.D.; John Hervey, P.J.G.D.; Henry Empson, P.G.S.B.; Albert W. Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; Henry Maudslay, P.J.G.D.; John S. Pullen, S.G.D.; William Young, P.G.S.B.; Thomas A. Adams, P.G. Purst.; Emmens, G. Purst.; Patten, P.G.D. and Secretary to the Girls' School, and several other brethren.

The Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and with solemn prayer.

The G. SECRETARY said he had received a letter from the M.W. the G. Master, asking the brethren to excuse his presence that evening in the Grand Lodge, as he still felt himself unequal to attend to any public business. Under those circumstances, he had no doubt that the brethren would make an allowance for his absence. (Hear hear.)

The G. SECRETARY then read a letter he had received from Bro. Sir Michael Hicks Beech, *Bart.*, S.G.W., stating that in consequence of a recent bereavement, he was unable to attend to the duties of Grand Lodge that evening.

THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

The G. SECRETARY then read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 7th of June.

The G. MASTER put the question that they be confirmed, which was carried unanimously.

SPECIAL GRAND LODGE.

The G. SECRETARY then read the minutes of the Special Grand Lodge held at Tottenham on the 8th of July, on the occasion of the opening of the new schools for sons of Freemasons. The minutes merely detailed the ceremony and proceedings, which have already been published.

The G. MASTER put the motion for confirmation of the minutes, which was unanimously agreed to.

THE ADDRESS OF CONDOLENCE TO THE GRAND MASTER.

The G. SECRETARY read a letter from the M.W. the Grand Master, in reply to the address of condolence on the death of

the Countess of Zetland agreed to at the last Grand Lodge, in which he stated that he took the first opportunity that presented itself in conveying to the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Officers, and brethren his heartfelt thanks for their kind address of condolence of the 7th of June last, and hoped, under the aid of the Great Disposer of Human Events, to bear up under his heavy affliction. He felt grateful to the brethren for their willing participation in the grief under which he was suffering, showing a renewed mark of their kindness towards him.

The G. REGISTRAR said he was sure every one in that Grand Lodge and elsewhere would participate with their Grand Master in his grief for the decease of the Countess of Zetland, and he hoped that feeling would be recorded on the minutes of the Grand Lodge. He would, therefore, move that the letter which they had just heard read in answer to their address of condolence be entered on the minutes, so that they might have a lasting memorial of their sense of his lordship's loss, and his kind and urbane conduct to all. (Hear, hear.)

The G. MASTER: This is a question I think I need hardly put, except as a matter of form. The motion is that the letter of the Earl of Zetland be entered on the minutes of the Grand Lodge.

The motion was then put and unanimously agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF THE BELVIDERE (MAIDSTONE) LODGE (No. 503).

The G. SECRETARY read a communication from Lord Holmesdale, Provincial Grand Master of Kent, reporting the suspension by him of the Belvidere Lodge (No. 503), Maidstone, in consequence of very great irregularities in their proceedings. The communication stated that on the 11th of April last a person named John Swinley was proposed and seconded for initiation in the Belvidere Lodge, but on a ballot taking place it was found that the ballot box contained five black balls against his admission. Upon this being seen, the W.M. said he thought that there must be some mistake in the matter, and again sent round the ballot box for a fresh ballot, and the result was, that again five black balls were found in the box, and upon which it was declared that John Swinley was not elected. Some time afterwards, however, it was stated that the ballot box had been tampered with, and a motion to that effect was submitted to the lodge, which was carried by a majority of 26 to 5. Upon this being stated, four members of the lodge came forward and protested against the resolution, and allowed that they had put in four black balls against the admission of Swinley, but notwithstanding the rule in the Book of Constitutions, which stated that if three black balls were put into the box against a candidate he could not be admitted, and in spite of the declarations of four members that they had put in black balls, the W.M. disregarded all these considerations, and proceeded to initiate John Swinley as a member of the lodge. This had come to his, Bro. Lord Holmesdale's, notice, and he directed an investigation of all the facts to take place; and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master required them in the meantime to adjourn all further meetings of the lodge until July, when he received an answer that they as Masons, like every one else, should do that which appeared to be the best, and carry on their business as they thought proper. Under these circumstances he had no other alternative than to suspend the lodge from its functions, and lay all the facts before the Grand Lodge.

The G. REGISTRAR said the communication which had been received from the Provincial Grand Master of Kent required the sanction of that Grand Lodge, because, by the powers invested in the Provincial Master, he was only empowered to suspend a

lodge until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, when he was required to report that suspension. He (the G. Registrar) must say, after a careful consideration of the case, it seemed to him to be one that required the immediate action of Grand Lodge to uphold the authority of the Provincial Grand Master. The "Book of Constitutions" distinctly stated that no brother should be admitted if there were three black balls, but in this case this candidate was rejected by five black balls. The Master, however, appeared not to be content with the decision of the lodge, stating that there must have been some mistake, and he decided that there should be a fresh ballot. Again five black balls appeared against him, and he declared that this person was not elected a member of the lodge, which, according to practice and to the "Book of Constitutions," he was bound to do. A month after that some of the members, however, entertained a different opinion, they stating that there was some mistake about it, and the opinion of the lodge was taken. They took upon themselves to review the ballot box, and although five black balls had been put in against him, he was declared to be a proper member, and was initiated in the lodge. That being so, the Provincial Grand Master had no option but to suspend the lodge from its functions. They did not require them to say that they believed the proceedings were illegal, but they were required to say that every candidate, by the votes of the lodge had been duly elected. The Provincial Grand Master had properly said that the lodge had violated the "Book of Constitutions," which had clearly been done when they said they would regulate their matters in their own way, and that they should do just as they liked, and although there were five black balls they took upon themselves to say that four of them were void. The Provincial Grand Master had suspended the Belvidere Lodge from its functions, and he should therefore move that suspension be continued, and that the Provincial Grand Master should have power to remove that suspension as soon as a due submission had been made.

Bro. LOCOCK WEBB seconded the motion.

Bro. MASON said this was not a rare instance of acts in direct contravention of the "Book of Constitutions," and he wished to say a few words upon this subject. Many young Masons when they found the laws inconvenient to them they appealed to the Masters in the chair, under a belief that he had power to act in contradiction of the "Book of Constitutions." That was an idea which existed, but he hoped it would henceforth be put an end to. He had heard of many attempts after a ballot to get the decision reversed. He should hold up his hand in support of the rule which had been passed after due consideration. Masonry as well as law said that it must be upheld. This was a most flagrant violation of the "Book of Constitutions," and ought not to be allowed to pass. He was glad to hear the motion which had been proposed and seconded, and he believed that it would be passed unanimously. It was a painful thing that persons should have to come forward and avow that they had put black balls into the ballot box, and he should be glad to see the ballot abolished altogether.

The G. MASTER said that this was really a very monstrous case, and he believed there would be no difference of opinion upon it. For Masons to set themselves up against the written law in the "Book of Constitutions," was about as reasonable as if a judge on the bench set himself up against the written law of the land.

The motion was then put and unanimously agreed to.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter was presented, which detailed the amounts granted at each

meeting, and it further recommended a grant of £40 to Bro. C. C. C., of the Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love (No. 56), Arundel.

The report was received and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Bro. GALE moved that the recommendation contained in the report be agreed to, stating that it had been well considered and was well deserved.

Bro. ADLARD seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The next business was to receive the report of the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. CLADON, in the absence of Bro. Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board, moved that the report be taken as received, which was agreed to. He then moved that it be received and entered on the minutes, which was agreed to.

To the report was subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on the 11th instant, showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £2,792 11*s.*, and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £50. Of these sums there belongs to the Fund of Benevolence £1,734 9*s.* 2*d.*; to the Fund of General Purposes, £566 1*s.* 5*d.*; and in the Unappropriated Account, £540 17*s.* 4*d.*

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Bro. HAVERS, P.J.G.W. said, as the report of the Building Committee was in the hands of every member of the Grand Lodge, he should move that it be taken as read.

Bro. LOCOCK WEBB seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Bro. HAVERS then said that he should move that the report be received and entered on the minutes, and if that was carried he should move a substantive resolution, with which the report concluded. Although the committee had a very onerous duty to perform, and they did not seek them, still he was quite ready to answer any questions the brethren might be desirous of putting to him. As no brother appeared to require further information, he should move that the report be received and entered on the minutes.

The G. MASTER put the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

Bro. HAVERS said he believed he ought to thank the brethren for not pressing questions upon him or asking for any further explanation than was contained in the report. The committee had told them frankly in the report that the work had not progressed so rapidly as they could have wished, but he could assure them that the committee had spared no pains or labour, day and night, to carry on the work. They all knew the difficulties they had with builders and contractors to get the work done well, but it had not been done so quickly as was promised as they had been told in the report, but they had made arrangements with the contractor so that the whole of the building shall be finished by the time which had now been fixed. As regarded the new workshops required for Mr. Malby, who was their servant, Mr. Rider had kept his word, and the whole of the buildings had been completed within the specified time. As regarded the rest of the building the committee had found it desirable to inform the contractor that if it was not completed at the time they should deduct £100 a week from the amount for every week it was not completed beyond the time stated. There was another matter to which he wished to refer, but first he would read the last paragraph in the report, which was as follows:—

"In order to the building of the new great banqueting room of the Tavern it is necessary to remove a portion of the party-wall of Bacon's Hotel, and it was found that it would be very desirable to carry the east wall of the banqueting room 9 to 15 in. further east, thus encroaching to that extent upon the premises now held on lease by Mr. Bacon. The ground upon which Bacon's hotel now stands was bought by the society in 1848, subject to a lease to Mr. Mann (who sub-lets to Bacon) of which three and a half years are unexpired at a rent of £240 per annum. Mr. Bacon is anxious for a renewal of his lease and in consideration of the society renewing his lease for ten years from the termination of his present tenure at a rent of £360 per annum, he has consented to allow the society to build over that portion of the ground now held by him which is referred to above: to this the committee have agreed, subject to the approval of Grand Lodge."

It was for Grand Lodge to say whether they would sanction this arrangement. Bro. Bacon had built with his own money the two houses, and he (Bro. Havers) thought he was not a wise man to build such a large property on land not his own. Bro. Bacon, indeed, was born on their property, and, as stated in the report, he had three and a half years of his lease unexpired; and, if he chose, he could have stood out for that time, preventing them from taking a foot, or even an inch, of his property, by which they would have been put to considerable inconvenience in proceeding with their new buildings. It was, however, a satisfaction to him (Bro. Havers) to say that Bro. Bacon, like a good member of their fraternity, said he would never stand in their way if they would give him a fair and liberal arrangement as to his lease. Some of the brethren might think that for Bacon's Hotel £240 was too small a sum, but he thought that was a mistake. Under the new arrangement he was to pay £360 a year, and, with the growing number of hotel companies that were established all round him, he thought but for the influence of Bro. Bacon in retaining his custom, that the present business could not be maintained. As Bro. Bacon had met them in a fair, honourable, and brotherly spirit, he had no hesitation in asking Grand Lodge to consent to the terms which were proposed by the committee for the renewal of his lease. He should now move "That subject to the conditions agreed upon between the Building Committee and Bro. Bacon, a lease be granted to Bro. Bacon of the premises now held by him for 10 years from Christmas, 1868, at a rent of £360 per annum."

Bro. HERVEY, P.S.G.D., said the statement of Bro. Havers was so lucid, that he should content himself by simply seconding the motion.

The G. MASTER said he was sure that Grand Lodge would not be hard upon the Building Committee. The grand staircase, although not finished, every one who had seen what was in progress admitted that it was an exceedingly handsome thing, and was in every degree worthy of Grand Lodge; and, such being the case, he was sure that the Grand Lodge would not say one hard word against the Building Committee. As to the second part of the report contained in the motion, after the lucid manner in which it had been stated by Bro. Havers, no words were necessary, and he should at once proceed to put the motion.

The resolution was put, and carried unanimously.

THE MARK DEGREE.

At the last Grand Lodge a memorial was received from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, submitting the following points for the consideration of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter:—"Whether these grand bodies are prepared to sanction the working

of the Mark Masters' degree in England, either as a part of the second or Fellow Craft degree (as has been done by the Grand Lodge of Scotland), or as a separate degree, as in the case in the lodges holding under the sister Grand Lodges of Ireland, Canada, and America?" And "Whether these grand bodies are prepared to recognise the body styling itself the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown, as the lawful head of the Order of Mark Masters in England?" A long discussion ensued upon these points, and eventually it was resolved "That the Grand Lodge of England, in its 'Book of Constitutions,' has declared and pronounced that pure ancient Freemasonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the E.A., the F.C., and the M.M., including the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch, and consequently it gives no sanction to the making of the Mark Masters' degree in England. That the Grand Lodge of England does not acknowledge the Mark Masters' degree to be part of pure ancient Freemasonry, and does not recognise the body styling itself 'The Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown.'" It was also agreed that these resolutions should be transmitted to the Grand Chapter of Scotland. This day a letter was received from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter acknowledging the receipt of the resolutions passed by Grand Lodge in which they declined to accede to the memorial of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, but indicated no course of future proceedings.

The G. REGISTRAR moved that the reply be received and entered on the minutes, which was agreed to.

APPEAL FROM HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

The next business was to consider the appeal of the St. Andrew's Lodge (No. 118), Halifax, Nova Scotia, against its suspension by the Provincial Grand Master.

The G. SECRETARY read a communication from Bro. the Hon. Alexander Keith, Provincial Grand Master of Nova Scotia, stating that he had suspended the St. Andrew's Lodge from its functions; and it appeared from it that on the Provincial Grand Master's annual visitation on St. John's Day he nominated the W.M. of the St. Andrew's Lodge (Bro. Macdonald) to an office in the Provincial Grand Lodge, which he considered was not in the usual progression observed in that colony, and he declined to accept the nomination. It was then asked if any other member of the St. Andrew's Lodge would accept it, when Bro. John Dean Nash stepped forward, and he was installed into the office of S.G.D. At the next meeting of the St. Andrew's Lodge, Bro. Nash was censured for accepting the office after it had been refused by their W.M. Bro. Macdonald, and a resolution of censure was passed upon him. This resolution was communicated to the Provincial Grand Master by Bro. Nash, and in a few days afterwards the Provincial Grand Master wrote to the Secretary of the St. Andrew's Lodge, who returned to him a copy of the amended resolution which had been passed by the lodge. In February, 1865, the Provincial Grand Secretary addressed a letter to the St. Andrew's Lodge requiring them to expunge the resolution of censure upon Bro. Nash from their books for the reasons therein stated. A further correspondence took place, in which a hope was expressed that the obnoxious resolution would be expunged before the Provincial Grand Master's next visitation. On the 3rd of January, 1865, the Provincial Grand Master made his visitation to the St. Andrew's Lodge, when finding the resolution had not been expunged he refused to confirm the minutes. In the month of March he summoned the Master and Wardens to show cause why the resolution had not been expunged, and they produced

the books of the lodge, giving as their reason why the resolution had not been expunged, because a majority of the members were in favour of its being maintained. The Provincial Grand Master was then about at once to suspend the lodge, and without further delay, but he was waited upon by the J.W. of the lodge, who assured him that then a majority of the lodge were in favour of expunging the obnoxious resolution, and he allowed time for that purpose. Accordingly at the meeting of the lodge in April the resolution was ordered to be expunged by a majority of 17 to 8, but at a subsequent meeting a resolution was carried by a majority of 9 to 7 against rescinding the resolution, and declaring that what had been done at a former lodge was of no effect. On this being communicated to him he considered that the lodge was contumacious, and he accordingly suspended its operations. The Provincial Grand Master considered that had he shrunk from the responsibility of adopting this course, he should have been unworthy of the position which he had for so many years held in the Craft.

The Grand Secretary was then about to read the documents, which were very voluminous, in support of the appeal from the suspension of the Provincial Grand Master, when

Bro. HAYERS interposed, and said he rose to submit that as these documents were many pages in length, that the Grand Registrar, who had made himself master of the subject, should briefly state the facts, instead of Grand Lodge wading through a mass of matter, some of which had no reference to the question now before them.

The G. MASTER said the suggestion of Bro. Havers was well worth the consideration of Grand Lodge, for to his mind the papers contained a great deal beyond the point at issue. Let them, however, take care in adopting the suggestion of the S.G.W. (Bro. Havers) they did not lay themselves open to the charge of slighting the complaints of any one under their jurisdiction. Instead of going through such a mass of matter, he thought they might trust that the question would be fairly put by the Grand Registrar.

The suggestion of Bro. Havers was then put as a motion and agreed to.

The G. REGISTRAR said it was rather difficult to state to Grand Lodge, briefly and succinctly, what the members of it would wish to have brought before them, as they were rather complicated, although the facts were few and very simple. The St. Andrew's Lodge was the oldest in Nova Scotia, and it was the custom to appoint from its brethren to the highest offices in the Provincial Grand Lodge. It appeared that if a brother received office in that lodge, the usual course adopted was to promote him to a higher office. One brother thought, to use his own words, that he had been skipped over, and some other brother was appointed to the office he ought to have held. At that time the office of J.G.D. was offered to a brother of the St. Andrew's Lodge, and he, having communicated with the lodge, thought that he had been slighted, and he refused to take the office. When the Provincial Grand Master found that his offer of J.G.D. was rejected, he offered it to another, Bro. Macdonald, the Master of the lodge having refused Bro. Nash, another member of the same lodge came forward and offered spontaneously to take it. Upon this the lodge thought that appeared like an insult to Bro. Macdonald, and that he (Bro. Nash) had no right to take a petty office, and they passed a vote of censure on Bro. Nash for having taken it after it had been rejected by Bro. Macdonald. That was the view taken of it by the members of the lodge, but the Provincial Grand Master and Bro. Nash placed a different colour upon the transaction. They said the offer was rejected by Bro. Macdonald, and as the Provincial Grand Master was desirous that some member of the St.

Andrew's Lodge should take it, he asked Bro. Nash, and he stepped forward and expressed his willingness to take it. Now, he (the Grand Registrar) believed that the view taken by the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Secretary was the correct one, and for this reason, because Bro. Nash had held a higher office than the one he had then taken. Bro. Nash wrote to the lodge requiring it to rescind the resolution, and on their refusing to do so, he wrote to the Provincial Grand Secretary to come to him and to ask the Provincial Grand Master to compel the lodge to rescind the resolution. He also found from the papers that it was the custom in the province to consider that no resolution was finally passed unless it was approved of by the Provincial Grand Master at his annual visitation. If that was so, he believed that the Provincial Grand Master had greatly overstepped his duties, as resolutions passed by a lodge required no confirmation from the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master called upon the St. Andrew's Lodge to rescind the resolutions, and accordingly the members met and passed a resolution to that effect, but a subsequent lodge refused to sanction it and said it was of no avail. Upon that the Provincial Grand Master took upon himself to suspend the lodge for not carrying out the decision of the lodge passed some time before. It seemed to him (the Grand Registrar) that he was bound to call the attention of Grand Lodge to the very words in which the Provincial Grand Master took upon himself the responsibility of suspending St. Andrew's Lodge. "I am directed to notify that your lodge is suspended from this date, until a decision from the Grand Lodge of England is obtained, as you refuse to expunge the vote of censure upon Bro. Nash, which resolution the Provincial Grand Master considers un-Masonic." The character of the second charge against the lodge, that it is contumacious, and it seemed to him that the conduct of some of the members was utterly subversive of all order. The Provincial Grand Master based his suspension of the lodge on two points. One of them was that they would not expunge a resolution which he thought ought not to have been passed. On this point he thought the Provincial Grand Master was wrong, for the lodge had the right to censure any of their members, and if it was not directed against the Provincial Grand Master or his authority he had no right to interfere. He thought if that Grand Lodge had selected from any lodge a member who was appointed as Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, and he chose to refuse the office, the lodge to which he belonged would overstep the bounds if they censured that brother for not accepting honours from the Grand Lodge, and they ought rather to be happy to receive that mark of honour, and not dictate to the Provincial Grand Master. If he (Bro. McIntyre) was a Provincial Grand Master, he should appoint the man who was best qualified to fill the office, and would not be dictated to as to whom he should appoint, and he regretted that the law did not enable the Provincial Grand Master to censure the lodge for passing such a resolution. As to the other point he thought the Provincial Grand Master was wrong in not summoning the lodge to explain what they had done, and if they could to give their reasons, and if they could to excuse themselves for their conduct. Although the St. Andrew's Lodge had so far forgotten the respect that was due to the Provincial Grand Master, as he had overstepped his duty, he should move—"That the appeal of the St. Andrew's Lodge be allowed and the suspension removed."

Bro. COX, S.G.D., seconded the motion.

Bro. HAYERS said he had listened with great attention to the very lucid observations of the Grand Registrar, instead of wading through a mass of papers, as he knew it was the in-

tion of Bro. McIntyre, the Grand Registrar, to conclude with a resolution. There were one or two points, however, in reference to this appeal which he did not catch, and which ought to be noticed, so that they might go back to Nova Scotia. Throughout the whole of the appeal he found strong terms of discourtesy towards the Provincial Grand Master; and they even went so far as to say that they would no longer pay obedience to him if this appeal was not decided in their favour, that nothing would warrant them in remaining under him, that they would throw off their allegiance, and place themselves under the Grand Lodge of England. Now, their Constitution would not allow any such thing. In some of their documents they had quoted observations of Dr. Oliver; and, although he must say he entertained the highest opinion of Dr. Oliver, yet he had read some things written by him with great regret, for to suppose a brother could do as he pleases was altogether opposed to the "Book of Constitutions." There was one other point to which he wished to draw attention in these papers. The Provincial Grand Master was in the habit of visiting lodge after lodge, when all the minutes for the last twelve months were open to him, and he exercised the right of approving them or not, as he pleased. Now, the Provincial Grand Master had no such power. The lodge was only answerable to the Grand Lodge, and the Provincial Grand Master had no right whatever to interfere with them. The brother had for twenty-five years held the office of Provincial Grand Master, during which time he had well ruled the province, but in this case he had unfortunately overstepped his duty, although the St. Andrew's Lodge had shown exceedingly bad taste in the way in which he had been received.

Bro. MAUDSLAY, P.J.G.D., thought this subject should be submitted to the Colonial Board for examination and report.

The G. REGISTRAR said this was an appeal to the Grand Lodge itself, and the Colonial Board could not have anything to do with it.

Bro. GREGORY, P.J.G.D., said he did not hear the exact words of the resolution of the Grand Registrar, and he wished it to be read, and after that he should reserve to himself the right of making a few observations.

The G. REGISTRAR said they could not be read, as they were not written. He desired simply to adhere to action. He proposed that the appeal of the brethren of St. Andrew's Lodge be allowed, and the suspension removed.

Bro. GREGORY said, after the explanation of the Grand Registrar he was inclined to his view of the case, as he believed he had given a proper legal solution of the question, and his reasons might be right, but he thought the lodge had acted unwisely themselves, and it was their duty to support the law of the Craft, if the lodge was to exist for the benefit of Freemasonry. They knew that the lodge itself had transgressed, and he was sure it would be for the good of the Craft, and more especially for that of the Provincial Grand Master, who had faithfully ruled the province for many years, that he should not stand under any censure, and he hoped the decision of the Grand Lodge would be made in such a way as to prevent the lodge being used as a triumph over the Provincial Grand Master.

The G. MASTER: It seems to me that the point which has just been raised by Bro. Gregory is beside the question raised by this appeal. The mode of conveying this resolution will be left with the Grand Registrar and Grand Secretary, who, in drawing up their answer to this appeal, will show to the St. Andrew's Lodge that, while they are within the letter of the law, they are considerably outside that of good taste.

The motion was then put and agreed to with but one dissentient.

There being no further business, Grand Lodge was closed in due form and solemn prayer, and adjourned soon after ten o'clock.

METROPOLITAN.

INSTRUCTION.

PANMURE LODGE.—The Lodge of Instruction attached to the Panmure Lodge (No. 720), and which meets at the Loughborough Arms every Thursday evening, has deservedly obtained considerable reputation by the excellence and precision of its working; and therefore it is not surprising that a large number of brethren availed themselves of the invitation to be present on the evening of the 31st ult., on the occasion of the working of the fifteen sections, which, by the by-laws, is required to be done twice a year. Bro. J. Thomas, P.M. and W.M. of the mother lodge, who is justly regarded as a recognised authority and teacher in the Craft, officiated as W.M. with his usual skill and ability. He was well supported by Bros. Geider, Hodges, Harvey, Oswyn, Perrot, Stevens, Shaw, Taylor, &c. It is only fair to say that the working amply justified the good opinion generally entertained of the Panmure Lodge of Instruction. At the close of the Masonic business, the brethren and visitors sat down to an excellent banquet provided by Bro. Huntley.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held at Bro. Stevens's, Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford, on Wednesday, the 30th ult.; Bro. H. A. Collington presided. Mr. H. Whittle was initiated into ancient Freemasonry. Bro. G. F. Honey was passed to the second degree, and the lodge was closed. Visitors: Bros. M. A. Loewenstark, W.S. 73; J. J. West, I.G. 548; S. Jones, 996; G. R. Warren, 998, &c.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

WHITEHAVEN.—*Sun, Square, and Compasses Lodge* (No. 119).—The regular monthly meeting of this ancient and flourishing lodge was held at 7 o'clock on Monday evening last at the Freemasons' Hall. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Cook, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, who was supported by all his officers and an unusual gathering of brethren, including Bros. W. B. Gibson, P.M., Prov. S.G.W.; Dr. Thompson, P.M., Prov. G. Treas.; Fisher, W.M. 872, Prov. J.G.D.; John Bowes, P.M., Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Cooper, Prov. G. Org.; Rev. Joshua Tyson, Chap.; Kenworthy, P.M.; &c. The lodge was opened in solemn form, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot box was then sent round in behalf of two fit and proper persons to be made Masons. Neither of the gentlemen being present, and there being no other business, the W.M., Bro. Cook, gave the lecture on the first tracing board, which was duly appreciated by the brethren, as evidenced by the silence that prevailed. The W.M. then read several communications, and also delivered several Grand Lodge certificates, which were duly signed. A gentleman was proposed as a candidate for the mysteries, after which the lodge was closed in solemn form, according to ancient custom, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and the proceedings were enlivened by songs from several brethren, including the W.M. and Bro. Dr. Thompson. Bro. Gibson, P.M., proposed "The Health of the Visitors," which was responded to by Bro. Bowes, P.M. 129, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., and two other brethren. Bro. Bowes then proposed "The Health of the W.M.," whom he highly complimented on the efficient state of the lodge. The brethren retired at half-past nine o'clock.

COCKERMOUTH.—*Skiddaw Lodge* (No. 1002).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Court House on Tuesday evening last at 7 o'clock. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Crowther Morton, Prov. S.G.D., supported by Bros. Shilton, S.W.; Dr. Hodgson, J.W.; Jos. Mayson, S.D.; Robert Bailey, as J.D.; T. Taylor, as Sec.; John Bowes, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., as P.M.; and a number of other brethren. The lodge was opened in due form, after which the minutes of

the previous meeting were read by the acting Secretary, Bro. Taylor, and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Lamony, of Keswick, a candidate for promotion, gave proof of his proficiency, was entrusted, and retired. The lodge was opened in the third degree, when Bro. Lamony was announced, admitted in due form, and raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. by the W.M. in his usually accurate and impressive manner. The Deacon's work, also, was performed with great accuracy and precision by Bro. Jos. Mayson. It is not too much to say that the working of this lodge, although the youngest in the province, is all that can be desired. The lodge was finally closed about half-past eight o'clock, and the brethren separated in harmony.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

THE SOUTHWARK LODGE (No. 11, S.C.)—The regular meeting of this prosperous lodge was held on Monday, the 4th inst., at the Green Man Tavern, Tooley-street, Southwark (Bro. C. A. Cathie's). Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, P.R.W.M. Thistle Lodge (No. 8), presided, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. C. H. Murr, R.W.M. Bros. H. Whittle, J. Read, J. Williams, and C. L. Graham were advanced to the Mark Master's degree. Bro. A. P. Leonard, D.R.W.M., was unanimously elected R.W.M. Bro. A. D. Loewenstark, P.R.W.M., was unanimously re-elected Treas., and Bro. T. Vesper was elected Tyler. The lodge was closed until Monday, 2nd October.

SCOTLAND.

GRAND LODGE.

(From the *Scottish Freemasons' Magazine*.)

The quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held in Freemasons' Hall on Monday, August 7th, at six o'clock. In the absence of the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge was opened by Bro. Wm. Officer, W.M. of Lodge Mary's Chapel (No. 1), Bro. Andrew Kerr acting S.G.W., and Bro. Dr. Middleton, acting J.G.W. On the dais were Bro. Sir Alexander Gibson Maitland, Prov. G.M. for Stirlingshire; W. A. Laurie, G. Sec.; Alex. J. Stewart, Grand Clerk; Alex. Hay, Grand Jeweller; J. Cunningham, President of the Board of Grand Stewards, &c.

The following proxy commissions were read and sustained:—From the Lodge Royal Arch, Rutherglen (No. 116), in favour of Bro. W. Robertson of that lodge. From the Lodge Hopetoun, Bathgate (No. 181), in favour of Bro. W. Cowrie (160). From the Lodge St. Andrew, Dun-Edin (No. 432), in favour of Bro. McCulloch (291).

The minutes of Grand Lodge communication and of Grand Committee were read and approved of.

Petitions for charters to Lodges Peace and Concord, Callao; St. Clair, Dun-Edin, New Zealand; and Caledonian, d'Urban, Natal, were presented, and Grand Lodge was pleased to order charters to be expedited accordingly. The following brethren were appointed Provincial Grand Masters over the respective provinces:—Bros. Dr. Beveridge, City Province of Aberdeen; W. M. Boyce, Queensland; and C. W. R. Ramsay, of Barnton, Linlithgow.

The report of committee on communication from New Zealand, aent the erection of a lodge at New Plymouth, was approved of, which recommended that further information on the subject be procured from the colony, and the commendation of the zeal manifested by the Prov. G.M. of New Zealand, Bro. Vincent Pyke.

The Grand Secretary read the arrangements made for laying the foundation-stone of the monument to the memory of the late Duke of Athole at Logierait.

The following motion, moved by Bro. J. Wallace, W.M. Lodge No. 362, and seconded by Bro. W. Smith, S.W. of the same lodge, "That the warrant system at present in use be abolished, being inconsistent with the present granting of charters," was, at the instance of the mover, remitted to Grand Lodge Committee.

There being no further business, the Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE M.W.G.M. THE DUKE OF ATHOLE, AT LOGIERAIT, ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH.

This has been the Masonic event of the past month. In its accomplishment Bro. J. Whyte-Melville has, trowel in hand, fitly inaugurated his elevation to the throne in the Grand East, and as fitly given reiterated expression to the feelings of regard with which the memory of its last occupant is cherished by Scottish Craftsmen. Animated by this fraternal spirit, twice recently have the Grand Lodge crossed the Forth—once to mingle the tear of sympathy with those of the widowed duchess over the grave of her husband and their brother—again, to plant with mystic ceremony the corner-stone of a monumental pile intended to perpetuate the memory of him who has gone to the "better land" to participate in the joys of that lodge whose Master is the Great Architect of the Universe, whose Warden is the Saviour himself, and whose members are the ransomed. To place the cope-stone of the monument now so auspiciously commenced will, in all likelihood, be the object of next Grand Lodge Communication, on the woody hills overhanging the vale of Athole. At the ceremony on the 10th ult., the representation of lodges was not so numerous as might have been expected; although the number present, the long distances which many of the deputations had to travel being considered—the journey to and from the day's proceedings entailed upon the brethren of Robertson, Cromarty, and Ayr. St. Paul a ride of some 280 and 250 miles respectively—was sufficiently indicative of the interest that will ever be felt by Freemasons in the success of anything commemorative of the name and virtues of the late Duke of Athole. The presence of Bro. the Earl of Mansfield and so many other Past Grand office-bearers, as representing the subscribers to the monument commenced, *must have been peculiarly gratifying to the Grand Master and the brethren preceding him in his ascent to the site of the proposed building.* It may not be out of place, for the information of juniors, here to state that the noble earl (Mansfield) who so worthily presided at the banquet given to the fraternity by the Duchess-Dowager of Athole was, as Viscount Stormont, Depute Grand Master Mason at the period of the Grand Lodge of Scotland's completion of her first century, and at the election of Grand Lodge officers on St. Andrew's Day of the following year (1837), his lordship was chosen Grand Master elect. Viscount Strathallan, as the Hon. William Henry Drummond, Master of Strathallan, after having served in the offices of Junior and Senior Grand Deacon, and Junior and Senior Grand Warden was, in 1847, called to the dais as the Depute of the late Duke of Athole.

The foundation stone of the monument to the late Duke of Athole was laid with full Masonic honours at Logierait, near Ballinluig. The death of the late Duke took place on 16th January, 1864, and shortly after the movement was commenced for the purpose of erecting some monument to his memory. The subscribers were not confined to any locality, but could not have secured a better site for the memorial than that which has been fixed upon. The site upon which it is to be built is that of Tomnacraigh, or Castle-an-Raigh, built by Robert II. as a hunting seat. The building, which was noted as being the last at which the Dukes of Athole had exercised the right of dispensing justice, even to the use of the gallows, is now nearly all demolished, and the moat almost the only vestige denoting its former strength. The monument will stand on the summit of an eminence of about 200 feet in height, below the junction of the Rivers Tay and Tummel, having the village of Logierait on the one side, and that of Ballinluig on the other. The hill commands an extensive view of the districts of Athole and Breadalbane, and from it Farragon and Benverackie are seen, while the Pass of Killiecrankie lies about six miles to the north-west. The Ballinluig station of the Inverness and Perth Railway is within half a mile from the hill, whilst the bridge across the Tummel and the branch line to Aberfeldy are in the more immediate vicinity. The eminence is well covered with wood, which, while it may somewhat obstruct the view of the Cross, will at the same time give an appropriate and picturesque setting.

In regard to the monument itself, the Building Committee, after much and anxious deliberation, decided that it should be a Celtic Cross, on as large a scale as the funds would admit of. Bro. R. Anderson, architect, Edinburgh, was invited to submit a sketch, which met with the cordial approval of the Committee. The design consists of a massive surbase or mound,

and the base proper being divided into several stages, the socket of the cross pannelled on the four faces, with canopied niches at the corners. From this rises the cross, consisting of a shaft 20 feet high, 5 feet broad at the bottom, and 2 feet 6 inches thick; the head 9 feet 6 inches high, the arms measuring 9 feet across, and the nimbus or circle 7 feet in diameter. The front pannel of the socket is to be filled by a bronze *basso relievo*, by John Steel, R.S.A., representing deer stalking; the pannel on the back will be filled with another bronze, representing the Athole Highlanders; the side pannels with bronze plates, with the dedicatory inscription in Gaelic and English. On the front and back faces of the shaft are six pannels, to be filled with figure subjects illustrative of the pursuits of the late Duke. These are not yet decided on, but will probably be Masonry, agriculture, otter hunting, curling, Highland games, and fishing. The whole remaining surface of the cross will be covered with the ornamentation peculiar to Celtic monuments. The cross and base are to be of Redhall stone, and the foundation of stone from a neighbouring quarry. The building of the monument will be completed this season, and the decoration will be undertaken next spring. The cost of the monument, exclusive of the bronzes, will be about £1,500.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland having accepted the invitation of the subscribers to lay the foundation stone of the monument, issued invitations to the daughter lodges to join them in that ceremony. The time originally fixed for the proceedings to commence was eleven o'clock, and, in order to be ready at that time, the deputations from the local lodges, and those in some of the northern burghs, were very early astir. Their efforts, however, turned out to have been unnecessary, as not until after twelve o'clock did the members of the Grand Lodge arrive from Edinburgh. In the meantime, the different trains in the course of the morning and forenoon brought numbers of passengers anxious to view the expected ceremony, until with these, the deputations from the lodges, and those parties who had walked or driven from other parts of the district, every available room in the village was filled to the door, and the place presented rather an animated appearance. Unfortunately, however, the weather tended greatly to dampen the pleasure of the day's proceedings, for the morning had broken dull and threatening, and by forenoon heavy showers had fallen, so that not only were travellers completely drenched, but the roads were rendered so wet as to be most disagreeable and almost impassable. But still this did not very greatly affect the crowd, who grouped together, and seemed to spend their time in the various places worthy of a visit, some lingering at the station, others endeavouring to get room at an inn in the village, large numbers ascending the eminence on which the building of the monument is commenced, several inspecting the new bridge of the Aberfeldy line, whilst others crossed the tunnel and amused themselves watching the ferry, a floating platform wrought by chains. The railway shed in which the marshalling of the lodges took place ultimately turned out the great attraction, and round the doors several hundreds of anxious spectators were assembled, watching the brethren of the various "numbers" getting their places assigned them by Bro. J. Coghill, the Grand Marshal, whence they were marched up to Logierait.

The Grand Lodge was opened in the School-house by the M.W.G.M. Bro. John Whyte-Melville of Bennochy and Strathkinness; Sir Alexander Gibson Maitland, Prov. G.M. for Stirlingshire, Acting Depute G.M.; Sir Alex. P. Gordon Cumming, Acting Substitute G.M.; Dr. McCowan, Acting S.G.W.; Dr. Middleton, Acting J.G.W.

Precisely at one o'clock, the procession left the school-room in the following order:—

Band of music—Perthshire Volunteer Rifle—and four of the Duke of Athole's Pipers.

Stranger brethren belonging to warranted lodges holding of a recognised Grand Lodge other than that of Scotland.

Lodges present, according to seniority on the Grand Lodge Roll—Junior Lodge in front. These were as follows:—

Lodges.		Headed by	
Neptune, Glasgow, 419.....		Bro. Baxter.	
Clyde, " 408.....		" Campbell.	
Dunearn, Burntisland, 400		" Hutchison.	
Caledonian, Edinburgh, 392		" Thallon.	
Athole, Kirkintilloch, 384		" Dr. Stewart.	
St. Clair, Edinburgh, 349		" W. Grant.	
St. Mary, Inverness, 339		" Mackenzie.	
St. George, Glasgow, 333		" Robertson.	
Camperdown, Dundee, 316		" Weirs.	

Lodges.	Headed by	
Lower Forfar, 309	" Dargie.	
Pannure, Arbroath, 299	" Matthews.	
Celtic, Edinburgh, 291	" A. Boswell.	
Caledonian, Dundee, 254	" Newton.	
Forfar and Kincardine, Dundee, 225	" Fiddes.	
Trafalgar, Leith, 223.....	" T. Pearson.	
St. Paul's, Ayr, 204	" Chambers.	
Roman Eagle, Edinburgh, 160.....	" W. Cowrie.	
Thistle Operative, Dundee, 158.....	" Gellatley.	
Operative, Dunkeld, 152	" Harriss.	
Defensive Band, Edinburgh, 151	" Hogg.	
Robertson, Cromarty, 134	" Mackay.	
Royal Arch, Perth, 122	" Dow.	
St. Cyre, Auchtermuchty, 121	" Muckersie.	
Lindores, Newburgh, 106	" Lawrie.	
St. John, Coupar-Angus, 105.....	" Anderson.	
Kilwinning, Forfar, 90	" Stewart.	
Kirknewton and Ratho, 85	" Bryce.	
St. David's, Dundee, 78	" Hutton.	
St. Andrew's, Perth, 74	" Sir D. Ross.	
Kirkcaldie, Kirkcaldy, 72	" Torrance.	
St. John's, Alca, 69	" Glen.	
St. Ninian's, Brechin, 66	" Walker.	
St. John's, Inverkeithing, 60	" Goodsir.	
St. John's, Inverary, 50.....	" Gutlrie.	
Ancient, Dundee, 49	" Matthews.	
Operative, Dundee, 47	" Longmuir.	
St. John, Auchterarder, 46	" Reid.	
St. Thomas, Arbroath, 40	" M'Nicol.	
St. John's, Lanark, 21	" Ross.	
St. John's, Dunkeld, 14.....	" Capt. Murray.	
Kilwinning, Dalkeith, 10	" Thorburn.	
Dunblane, 9.....	" Miller.	
Journeyman, Edinburgh, 8	" J. Robertson.	
Canongate and Leith, 5.....	" Green.	
Scoon and Perth, 3.....	" M'Courack.	
Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh, 1	" W. Officer.	
Grand Marshals, Bros. John Coghill and John Laurie.		
Grand Tyler, Bro. William Bryce.		
Grand Dir. of Cers., Bro. Charles S. Law.		
Grand Steward (with white rods) Grand Steward.		
Compass (carried by operatives) Square.		
Grand Steward (white rods) Grand Steward.		
Mallet		
(Carried by an operative).		
Grand Steward (white rods) Grand Steward.		
Vase (wine).	Cornucopia (corn).	Vase (oil).
Grand Steward.	Grand Steward.	Grand Steward.
(With white rods.)		
Grand Jeweller, Bro. Alexander Hay.		
Grand Bible Bearer, Bro. Andrew Kerr.		
Inscription Plates. Architect, Bro. R. Anderson.		
Bottles with Coins, &c.		
Grand Steward.	Grand Steward.	Grand Steward.
(With white rods.)		
Senior Grand Deacon, Bro. Dr. Woodford; Grand Chaplain, in his robes, Bro. Rev. Wilson; Junior Grand Deacon.		
Grand Steward (white rods) Grand Steward.		
Grand Clerk, Bro. A. J. Stewart.		
Grand Secretary, Bro. W. A. Laurie.		
Senior Grand Warden, Bro. Dr. F. McCowan; Junior Grand Warden, Bro. Dr. Middleton (with batons).		
Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Sir. Alex. C. Gibson Maitland.		
Substitute Grand Master, Bro. Sir Alex. P. Gordon Cumming.		
Vice-President of Grand Stewards.		
Grand Sword Bearer.		
The M.W. the Grand Master.		
President of Grand Stewards, carrying Grand Master's rod.		
The working tools of the Grand Lodge were carried by twelve members of the Journeyman Lodge, the famous Blue Blanket being carried by Bro. Andrew Kerr.		
The following Past Grand Officers and other distinguished brethren:—Bros. the Earl of Mansfield, Viscount Strathallan, Sir Robert Menzies, Hon. F. C. Drummond, Megginch; J. G. Oswald, Dunnikier; Pat. S. Keir, of Kindrogan; Captain Jack Murray.		
The procession, extending the length of nearly half-a-mile, and accompanied by a large concourse of spectators, came slowly up towards the pedestal of the monument by the way of the front of the village, crossing the railway bridge across the		

Tummel, the pipers meantime playing the "Athole March," which struck many of the hearers on account of the suitability of the tones to the interesting occasion. On arriving at the opening leading to the stone, the procession halted, the brethren opened to the right and left, so as to leave room for the Grand Master and other office-bearers to pass up the centre. The Grand Master and office-bearers of the lodges passed in the usual form, and the whole of the brethren then passed slowly to the foundation stone, placed on a pedestal some six feet in height, and ten or twelve feet square, and was supported by four guys. On one side a small temporary platform was erected for the friends of the Duke of Athole, and a space of about six feet was cleared around the building for those taking part in the ceremony. The number of spectators, exclusive of the Masons, was about 1,000. The weather continued unfavourable—rain falling during most of the time of the ceremony, which was inaugurated with prayer by Rev. Bro. Wilson, Dunkeld. The Grand Secretary placed the bottle with coins in the stone, Bro. Dr. Middleton the plumb, and Bro. Dr. McCowan the level, after which the stone was lowered, and the Most Worshipful the Grand Master gave three final knocks with a gold mallet, and declared the foundation stone laid. The bands then struck up the National Anthem, and the ceremony terminated.

The glass vase within the stone contained newspapers of the day; a copy of "In Memoriam," a small work published on the death of the Duke of Athole; a copy of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge; and the current coins of the realm. A stereotyped plate, bearing the following inscription, was fixed on the foundation stone:—

The Foundation Stone of this Monument,
in Memory of
HIS GRACE GEORGE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK JOHN,
SIXTH DUKE OF ATHOLE, K.T.,
Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland,
Erected by Numerous Friends and Admirers of his Benevolent
and Manly Character,
was laid by
John Whyte-Melville, Esq., of Bennoch and Strathkinness,
Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland,
assisted by
The Office-Bearers of the Grand Lodge,
and by
Deputations from numerous Daughter Lodges,
on the
Tenth Day of August, in the Year of our Lord MDCCCLXV.,
and of
Light 10000CCCLXIX.

Brother R. Anderson, Architect.

The G. MASTER then said,—My Lord Mansfield and gentlemen of the Building Committee, it has been to me a source of satisfaction—in some degree a melancholy satisfaction—with which I obeyed your summons, and this day performed the ceremony which you have just now witnessed. Having been so long associated with the late Grand Master, and having so frequently assisted him in the various public buildings we inaugurated, and in the laying of foundation-stones, you will easily believe that on this, the first public occasion upon which I have been called, as his successor in office, to perform a similar ceremony, that it should be the mournful one of laying the foundation-stone of a monument to himself. It will be a satisfaction to me, if in this act I am enabled in any degree to assist in perpetuating the memory of one so highly prized by his brethren of the Craft, so dearly beloved in this his own district, and so universally respected by all classes of the community. To this generation this monument is quite unnecessary, for all those whom I have the honour to address, as well as many others, will to their dying day remember the good and kind Duke of Athole; but to future generations it will be known that the name of George Augustus Frederick John, sixth Duke of Athole, and Grand Master Mason of Scotland, was not to be allowed to die out, but that, by the erection of this monument in his own district and among his own people, his memory has been perpetuated. I congratulate you on the very beautiful and elegant and simple design which you have selected for this monument, as well as the magnificent site on which the monument will be seen from far and near, and will bring home the recollection of his memory to many while going north and south through this neighbourhood. To my brethren I tender my best thanks for their attendance on this occasion. Many have come far to do

honour to the late Grand Master. One lodge has come so far as from the distant point of Cromarty. To the deputation from that lodge I beg to return thanks. I consider it more as a compliment to the memory of the late Grand Master than any compliment paid to me. At all events, I feel very grateful for the large deputations that have come forward. I have only further to state to the Masonic body that to the very great kindness and extreme hospitality of her Grace the Dowager-Duchess of Athole, luncheon has been provided for all the Masons present. I shall merely conclude by praying to the Great Architect of the Universe that the monument about to be erected to the memory of one whom we all so dearly loved, may be finished without hurt or detriment to any of those engaged in its construction.

Lord MANSFIELD then came forward, and said Right Worshipful Grand Master and worthy brethren all, in the name and in behalf of the subscribers to this monument I beg to tender to you our grateful acknowledgments for the kindness that you have manifested in assisting us in laying the foundation-stone of this monument. The late Duke of Athole was the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and it was natural for the subscribers to appeal to that body, of whom he had so long and so ably directed the affairs, to assist them in paying this, the last tribute to his memory. I speak in the name of the subscribers when I say that they were most anxious that they should attend; and although a large portion of them, unfortunately, are absent, because the subscription was not by persons merely of this county or of this district, but so numerous were the friends, and so fond were they of him whom they had lost, that they came forward of their own accord, and said that they would contribute their little mite in laying an additional stone to the cairn to the memory of the great man who has gone. He has passed, indeed, away from us; but he has left behind him many and many a memory which may be even more lasting than them. The memory of a good man never ceases. It acts not only as an incentive to those of the present generation, but it also leads the young as well as the old to the consideration, that the good are never forgotten, and that their day lasts for ever. The good that that man did is more known, perhaps, in this district than in any other, but the good is in the hearts of the people of this district that always rests in unison with his. He was loved, because he loved others; he was regretted, because he threw away all selfish considerations, and showed that he was resolved to discharge his duty in the sphere of life to which he had been called, not only with reference to the people by whom he was surrounded, but with reference to obeying the commands of his Creator and Preserver. It is not for me to expatiate more fully on his merits at present—the inclement state of the weather, if nothing else, would forbid me to do so; but it rather seems as if the clouds of this day, overshadowing this large assemblage, were rather an emblem of that which we are all feeling ourselves. The cloud of sorrow has dimmed the eyes of many of those who are around us; but we must look forward to the future, and hope that that family in which he was so great an ornament will follow in his footsteps, and that the sunshine will again appear. Once more, I tender to you, Grand Master and brethren, all our thanks for the kindness you have shown to us this day; and in the name of the subscribers, and also in the name of the Dowager-Duchess of Athole, and the Duke, and all the family, I beg to tender my sincerest thanks.

Immediately after the ceremony was past, the gentlemen and brethren who had assisted in the proceedings were invited to a banquet, prepared for the occasion by the genuine Highland hospitality and kindness of the Dowager-Duchess of Athole, in the school-house at Ballinluig. About three hundred and fifty gentlemen were present. The Earl of Mansfield occupied the chair, supported on the right by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, John Whyte-Melville, and Sir Alexander Gibson Maitland; and on the left, by Sir Alexander Gordon Cumming, and Bro. B. A. Laurie, Grand Secretary.

After partaking of luncheon,

The noble CHAIRMAN rose and said,—Right Worshipful Master and brethren, as was stated to you at the place where the interesting ceremony took place, I was requested by the Dowager-Duchess of Athole to invite all the Masons who honoured us with their attendance to-day to this collation in this room. (Cheers.) I had also a request from her that I would preside in her name on this occasion—(loud cheers)—and, in obedience to her wish, I have further to communicate to you that, although her grace was most happy that you should have the opportunity of having some slight refreshment after the labours of the day, at the same time she hoped that

you would remember that this is one of the most grave, and one of the most solemn ceremonies affecting the heart of a desolated widow. That being the case, I hope you will concur with me in the opinion, that although there may be some toasts which it may be necessary for me to communicate to you, you should be guarded—I appeal to the feelings of all present—that you should be most guarded in not construing this meeting as a scene of festivity. (Applause.) There is one toast—it is the first one—which I am sure, in such a large meeting of my fellow-countrymen, will always command attention, and that is, ‘The Health of our beloved Queen, and the rest of the Royal Family.’ (Loud applause.)

The toast was responded to with all the honours.

The noble CHAIRMAN then said, I now request you to drink to the memory of the late Duke of Athole. I need not say that it should be drunk in solemn silence, because, if I appeal to the heart of every man whom I have now the honour of addressing, I am sure they will respond to those sentiments which are uppermost in my heart: that we have all lost a good and a kind friend—one who was a friend alike not only to his relations and to his own immediate relatives, but to the rich man and the poor man he presented an equal front. (Suppressed cheers.) Beloved as he was by all, esteemed by every member of his family, cherished by those who were in more immediate relation to him, he discharged his duties as a good landlord—(suppressed cheers)—as a faithful husband, as an affectionate father, and as a true friend. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Perhaps I may be the only person in this room who will be able to say that I was at his christening. I was present as a boy at school at the time when he was presented at the font, and obligations were taken by his godfathers and godmothers that he would discharge his duty to his God, by discharging his duty to his fellow creatures. (Suppressed cheers.) These obligations he lived to fulfil; and the memorial that we are about to raise to him this day evinces far more strongly than words can express, that the opinion of his fellow-countrymen has been that his duty has been fulfilled. (Cheers.) It would be rude in me, considering the short time that we have to occupy in this room before your departure, to take up much of your time; but I am sure I appeal to the heart of every Mason when I ask you, how did he discharge his duty to you as your Grand Master? (Cheers.) I have often known in private life—he has told me himself—that although there were certain things that he wanted to do, yet his time was fully occupied—(cheers)—because from the moment that he held the office of Grand Master Mason, his time was devoted to them; and, indeed, I have known him to forego many of those harmonising and social meetings at his own house, and at the houses of his friends, that he might attend to your interests. (Cheers.) And therefore, perhaps, it may be right that you should at this time join with all those who have been his friends and relations, in paying this last tribute of respect to his memory. (Suppressed cheers.) I call upon you to drink, “To the Memory of the Duke of Athole,” in solemn silence.

The noble CHAIRMAN then rose and said,—Having drunk to the memory of the late Duke of Athole, the mind naturally recurs to her whom he has left behind him; and therefore I am sure that in the mind of every one of you it has been suggested that the next toast that would have come from the chair would have been that of “The Duchess-Dowager of Athole.” (Cheers.) The manner in which she discharged the obligations of a wife, through the course of four-and-twenty years, elicited from all classes of society the highest approbation. It was not that she moved in the highest sphere in which Providence could have placed her, but that she was aware, and fully aware of this, that the same duties apply equally to those in the highest as well as those in the lowest situations of life, when placed in the situation of wife and man. The simple cottar in this district, the richest person in the land, equally was aware that a more excellent wife never existed. (Loud cheers.) A sharer in the labours of her husband, a comforter in his sorrows, a participator in his joys—in whatever relation of life you find her, she shone beautiful and resplendent. (Loud cheers.) Is not her character remaining exactly the same? Though sorrows weighed her down, she has looked to the great source from whom comfort alone can be derived; she has prayed to the Almighty to support her in her distress, and God has heard her prayer, and she is now fulfilling her duties with her original energy. (Cheers.) At the same time she looks around—having received comfort and solace from above—she looks around to the kind assistance of the many friends

who have known her for years, and I may, I think, class you, gentlemen, as among those who will hasten to extend their hands to support the lonely widow—(cheers)—support her in her onward course, and assist her in the discharge of those duties which are yet left to her. (Cheers.) The day would be long, and I would still continue on that theme. It is one that would be almost inexhaustible. (Hear, hear.) But as the hour approaches when we must part, I think you will now join with me in drinking to the future happiness of the Dowager-Duchess of Athole. (Loud cheers.)

The noble CHAIRMAN, after the subsidence of the cheers, then said,—I must now call upon you to drink to a health which, I am sure, will be received with universal enthusiasm, and it is that of the “Grand Master of Scotland.” (Loud cheers.) I had the honour of stating to him, at the close of the ceremony to-day, how much we, the subscribers, were indebted to him and to the Grand Lodge, and to all those members, for their kindness in coming here and assisting us in laying the foundation stone to-day. I know that you have come here with much personal inconvenience. But we who, perhaps, have prejudices—at least I have, but I know that every one cannot understand these things—would not have been satisfied if this memorial had been erected in a commonplace manner, or if we had not had the assistance of the Masonic body. (Cheers.) I may be prejudiced myself, being a Mason—(hear, hear)—but as I am here answering not for myself only, but also for the Dowager-Duchess of Athole—I fear the lady subscribers to this memorial cannot possibly be suspected of being Masons—(loud laughter and cheers)—I may say the subscribers feel deeply indebted to them and to you all for coming here to-day. (Hear, hear.) This is to many of you a duty which should be discharged, and I appeal to every man of you whether I am not correct in stating, that on this occasion the duties of the Grand Master have been discharged in a discreet, able, and efficient manner. (Loud cheers.) It is very difficult always to repeat exactly the same speech that was made half an hour before in different words, and I therefore think that the wisest course that I can adopt would be to convey the feelings of every man of you by making a bow to the Grand Master, expressive of the deep obligations we lie under to him. (Laughter and cheers.)

BRO. J. WHITE-MELVILLE, who was received with loud applause, in acknowledging the toast, said,—My Lord Mansfield and gentlemen, I beg to express to you, in the warmest manner which it is possible for words to convey, my sense of the very kind manner in which your lordship has proposed the toast with which my name is submitted to your recommendation, and for the kind manner in which it has been received. I beg to assure Lord Mansfield that if, in his estimation, the duties which devolved upon me to-day were perfectly performed, I feel perfectly satisfied. The M.W.G.M. then concluded, by thanking those of the brethren who had responded to his call, and had turned out to do honour to the memory of their late Grand Master, and to pay a tribute to his worth. (Cheers.)

Captain DRUMMOND, of Megginch, proposed “The Health of the Duke of Athole.” Having for so many years known the late gallant chief, the father of the present duke, he was all the more able to express their feelings in proposing the toast. He could express no better wish for the duke than that he should emulate the conduct and life of his gallant father. The gallant officer then briefly referred to the services of the duke in connection with the regiment in which he was an officer, and concluded by proposing the toast, which was enthusiastically received.

BRO. COLOUR-SERGEANT MACKENZIE, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, asked, as a soldier, and as an humble member of the regiment in which the duke was so prominent an officer, to be allowed, in a few words, to offer them the grateful thanks and the kindly feelings that should be returned to them for the great compliment which had been paid to the duke and to the service on that occasion. He certainly would say the Guards were “aye ready” to do whatever their noble Queen and country required of them; and he knew that, while they had such officers as his Grace to lead them, they need not fear any foe which might come against them. He was sure there was no soldier, to whatever regiment he might belong, who would not be highly gratified to know of the great compliment which had that day been paid to the duke as an officer in her Majesty’s service. (Loud applause.)

The other toasts which followed were, “Lord Mansfield and

the Committee of Management," by the Grand Master, which was duly responded to; "M. W. Grand Master and Brother Masons," by the noble Chairman; and "The Young Duchess of Athole," by Viscount Strathallan.

The brethren were then marched off to the train to be conveyed home, or walked to their respective homes in the locality.

The greatest good humour, despite the untoward circumstances, prevailed throughout the day, and the day will long be remembered, not only in the locality, but also in many lodges in Scotland.

CHINA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SHANGHAI.

ROYAL SUSSEX LODGE (No. 501).—The brethren of this lodge held their regular meeting at the Masonic Hall, Shanghai, on the 29th of May. Present—Bros. Parker, I.P.M. and acting W.M.; Holdsworth, S.W.; Gibbs, J.W.; Seaman, Sec. and Treas.; Andrews, S.D.; Fellowes, J.D.; Adams, Dir. of Cers.; Wheelock, I.G.; Phillips, Tyler. Members: Bros. Gould, Gilmore, Crooni, Clapp, Canham, Eekfeldt, Kent, Lambert, Whittal, Geary, Buckley, Slibolt, Kenric, Kilby, Fearon, Endriott, Talbot, Grimmell, Smith, Oppert, King, &c. Visitors: Bros. Donaldson, Lewis, Gulchi, Winchurst, Raulett, Jacques, Day, and Johnston, with some others. The circulars issued for this meeting had communicated to the brethren that the subject of building a new Masonic Hall, which had already been brought before them, and to discuss which with representatives from other English lodges Bro. Parker had been empowered, would be brought up for final action, and the report of the conference on the subject be communicated to the lodge. Accordingly, as soon as the preliminary business, reading of circular and confirmation of minutes, had been concluded, the W.M. said that he would bring the question of the new hall at once before the brethren. He said that, as the representative from the Royal Sussex Lodge, he had carefully discussed the subject in all its bearings with the representatives appointed by the other lodges, Bro. Gould from the Northern Lodge of China (No. 570), and Bro. Gundry, from the Tuscan Lodge (No. 1027), and that the three had conferred with as many of the members of their different lodges as could be consulted conveniently, and had come to an unanimous conclusion that it was extremely advisable to carry out the scheme. The most advantageous way, they thought, of executing the plan, would be to form an agreement between the several English lodges, make the property entirely lodge property, and not that of individual members, and place the execution of all details in the hands of certain brethren to act as representatives. After much consultation and consideration between them, an agreement had been drawn up which appeared to cover the above mentioned grounds, and this agreement they had submitted to legal opinion on every point to leave no chance of any misunderstanding, in case the lodge should vote to accept it. For himself, he said that the proposed movement was one which he considered in every way advantageous, not only to the Royal Sussex Lodge, but to Masonry generally in Shanghai, and he could not too strongly recommend it to the brethren. The joint action of the several English lodges, he felt, would prove a bond of strength and harmony; the interests of the one would be the interests of the other, and in the place of two buildings, which had already been suggested, he thought it most desirable that the meetings of all the bodies should be brought under one roof. He then proceeded to read the agreement which had been drawn up, the principal features of which are as follows:—That the Royal Sussex Lodge, Northern Lodge of China, and Tuscan Lodges shall agree to certain rules and regulations for the establishment in Shanghai of an English Freemasons' Hall, binding themselves one lodge to the other by the signature of the W.M. and Wardens of each lodge. That the capital for the proposed undertaking shall consist of 40,000 Shanghai sycee, divided into 4,000 shares of 1,000 sycee each, and be taken up by the Northern Lodge of China 20 shares, Royal Sussex Lodge 15 shares, and Tuscan Lodge 5 shares, with the understanding that at any time before December 31st, 1870, any lodge holding a smaller number of shares could ask, at the par value, from the lodge holding the largest number, as many shares as it could pay for, such shares to be transferred to the W.M. on application. The method of transferring shares appears as detail in the agreement providing for new lodges forming in Shanghai, the object being eventually to give to each English lodge in this place an

equal interest in the property. That the management of the property in all its detail, as well of building as of subsequent management, be vested in an Executive Committee, composed of one representative from each lodge, such representative electing another to their number to act as their President, entrusted with five votes and one casting vote. The period of office of representative and President is arranged in such a way as to secure rotation of election, and to avoid the formation at any time of an entirely new committee. Due provision is also made for sale of property, income, and erasure of lodges. Having finished the making of the agreement, the W.M. said that, before putting any question to the lodge, he would wait to hear whatever remarks might be offered on the subject, and to explain the manner in which he would propose to obtain the 10,000 sycee necessary for the Royal Sussex Lodge to enter into the agreement. He said that should the brethren vote to accept the agreement, he should bring forward another proposition to the effect that the lodge should loan from its members the sum required, agreeing to pay 8 per cent. per annum, interest on the same, and set apart each year a portion of its income to pay off the principal.—Bro. GOULD then rose and said that he concurred entirely with what had just been said by Bro. Parker, and thought the increasing necessities of the fraternity at Shanghai, with the great prospect of a Provincial Grand Lodge of Northern China being ere long established at this port, rendered it imperative that more commodious accommodation should be provided for the meetings of the different bodies; at the same time, the engaging each lodge in the undertaking would materially tend to strengthen, by consolidating their interests, the bond of union existing.—Bro. JORDAN suggested that, as upon the adoption of the agreement, the lodge and all its members would be bound to carry it out, some limitation might be placed as to the liabilities of each member.—The W. MASTER replied that this would rather affect the second proposition which he had mentioned it was his intention to make than the one as to whether the lodge should enter into the agreement, and that he should be happy to second a proposition such as that mentioned by Bro. Jordan, should it be decided by the lodge that the work was to go on. The latter said he would defer making any proposition until after the agreement had been submitted to the lodge. The W.M. then proposed that the W.M. and Wardens be hereby empowered in the name of the lodge to sign the agreement just read, binding the lodge to its provisions, which, being seconded by Bro. Seaman, was unanimously carried. The W.M. then asked Bro. Jordan to kindly bring forward the proposition suggested by him, when Bro. Jordan proposed, and Bro. Parker seconded, that in the event of any difficulty being experienced in raising the money necessary for the work, any brother, by the payment or free gift of 100 Ts., should be exempted from all further assessment or liability on account of it, which was carried unanimously. The W.M. then made a proposition to the effect that the Treasurer be, and is hereby authorised to issue certificates of indebtedness or scrip in the name of the lodge, in sums of 25 Ts. each, to an extent in the discretion of the W.M., sufficient to enable him to pay the amount of capital voted by the Royal Sussex, and scrip to bear interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and a certain portion of the income to be set apart each year towards the principal, which, being seconded by Bro. Seaman, was unanimously carried. Four brethren were then examined and passed to the second degree, and two candidates were initiated. Propositions of two candidates were received, and, nothing more offering for the good of Masonry, the lodge was closed in due form.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Princess Helena took an excursion on Thursday to the Castle of Heldburg, attended by Lady Churchill. Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold were present on Thursday night, August 31st, at the Opera at Coburg, when "Der Freischütz" was performed. Prince Arthur left Coburg on Saturday last for England, attended by Major Elphinstone. Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Coburg, the Princess Helena, and Princess Louise, attended Divine Service on Sunday morning

at the parish church at Oeslau. Her Majesty has arrived from the Continent, and will hold a council on Monday at Windsor.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly return of the Registrar General again shows that the mortality in London is below the average by about 110. During the week four deaths from cholera are reported, but as the Registrar General observes, "cases occur sporadically every week in summer in every country of Europe and Asia." During the last ten weeks there have been 127 deaths from cholera in London; but this is nothing extraordinary, and is indeed believed to be less than in many other cities of Europe. The births too are again in excess of the average. The rate of mortality is less in London than in any of the great cities of the kingdom, except Bristol; Dublin and Birmingham are next; Hull having a death rate of sixty per cent. and Salford fifty, greater than the metropolis.—The corporation is taking active steps in regard to the cattle plague. Inspectors of cattle have been appointed, and one of them—Mr. Tegg—proceeding at once to his duties at the Cattle Market, condemned over 40 cows in a diseased state, which had been sent to the market for sale.—An application was made to the judge in chambers for an order for the removal of the trial of the soldier Currie, charged with the murder of Major de Vere, from Maidstone to the Central Criminal Court. The application was made in the name of Earl de Grey and Ripon—the object sought to be obtained being the speedy trial of the culprit. The order was made, and Currie will therefore be tried accordingly at the next session of the Central Criminal Court.—At the West Ham Police-court Jacob Brenner and Charles Heins were charged with having murdered their master Joseph Kuchen, a cabinet maker. The evidence which was heard, as well as the dying man's declaration, made it clear that the fatal wound was inflicted by Brenner. Heins was then discharged and put in the witness-box. According to his statement there had been a quarrel between the accused and the deceased. Brenner was committed for trial for manslaughter, bail being refused.—About half-past eleven o'clock on Wednesday night, August 30, William Ellison quarrelled with his wife, at their lodgings in Baldwin-street, City-road, and attempted to kill her. He inflicted a dreadful wound on her throat with a table knife. She, however, escaped from him, and made her way to the street where she was assisted. Ellison, on being taken into custody, said his wife had threatened to go and live with another man, which exasperated him. He was brought up at the Worship-street Police-court and remanded.—The accident on the Great Northern line at the Colney Hatch station was a more serious affair than at first stated. A coal train was being shunted at the station when a bar broke, thus causing a delay. The danger signals were put up, and these the driver of the Midland passenger train says he saw. He at once began to slacken speed, but either from a miscalculation of the distance, or because the rails were slippery, he was unable to bring the train up in time. The result was a collision. No less than about fifty were injured, some of them rather seriously. Most of them are, however, doing well.—Alexander Barthe, a Frenchman, who is charged with extensive frauds, was brought up at the Mansion House police-court. He had under various names represented to several ecclesiastical dignitaries on the Continent that parcels had arrived for them in this country, which he would forward on receipt of the charges. In several cases the money demanded was sent, and then the prisoner despatched dummy parcels. He was again remanded.—Mr. Bennett, the clockmaker, of Cheapside, has placed a great attraction in front of his premises. To his great clock he has added figures which come out every quarter of an hour and

chime the time. People congregate to look on this marvel, and the way is stopped by them. Those who occupy premises opposite complain that their property is injured and their business impeded by the crowds who gather. The aldermen and the Lord Mayor have been invoked to put the figures down, and they promise to see what they can do in the matter.—On Saturday last the French squadron, consisting of the nine vessels of war, the officers and crews of which were entertained at Portsmouth last week, left the English shores. Officers and men on departing gave expressions to the delight they had experienced at the reception they met with.—Another case of murder is reported. A man named Henry Richmond lived with Charlotte Scott in a house in White's-grounds, Gun-alley, Bermondsey. On Saturday evening last, when Richmond went home he found no meal ready for him, and the woman drunk. In a state of exasperation he knocked her down by a blow on the head, and then kicked her on the head till her skull was fractured. She died immediately. The coroner committed him for trial on a charge of manslaughter.—The late extraordinary case of perjury tried at the Central Criminal Court has been followed by an extraordinary charge of forgery arising out of the same series of transactions. Mr. Frederick Thomas Hall, a solicitor of Gray's-inn, has been charged before Mr. Arnold, at Marlborough-street, with forging and using certain writs and other papers, purporting to be copies of process in the Court of Exchequer, for the purpose of the cause that was tried in that Court, against Madame Valentin. After hearing the statement of counsel, the magistrate said the question was one of great importance and novelty, and he would take time to consider and consult before he gave his decision.—Sir Robert Carden gave a curious decision on Monday in his capacity as magistrate sitting at Guildhall. Three young men were charged with attempting to pick pockets, and two detective officers gave clear and consistent evidence in support of the charge. On the other hand, a number of respectable persons bore testimony to the good character of all the prisoners. Whereupon the magistrate, premising that the case was one of "conflicting testimony," proceeded to say that the evidence of the officers was "most conclusive," but that nevertheless the good character given to the prisoners raised a doubt in his mind, and he concluded by discharging them.—An alarming collision occurred on Monday afternoon near Droitwich, on the Great Western line, in consequence of a goods train breaking down. A Birmingham passenger train ran into it, and the result was the infliction of severe cuts, bruises, and other injuries on several of the passengers.—The magistrate at Wandsworth police-court on Wednesday was engaged for some hours in hearing a case of abduction against a young man named Smith, a groom, the lady being the youthful daughter of the Rev. Mr. Crosse, rector of Ockham. The case was not decided, and the defendant was enlarged under bail of £100.—An explosion of gas took place on Wednesday in Auckland-street, Vauxhall. Five children were seriously burnt.—There was another accident on the Thames Embankment works on Wednesday. A travelling engine fell over into the river, carrying with it a labourer. He was got out speedily, but he had sustained a compound fracture of the leg, and it is doubtful whether he will survive.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The German minor powers are by no means satisfied to allow the Gastein convention to go unopposed. The official *Gazette* of Munich denies in the most emphatic manner that Saxony, Wurtemberg, and Bavaria have come to an understanding not to oppose the policy of the great German Powers. On the contrary, it states that Bavaria has

since the convention become more determined than ever to maintain before the Diet the claims of the Duke of Augustenburg to the sovereignty of the Duchies. At a sitting of the Diet the representatives of Saxe Weimar, Saxe Coburg, and Saxe Meiningen protested against the convention, and moved that the settlement of the Schleswig-Holstein question should be submitted to an "austragal" tribunal; in other words a court of arbitration chosen by the Federation. The Diet, with its usual promptitude, postponed its decision on the motion for eight weeks. Perhaps the minor German Powers may be inspired with fresh courage by the indications which the *Moniteur* affords of France's dissatisfaction with the Gastein arrangements.—The Russian who made a murderous attack some months ago on the Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Paris was tried on Wednesday before the Assizes of the Seine, found guilty, and sentenced to penal servitude for life.—The Emperor Napoleon loses no opportunity of making known his good will towards Spain. In an audience which he granted to the new Ambassador from the Court of Madrid on Thursday he expressed the great value which he attached to the Franco-Spanish alliance. The two nations, he said, had no rivalries, and their interests were identical.—Count Walewski has resigned his place as a Senator, and the resignation has been accepted. This was a matter of course, for the Count has been elected a member of the Legislative Chamber in order to qualify himself for the office of President of that Chamber, vacant since the death of the Duke de Morry.—The King and Queen of Portugal are about to visit Italy, and the King's father, Don Fernando, is to act as regent in their absence. It is stated that the determination of the King to travel abroad, and the nomination of his father as regent, have excited considerable surprise in Portugal. The Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs has been at the pains of formally denying in the Cortes the report that Prince Amadeus, Victor Emmanuel's son, had come to Lisbon to represent his father at the baptism of the infant prince, in consequence of the Papal Nuncio's refusal to accept the King of Italy as godfather to the child. The Emperor Napoleon has been requested by the King of Portugal to become godfather to the infant prince, and has given his consent. Such, at least, is the report current in Paris.—The Belgian Government has issued a decree prohibiting the importation of cattle by sea or land into Belgium, in order to prevent the spread of the disease in the Netherlands.—Copenhagen telegrams announce the arrival in that city of the great Schleswig deputation; 2,200 Schleswigers are said to have poured in, and they were received with the utmost enthusiasm. They are all to be lodged in the houses of private inhabitants of the city.—It is believed in Florence and also in Rome that the gradual evacuation of this latter city by the French troops will begin immediately.—A short time ago the Council General of the Seine and Marne passed a series of resolutions declaring that it was desirable the law should give Councils General the power of deciding contested departmental elections. It was also suggested that it would be advisable to give to the Councils General the right of nominating their chief officers. We now learn by telegram from Paris that an Imperial decree has been issued annulling these resolutions, on the ground that they exceed the limit of the powers given to the Councils General.—Joseph Bonaparte, Prince of Musignano, has died at Rome.—The express train from Paris to Bourdeaux on Saturday evening ran off the rail near Angoulême. No serious accident, however, occurred.—The Foreign Office has received a despatch announcing the release of Mr. Consul Cameron, one of the English prisoners in Abyssinia. No details have reached us yet; only the bare fact is stated. We trust it may prove to be true.—The King of Prussia is expected in Berlin on Thursday, after having had an interview with her Majesty Queen Victoria at Darmstadt. Is her Majesty going to say a word for her relative, the Duke of Augustenburg?—The Princess Anna Murat does not seem to have got off quite so easily as was first announced from the Neufchâtel accident. It appears that one of her eyes received some injury, which at one time looked threatening. Now, however, it is believed that the consequences will not be serious or permanent.—The Schleswigers, who are visiting Copenhagen, were entertained at a great banquet on Tuesday. No less than 5,000 guests were invited. The enthusiasm is reported as very great. During the banquet a congratulatory telegram was received from 1,000 inhabitants of Flensburg.—The difficulties between Spain and Italy seem to have been all cleared away. The

Queen of Spain is to receive the Marquis of Tagliacarne in the capacity of Ambassador of Italy immediately, in order that he may officially present Prince Amadeus to her Majesty.—A Belgrade telegram states that the report of an attempt on the life of Prince Michel, of Serbia is, wholly unfounded.

AMERICA.—The *Cuba* has arrived, bringing news from New York to the morning of the 23rd of August. Perhaps the most important item of the news is that the Mississippi State Convention has passed the Constitutional Amendment for the abolition of slavery. This is a most gratifying fact. In New York the financial excitement had subsided, and business was going on as usual. General Wirz, who commanded at Andersonville, the depot where Federal prisoners were so barbarously used, was brought to trial before a military commission at Washington on the 21st. He was charged with murder, and with conspiring along with Lee, Winder, Seddon, and others to destroy the lives of Federal soldiers. The court adjourned on the 22nd *sine die*, and this led to the impression that the charge of conspiracy was about to be abandoned. The prisoner's counsel had protested against the jurisdiction of the commission. General Schenck, in a speech which he made, stated that President Johnson informed him that the present Governments in the South were intended as experiments to see whether the people were willing to fall into their proper position under the Federal Government.

INDIA, CHINA, &c.—A Bombay telegram of the 5th ult, brings good news. The ruler of Bhootan, for the invasion of which territory, with its natural fortifications in the form of mountain fastnesses, great preparations have been made by the Indian Government, has made overtures of peace, and the war is not likely to be resumed.—The Cape town papers bring some particulars of the reported invasion of Natal by the Basutos, between whom and the inhabitants of the Orange River Free State the telegram some time since announced the outbreak of hostilities. It turns out, as we anticipated, that there has been no invasion of Natal, although bodies of Basutos had appeared on the frontier and horribly frightened the colonists. Moshesh, the Basuto leader, energetically repudiates all intent to act aggressively against the English settlers; but the Natal authorities were active in defensive preparations. From the detailed India news brought by the Calcutta papers it would appear that the overtures of the Rajah of Bhootan for peace, whatever their nature was, have not stopped preparations for the invasion of that State. The troops for the purpose have been detailed. An enormous amount of sickness prevails among those unfortunate officers and men who compose the garrisons of the forts already in our hands. The Bombay papers report the progress of the Russians in the semi-civilised territories northwest of the peninsula.—A telegram from Melbourne, under date July 26, gives a very disheartening account of affairs in New Zealand. The Maories under Rewi, it is said, manifest an intention to continue the struggle. They have seized the crew of the cutter *Bonita*, and the fate of the unfortunate men was unknown when the despatch left. To these troubles must be added others relating to the government. Efforts were being made to overthrow the Ministry. Mr. Fox had resigned his seat in the Assembly and left for England. As if all this did not make enough ill news, the last paragraph of the telegram tells us that two vessels, the *Juno* and the steamer *Ruby*, have been lost on Hokitika Bar.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

R. F. G.—Thanks for your communication. We have waited the time you advised and received, on Thursday last, the particulars of the proceedings, which we have inserted in our present issue.

S. S.—The principles, privileges, and duties of Freemasonry are best set forth in Preston's "Illustrations," in How's "Freemasons' Manual," and in Oliver's "Symbol of Glory." The first named has long been the text book of the fraternity, but it has no reference to anything beyond the symbolic degrees. Bro. How's volume comprises not only all that is valuable in Preston's, but also a full account of the historic degrees, or those connected with the new covenant. Dr. Oliver's work is an embodiment of the Christian principles that pervade the institution of Freemasonry.