

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1866.

THE CHOLERA.

The G.A.O.T.U. has visited this country with the truly fearful scourge of cholera. In the east of London several have been swept off by it, and its ravages have also reached to various places in the provinces. It is to be feared that the worst has not yet come, and that the area of this appalling disease will be still more extended.

Everywhere men are rousing themselves to do battle with it. Nuisances are being abated, funds are being raised for the relief of the sufferers, and of those who have been thrown destitute on the world, through the death of parents and other relations.

At such a trying juncture as this, our brethren will not, we feel assured, be found wanting in their efforts to alleviate the afflictions of those who have suffered and are suffering. When were Masons ever backward in works of mercy and benevolence?

As, however, the most strenuous efforts require to be properly directed, we should strongly recommend our brethren to acquaint themselves with the nature, the symptoms, and the prevention of cholera; for, as to be forewarned, and we may add, fore-informed, is to be fore-armed, they will thus be enabled, with God's blessing, to ward off the disease from themselves, and to do good to others.

A little pamphlet entitled "A Short Treatise on the Nature, Origin, and Prevention of Cholera," by Dr. Gustave Monod, Professeur Agrégé à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris," &c., has lately fallen into our hands. It comes recommended to us both by the charitable object for which its translator, Mr. A. A. Von-Glein, sends it forth—"The whole proceeds of the sale are to be applied to the relief of the poor in infected districts in London"—and by the intrinsic value of its contents.

It will surely not be out of place in a magazine such as this, and at so appalling a crisis, to quote from this little work, a few of the rules there given as to the prevention of cholera.

As the digestive organs must be kept in a sound state, and as the slightest disorder in them must predispose, more or less, to the disease, we are to bear in mind that great danger arises to them from the following causes:—

1. By a chill, especially on the stomach, and by cold feet.

2. By excessive fatigue and over-excitement of the brain.

3. By bad food.

1. A chill may be avoided by wearing a flannel belt round the waist. Woollen socks are also recommended to be used.

2. "Late hours, dissipation, the abuse of pleasure, too much strain on the mental powers, excitement, great emotions, and in particular, anger, are all liable to disturb digestion."

3. "One's food should, as much as possible, be simple and solid. It should be such as to avert indigestion, and gently stimulate the vital forces. It ought to consist chiefly of farinaceous substances—soups, roast and broiled butcher's meat, fowl, and eggs. Fish in moderation."

"All kinds of vegetables may be eaten, and ripe fruit, raw or cooked in moderation."

"Heavy pastry, and all indigestible articles of food should be forbidden."

"All excess in drink must be avoided. But spirituous liquors may be used in moderation with benefit."

There are also some excellent remarks on "running away from cholera":—

"It is as much the duty of all the inhabitants, as it is of the pastor, the physician, and the local authorities, when cholera breaks out not to abandon the place where God has hitherto protected them; and I would go so far as to compare the act of running away from cholera to that of a soldier quitting his post in the day of battle."

With one other quotation we shall conclude:—"There is another powerful preservative, independent of the physician's art, and which all the gold in the world cannot buy—I mean the inward peace and tranquility of mind which is the fruit of true piety. Agitation, uneasiness, and fear naturally predispose to cholera; but he who, whilst taking all possible precautions suggested by science and experience, maintains a calm and firm confidence that his Heavenly Father watches over him at every moment, and directs all things for his true good, is, medically speaking, *less exposed* to take cholera than he who feels not such an assurance."

Similar is the teaching of Masonry when she takes the candidate by the hand, and bids him in the hour of danger and difficulty repose his trust in God; and similar, too, is the teaching of the Book on which Masonry is founded, even the Word of the Lord, that abideth for ever.

FREEMASONRY IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The lodges of Nova Scotia have followed the example of the Canada lodges, by *declaring* their independence of the Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom and creating a Grand Lodge of their own. The following details respecting this movement are given in a recent issue of the *Boston Freemasons' Monthly Magazine* :—

“ Since the acquisition of Nova Scotia by Great Britain in the Peace of Paris in 1793, that province, like all the other British provinces, has been held to be within the concurrent jurisdiction of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and we had supposed the relation was agreeable and profitable to all parties, allowing for some inconveniences incident to the secondary power to which the lodges in all the provinces are necessarily subjected, and their great distance from the parent bodies. But however this may have been in times past, and however successfully the system of Provincial Grand Lodges may have worked, when the lodges in the province were few and the members not numerous, our brethren in Nova Scotia have recently come to the conclusion that they can best subserve their own interests, and ensure the future prosperity of the Order, by declaring their independence of their ancient mother, and ‘ setting up an establishment ’ for themselves. They took this hint from their Canadian brethren ; and as secession worked well in that case, we do not know any reason why it should not prove equally successful in theirs. It is true that the Grand Lodge of Canada had to struggle hard for its existence, and our brethren in Nova Scotia may be subjected to the same trials. But such struggles and trials are incident to all new enterprises. We are not inclined to discuss the legality of the movement. We did that in the Canada case. An obvious good may be some apology for a doubtful proceeding. Cromwell and his followers thought so in their day, and so did our fathers in theirs. But this is a matter which will doubtless be amicably adjusted by the parties more immediately interested in it. In the meantime, we content ourselves by announcing the fact, that ten of the lodges in Nova Scotia have united and organised an independent Grand Lodge in that province, ‘ in order, ’ they say, ‘ to ensure the rights and privileges which the growing interest of the Craft imperatively demand ; and having duly and regularly installed their officers

according to ancient usage, ’ they respectfully and earnestly request the Grand Lodges of this country to recognise them, regarding such recognition as ‘ essential to their future prosperity. ’ This is, of course, a request with which each Grand Lodge will comply or not, according to its own sense of propriety, and with a due regard to its relations to the Grand Lodges of Great Britain. It is certainly desirable that those Grand bodies should first be heard in a matter of so much importance to them. The ten lodges in question derived their existence from them, and they were bound to them by ties of allegiance and obligation. These, so far as we are informed, have been abnegated and severed by the act of one party only, and that the subordinate. Still, many of the Grand Lodges did not hesitate to recognise the Grand Lodge of Canada, when organised in exactly the same way and on the same principles ; and they may not be indisposed to adopt a different course towards their brethren in Nova Scotia. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in the former case, thought that it was bound in good faith to await the action of the Grand Lodge of England. If it should determine to pursue the same policy in the present instance, it will not be from any want of kindness towards their brethren in Nova Scotia, but from a sense of duty to the great principle involved, and the respect which it can never cease to entertain for its venerable and honoured parent.

“ The new Grand Lodge is held at Halifax, and its principal officers are Bros. William H. Davies, *M.D.*, Grand Master ; William Taylor, *D.G.M.* ; Robert J. Romans, *S.G.W.* ; A. K. Mackinlay, *J.G.W.* ; William Garvie, *G. Treas.* ; C. J. Macdonald, *G. Sec.* ”

We fully coincide with the opinion of our Transatlantic contemporary, that “ the Grand Lodges of Great Britain should first be heard in a matter of so much importance to them. ” A Grand Lodge cannot be established simply by issuing a “ declaration of independence ; ” its existence as a Masonic central authority is entirely dependant on its recognition as such by the other previously established Masonic ruling bodies throughout the world ; the very universality of our Institution and joint responsibility among all Masonic lodges of the globe, precludes the existence of any Grand Lodge *in its own right*. The transformation of a Provincial Grand Lodge into an independent Masonic power must be considered

null and void, so long as it lacks the acquiescence and recognition of the mother Grand Lodge, the fundamental principles of Masonic international courtesy forbidding recognition in other quarters, unless the secession be endorsed by the parent Grand Lodge. This general rule should be observed more especially where the prerogative of our own Grand Lodge, the *alma mater* of all Masonic bodies of the civilised world is at stake. Viewed in the light of these principles, the impropriety of the step taken by our brethren of Nova Scotia will at once become apparent. An application for recognition should never have been addressed to the Grand Lodges of the United States, unless those of the United Kingdom had been *previously* appealed to and their assent secured. Without meaning in the least to prejudge or forestal the final decision of our own Grand Lodge, we cannot forbear from expressing our opinion that our colonial brethren have committed an egregious mistake in the mode of proceeding which they have chosen to follow.

Moreover we do not think it has been satisfactorily shown that there is any sound reason for establishing an independent Grand Lodge in that colony. We consider it highly objectionable that every country, however small, in which a certain number of lodges exist, should have a Grand Lodge of its own. On identical grounds the colonies of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, nay, even King Edward's Island might set forth a claim to the same effect. A chief Masonic authority in any one of the small colonies has no more *raison d'être* than those in the small Duchies and principalities of Germany which, on the amalgamation of their provinces with Prussia, are likely to be absorbed by the Berlin Grand Lodges. We can understand, we should even consider as perfectly reasonable a wish on the part of the Provincial Grand Lodges of British North America to secede from the mother Grand Lodge and join that of Canada, already virtually established; the greater proximity of that colony, as well as the almost certainty of the establishment of a confederacy amongst all the British settlements in that region, might warrant such a step. But the erection of independent Masonic lodges in small districts, the establishment of Lilliputian Grand Lodges should in our opinion be resisted by the existing Masonic ruling bodies to the utmost of their power. In our issue of the 4th inst. we reproduced the suggestion of a colonial contemporary to transform the exist-

ing Grand Lodge of Canada into a Masonic central authority for the whole of British North America, and the refusal of the Canadian Grand Master to recognise the proposed separate Grand Lodge for Nova Scotia (recorded in the same number, page 95), warrants the hope that such an amalgamation may, in due time, be effected, which, we have no doubt, would meet with no serious opposition on the part of the Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

Master of the First Warranted Lodge in Pennsylvania, and Provincial Grand Master of that Province.

The name of Benjamin Franklin illumines the history of Masonry, and of our country, for more than one-half of the last century. Its diamond light is not confined to the city, the province, or the country that gave him birth. The orient borrows a ray from it, and wherever the evening twilight lingers, or the polar star guides, or the southern cross gleams, there the torch which he lighted from the clouds above him irradiates the path-way still of every civilited nation. Of his humble birth in Boston, January 17, 1706; of his early employment in an occupation unsuited to his genius; of his being indentured to his brother as a printer's apprentice, and fleeing from his petty tyranny to Philadelphia; of his amusing introduction to that city, and his boyhood success there; of his leaving it for a voyage to London while he was yet in his minority, and of his first London life; every step from tottering infancy to bold reliant manhood has been often told, and we need not repeat them in our sketch of his Masonic life.

Leaving the youth of Franklin with all its romantic incidents and instructive lessons behind us, we find him on his return from England in the autumn of 1726, in his twenty-first year, recommencing his citizenship in Philadelphia, with a body strong and vigorous, a mind active and well cultivated, and with a knowledge of his art, and an experience gained in the school of the world, which well fitted him to step boldly on to the platform of active life. His intentions at this period were to fit himself for a mercantile life, but the death of his employer soon induced him to engage again as a printer, and his industry, integrity, and studious habits soon gained him friends, competence, and distinction.

His social qualities and intelligence at first drew around him a few congenial spirits, and a literary club was formed for mental improvement. While in London he had become familiar with the existence of the various clubs and other social societies that existed there, and the organisation of Freemasonry had no doubt come under his observation. This Institution there was then just emerging from a situation which the common observer might have regarded as a system of voluntary social clubs, and its pretensions to antiquity, its moral and scientific basis, and its written rules and regulations, had lately been given to the public in a quarto volume called "Anderson's Constitutions." These had been accepted there by a part of the Fraternity as their governing code of rules, while others still adhered to the immemorial rights and usages of Masons when convened. There can be very little doubt but that Franklin brought home with him some knowledge of the Fraternity, although not an initiate into its mysteries.

As the limits of this sketch will not allow a detail of all the incidents of Franklin's private and public life, however interesting and instructive they may be, we shall pass over many of them, and confine our consideration more to those which show his character as a Mason, and the influence which his connection with this Fraternity may have had on his after life. This we do more especially from believing that all which concerns the personal history of our representative men should be fairly considered as a part of our national character, and from a belief that the Masonic character and connection of our public men, of the last century, has been unwarrantably lost sight of, in the history of our country. Perhaps this has arisen from an undue prejudice which writers may have had against the institution of Masonry, or from an ignorance of its principles and influence.

With Franklin, whatever induced scientific research, and strengthened the fraternal bonds that thus bound society together, had especial value; and when he found that Freemasonry embraced in its teachings the highest moral rectitude, founded on the Fatherhood of God as a common parent, and the brotherhood of man as his offspring, and that it inculcated a study of his perfections as revealed in the works of nature as well as in his written word, he at once became a devotee at its altar. No record has come down to us of the time and place where he first received Masonic light. It was not the custom of the Fraternity in the early

part of the last century to preserve written records of its meetings when convened for work; besides, when warranted lodges were first established in America they little knew how much interest would in time be felt in their early history. The brief records they may have written have, in many cases, too, been destroyed or lost. It is not known how or when the first lodge of Freemasons was instituted in Philadelphia. A few brethren who had been made Masons in the old country may have met and opened lodges from time to time, and initiated others, without keeping any record. The earliest notices we find of Masonic lodges in that city are in the public newspapers of that day, which show the meetings of the Fraternity there in 1732, where they give the name of William Allen, the recorder of the city, as their Grand Master. They met at that time at the Tun Tavern, and one of the oldest lodges in Philadelphia was formerly called Tun Lodge, in allusion to the place of its early meetings.

There is no known record of Franklin's being a member of the Fraternity previous to this; but in 1732 he was Senior Warden under William Allen.

We pass over three years more of Franklin's life, during which he was engaged as a printer and stationer—and in which he commenced the publication of his "Poor Richard's Almanac"—and find him receiving a written warrant from Henry Price, Provincial Grand Master of Massachusetts, constituting him Master of the lodge, and probably of all the Masons in Philadelphia. The exact date of this authority from Price cannot be given. Massachusetts authorities say it was June 24th, 1734, while Pennsylvania authorities say that on that day the brethren in Philadelphia celebrated the festival of St. John the Baptist, under their old organisation, and having accepted the authority of St. John's Grand Lodge at Boston, they ratified the choice of Franklin as their Master (or Grand Master, as they chose to term him). This apparent discrepancy in the date of Franklin's authority from Price, and his commencing his official duties under it in Philadelphia, both being given as the same day, probably arose from Price having granted to Franklin a deputation previous to June 24th, and that at the festival which was held simultaneously in Boston and Philadelphia on that day, the act of Price was ratified by the Grand Lodge at Boston, and Franklin's commission

accepted by the brethren assembled in Philadelphia?

From the correspondence which took place between Franklin and the Grand Master and the brethren in Boston, soon after he became connected with their authority, we give the following letters of his which have been preserved:—

“Right Worshipful Grand Master, and Most Worthy and Dear Brethren,—We acknowledge your favour of the 23rd of October past, and rejoice that the Grand Master (whom God bless) hath so happily recovered from his late indisposition, and we now (glass in hand) drink to the establishment of his health, and the prosperity of your whole lodge.

“We have seen in the Boston prints an article of news from London, importing that, at a Grand Lodge held there in August last, Mr. Price’s deputation and power was extended over all America, which advice we hope is true, and we heartily congratulate him thereupon. And though this has not as yet been regularly signified to us by you, yet, giving credit thereto, we think it our duty to lay before your lodge what we apprehend needful to be done for us, in order to promote and strengthen the interests of Masonry in this province (which seems to want the sanction of some authority derived from home, to give the proceedings and determinations of our lodge their due weight), to wit, a deputation, or charter, granted by the Right Worshipful Mr. Price, by virtue of his commission from Britain, confirming the brethren of Pennsylvania in the privileges they at present enjoy, of holding annually their Grand Lodge, choosing their Grand Master, Wardens, and other officers, who may manage all affairs relating to the brethren here, with full power and authority, according to the customs and usages of Masons, the said Grand Master of Pennsylvania only yielding his chair when the Grand Master of all America shall be in place. This, if it seem good and reasonable to you to grant, will not only be extremely agreeable to us, but will also, we are confident, conduce much to the welfare, establishment, and reputation of Masonry in these parts. We, therefore, submit it to your consideration; and as we hope our request will be complied with, we desire that it may be done as soon as possible, and also accompanied with a copy of the Right Worshipful Grand Master’s first deputation, and of the instrument by which it appears to be enlarged, as above

mentioned, witnessed by your Wardens, and signed by the Secretary, for which favour this lodge doubt not of being able to behave as not to be thought ungrateful.

“We are, Right Worshipful Grand Master, and Most Worthy Brethren, your affectionate brethren and obliged humble servants.

“Signed, at the request of the Lodge,

“B. FRANKLIN, G.M.

“Philadelphia, Nov. 28, 1734.”

Franklin sent with this letter to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts the following private note to Mr. Price, the Grand Master:—

“Dear Brother Price,—I am heartily glad to hear of your recovery. I hoped to have seen you here this fall, agreeable to the expectation you were so good as to give me; but, since sickness has prevented your coming while the weather was moderate, I have no room to flatter myself with a visit from you before spring, while a deputation from the brethren here will have an opportunity of showing how much they esteem you. I beg leave to recommend their request to you, and to inform you that some false and rebel brethren, who are foreigners, being about to set up a distinct lodge, in opposition to the old and true brethren here, pretending to make Masons for a bowl of punch; and the Craft is like to come into disesteem among us, unless the true brethren are countenanced and distinguished by some such special authority as herein desired. I entreat, therefore, that whatever you shall think proper to do therein may be sent by the post, if possible, or the next following.

“I am your affectionate brother and humble servant, B. FRANKLIN, G.M. of Pennsylvania.

“P.S. If more of the ‘Constitutions’ are wanted among you, please hint it to me.”

The “Constitutions” here alluded to were a reprint of the “English Constitutions of Masonry,” which had been collated and published in London, in 1723. An American edition of this work was printed by Franklin, in Philadelphia, in 1734, and it was the first Masonic book ever published in America.

In 1735, Franklin was superseded in his position as Master, or Grand Master as it was termed, by James Hamilton, his Senior Warden, who was elected in his stead. Freemasonry in Philadelphia, although it appears to have been popular at this time, was soon after under the ban of public suspicion there, and Franklin’s connection with it

was much commented on by the public press of that city. It appears, from the civil records and public journals of that day, that in 1737 a few thoughtless individuals attempted to impose on an ignorant young man and persuade him that by submitting to some ridiculous ceremonies he might become a Mason. He submitted to all they required, and was by them invested with sundry pretended Masonic signs, and told he had taken the first degree. The principal perpetrators of the farce appear not to have been Masons, but they soon after communicated to Franklin and others an account of their practical joke, and told him they might be expected to be saluted with the signs they had given to the young man when they met him. Franklin did not approve of their imposition, but laughed heartily at the ridiculous farce they had played, and thought no more of it. Not so with the active parties in it; for they determined farther to dupe the young man, and for this purpose induced him to take a second degree, in which they blindfolded and conducted him into a dark cellar, where one of the party was to exhibit himself to him disguised in a bull's hide, the head and horns of which were intended to represent the devil; while the others were to play a game they called snap-dragon, which consisted of picking raisins from a dish of burning fluid. When the bandage was taken from the young man's eyes, and he had gazed for a moment on the scene before him, one of the party thoughtlessly threw upon him the pan of burning fluid, which set fire to his clothes, and so burned him that he lingered for but three days and then died. This occurrence caused great excitement in Philadelphia, and the guilty parties were arrested and punished for manslaughter.

As it appeared at the judicial investigation that Franklin had been made acquainted with the first outrage on the young man after its perpetration, although he had no knowledge that a second attempt was to be made, and disapproved of the first, many ignorant or excited citizens, knowing his Masonic position, sought to cast odium on him and the Fraternity of which he was a leading member. A personal attack was also made on the character of Franklin by a newspaper in Philadelphia, accusing him of conniving at the outrage. This was promptly denied by him, and the denial was verified by the oaths of those who were acquainted with the whole affair. The Grand Lodge also deemed it its duty to express its disapproba-

tion of such proceedings, and the Grand Officers appeared before the authorities in Philadelphia and signed the following:—

“Pennsylvania, s.s.—Whereas some ill-disposed persons in this city, assuming the name of Freemasons, have, for some years past, imposed upon several well-meaning people who were desirous of becoming true brethren, persuaded them, after they had performed certain ridiculous ceremonies, that they had really become Freemasons; and have lately, under pretence of making a young man a Mason, caused his death by purging, vomiting, burning, and the terror of certain diabolical, horrid rites; it is, therefore, thought proper, for preventing such impositions for the future, and to avoid any unjust aspersions that may be thrown on this ancient and honourable Fraternity on this account, either in this city or any other part of the world, to publish this advertisement declaring the abhorrence of all true brethren of such practices in general, and their ignorance of this fact in particular, and that the persons concerned in this wicked action are not of our Society, nor of any Society of Free and Accepted Masons, to our knowledge or belief.

“Signed in behalf of all the members of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia, 10th day of June, 1737.

“THOS. HOPKINSON, G. Master.

“WM. PLUMSTED, D. G. Master.

“JOS. SHEPPEN, } Wardens.”

“HENRY PRATT, }

The knowledge of the outrage that had been perpetrated in Philadelphia in the name of Freemasonry, and the attack on Franklin's character, soon came to his parents in Boston, and his mother, with true maternal feelings, induced his father to write to him on the subject, and make inquiries respecting the society which was then agitating the public mind. To these inquiries Franklin replied under date of April 13th, 1738:

“As to the Freemasons, I know of no way of giving my mother a better account of them than she seems to have at present; since it is not allowed that women should be admitted into the secret society. She has, I must confess, on that account, some reason to be displeased with it; but for anything else, I must entreat her to suspend her judgment till she is better informed, unless she will believe me when I assure her, that they are in general a very harmless sort of people,

and have no principles or practices that are inconsistent with religion and good manners."

Although the excitement had run so high in Philadelphia that during the trial of those who had been engaged in duping the young man with pretended Masonic degrees every Mason was challenged from the jury-box, yet Franklin's popularity did not suffer. He was then postmaster of the city, and clerk of the Provincial Assembly, and he continued to hold these offices for many years. In 1747 he was elected a member of the Assembly, and held the office by re-election for ten years. In 1749 the old authority from Henry Price to Franklin in 1734 was superseded by a new warrant to him from Thomas Oxnard, Provincial Grand Master of all North America, constituting him Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania, with power to charter new lodges.

There still exists a correspondence between one Christopher Sows, a German printer in Germantown, and Conrad Weiser, in which the former complains bitterly of the efforts of Franklin and the Freemasons generally to establish free-schools. He says :

"The people who are promoters of the free-schools are Grand Masters and Wardens among the Freemasons, their very pillars."

The loss of old Masonic records makes it impossible to determine the lodge membership in Philadelphia at this time, but enough remains to show that it embraced the first men in the city.

Congress sent Franklin in 1776 a commissioner to the Court of France, and no diplomatist at Versailles was able to perform his duties with greater ability. He was well known in France at that time for his varied scientific attainments, and his plain Republican manners rendered him a dignitary of a new light. His residence was continued in France until 1785, and during this time he held intimate Masonic intercourse with the Masons of that country, and became affiliated, either as a special or honorary member, with the Grand Orient of France.

Franklin's official life closed in 1788, for his great age and infirmities rendered him unable to longer serve his country in a public capacity ; but amid much suffering he survived for two more years, and died at Philadelphia, April 17, 1790, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. He was buried on the 21st, in Christ Church yard, in that city, and more than twenty thousand persons, it was

said, attended the funeral. The highest dignitaries of the State were present on the occasion, and both the State and National Government decreed that badges should be worn in token of the loss all had sustained in the death of so great a man. It has been asked why so distinguished a Mason as Franklin was not interred with Masonic rites. The reader will remember that his Masonic connection in Philadelphia had been with the so-called Moderns, whose organisation there had been superseded during the absence of Franklin in Europe, by another denomination of Masons, called Ancients ; and at his death, the Grand Lodge of which he had been the Grand Master was extinct. His name, however, and his virtues, have ever been kept in high veneration by Masons throughout the world, and with that of Washington are household words wherever the Craft is found.

FESTIVALS OF ST. JOHN, THE BAPTIST, AND ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

The following very able address was delivered at the Masonic festival at Adrian by Bro. Cornelius Moore, of Cincinnati.

"As Freemasons we have our festive days in commemoration of illustrious historic names. The saints in our calendar, however, are but two—John the Baptist, and John the Evangelist—whose noted days we celebrate, respectively on the 24th of June and the 27th of December. We point to these two eminent men as our exemplars. We gather wisdom from their instructions, and we are excited to noble deeds by their examples.

Men teach by examples as well as words, and the former are often more effective than the latter. The first great practical lesson we learn from John was "unflinching fidelity to his trust." No motive could induce him "to violate his vows or betray his trust." Whatever he undertook in obedience to the demands of duty, that he performed, both in letter and spirit. It was no holiday task to go out into the world with a new and unwelcome message ; to face and grapple with the prejudices of a thousand years, hardened and fossilized as were those of the Jewish people, it required much of nerve and stern resolve, and unflinching perseverance, and self-abnegation ; but John was equal to it all, and a story of more devoted and heroic life has never been read or written. Shall we not profit, brothers, by the example of this eminent patron of Masonry ?

The duties required of you as Masons, do not conflict with your other duties as citizens, husbands, fathers, sons, or brothers—duties which you may owe to your God or to your country. But in addition to these Masonry has laid upon you its injunctions and in their fulfilment are involved both social and moral interests—your own and others'—affecting the present, and reaching far out into the future. In meeting these responsibilities all that Masonry demands is, "Unflinching fidelity to your trust." This she expects of every brother and in realising that expectation will not fail in her reward.

Perhaps another lesson we may learn from the teaching and example of John is not less important than the foregoing, and that was his moral courage. He dared do right without reference to the opinions or wishes of others.

The motto of the Craft is "In God is our Trust;" surely, trusting in such a power, we should venture on the discharge of duty without any fear as to the result. The time was, and within the memory of some of us, when it required no ordinary degree of courage to acknowledge oneself a member of the Masonic Fraternity. In many places Masons were excluded from the jury box, their testimony disbelieved in courts of justice, and they thrust from the sacramental board by ignorant and fanatical religionists; their lodge halls were burned, their records destroyed, and their property scattered to the winds. It required moral courage then and there to stand up for the old banner, even though it bore the inscription, "Friendship, morality, and brotherly love." Fanaticism exhausted itself by its own zeal, as it always does, and it is not unpopular now to be a Freemason. But the spirit of persecution "is not dead but sleepeth," and men are but men.

While our own conduct, as men, is regulated by the precepts of Masonry—so long as we are "good men and true, and strictly obey the moral law," though Herod is upon the throne and wears the ermine, Pilate our bitterest foe will be compelled to say, "I find no fault in him." But let there be a lapse in our conduct, either as it regards our duty to God, our country or others, and we shall need all the moral courage of John the Baptist to stand up in the midst of obloquy and reproach and persecution, and say, "I am a Freemason."

It is said all lodges of Freemasons were dedicated to Solomon, but in all Christian nations they are now dedicated jointly to the memory of St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, because, as the books tell us, they were two eminent patrons of Masonry. In every lodge among the symbols of the Order, there are two perpendicular parallel lines, and on the top of these rest the Holy Scriptures. These two lines are intended to represent the two Johns, and a circle projecting from a common centre will touch these lines as well as the Holy Scriptures, beyond which a Mason is never to suffer his passions or his prejudices to lead him. The divine instructions of the Scriptures, illustrated by the precepts and examples of the two noble exemplars, furnish sufficient light on the path which leads to glorious immortality. Whether, therefore, John was a Mason or not, is of no particular consequence.

Masonry does not depend for its character and merits upon the good names that may have been associated with it. The records of Masonry contain many illustrious names, but they are also dishonoured by some who have been a by-word and a scorn. We feel proud of the membership in our Order of Washington and Warren, and La Fayette and Marshall, and scores of others of their day, compatriots in fame and stars of the first magnitude in the galaxy of American worthies. But, as in the list of the twelve apostles, there was the name of Judas Iscariot, so in the long roll of the Craftsmen are to be found a few names that are synonymous of all that is mean and corrupt. But as the character of Judas did not paint the Apostle College, nor make Christianity less divine, so the infamy which attaches to Masons who, like Judas, were unfaithful to their trust, leaves not a stain upon the escutcheon of Masonry; as well might the respectable and intelligent inhabitants of your beautiful city be held responsible for an occasional crime committed within its limits, or the civil laws of your State, or the municipal enactments of your city be deemed unjust and iniquitous because there are violators of law. No human organisation, no code of morals, no system of ethics can guarantee the perfection of all who belong to or profess faith in them. Perfection does not pertain to earth, and not until we reach a world where there is no evil, may we expect exemption from the tempter's power. No just or honourable man, therefore, will hold Freemasonry responsible for what it does not profess; nor condemn the association because an individual

member should prove himself false to its teaching and unworthy of its fellowship. Some Masons there are, we confess, who are intemperate, dishonest, corrupt, not because they are Masons, but in spite of all that Masonry can do to make them otherwise; just as crime and corruption have been found in the churches, both in pew and pulpit, notwithstanding the sound teaching and solemn instructions of divine revelation.

In conclusion, brethren, let me urge you to emulate the example of him whose memory we celebrate to-day; by a virtuous and blameless life, by unbroken fidelity to your trust, by devotion to the welfare of others, by labouring until your work is done, you will achieve immortal triumphs and swell the ranks of the virtuous and good, who shall, at last, be gathered unto the city and temple of God. Remember that while there is suffering to relieve or ignorance to enlighten, or innocence to protect, or orphanage and widowhood to shelter, and, may I not add, a cross to bear, you will find work still for you to do. Your work can only cease with your capacity and ability to work, and then it will be finished."

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this our leading Fire and Life Assurance Company, took place on Friday, the 10th ult. Charles Turner, Esq., *M.P.*, in the chair. The actuary and manager Mr. Percy Dove, read a most satisfactory report, being the 21st annual report of the affairs of the company to its stock holders.

FIRE BRANCH.

The statements of adverse results shown by similar establishments during the last year will have prepared the proprietors for the announcement which the directors have to make that, to some extent, the company has shared in the general calamities of fire insurance offices during that period.

The fire losses sustained by the Royal Insurance Company have amounted to £318,946 Os. 6d., or nearly 77 per cent. of the premiums received. This is far beyond the legitimate per centage of claims which, under ordinary circumstances, would have accrued, though less than the amount anticipated at one period of the year; and, although the total sum is 10 per cent. less than the average ratio of loss recently announced authoritatively as falling upon three other well-known and highly respectable establishments of large revenue during the year 1865, this combined experience affords, together with the still more disastrous results of some other companies which might be referred to, undeniable evidence that the premium charged upon fire insurance is at present unremunerative.

Passing to another subject—the progress of the company, as respects the amount of business effected, has been satisfactory, the returns of duty published by parliament, on the motion of the chairman of this company, exhibiting by far the largest measure of increase which the company has ever, in its most prosperous times, experienced.

The total net amount of fire premium for the year, after deducting guarantees, is £414,733 13s., which does not show an advance quite corresponding in comparative amount with the increase of duty. This, it should be explained, arises in some measure from the fact that the directors voluntarily surrendered a portion of their accruing advances of premium for the

purpose of protecting themselves by guarantee from undue limits on any one risk. Hence, in no small degree they consider they owe their exemption from any very large claim on any single insurance during the year, the largest amount of loss on any one strictly individual risk being little more than £6,000. They have not been hindered from this prudent course by the consideration that when their guarantee account was last investigated it was found that, for a period of six years, the company had paid £88,934 8s. 6d. more, in the shape of premium to its guaranteeing connection, than it received in amount of claims. It would, however, be inconsistent with a true stability of purpose (which should remain unmoved by accidental or erratic results) if the directors were drawn from a prudent course of action by any experience of this kind covering a limited space of time only.

LIFE BRANCH.

Turning now to the life branch, it remains to be reported that the progress has been marked by unchecked success. This will be made clear by one or two statistical expositions.

Taking the four previous quinquennial periods, it is found that the first, from 1845 to 1849, inclusive, commenced with a sum assured of £23,349, and ended the period with a total sum assured of £272,796.

The Second, 1850-54, £95,650, and ended the period with a total sum assured of £733,408.

The Third, 1855-60, £206,514, and ended the period with a total sum assured of £1,655,678.

The Fourth, 1860-64, £449,242, and ended the period with a total sum assured of £3,439,215.

And now the first year of the fifth like period, viz., 1865, the company has granted assurances for £886,663 7s. 8d., nearly twice the amount at the commencement of the last quinquennial period—more than one million sterling having been proposed during the year. The amount of declined lives alone is £189,947 1s. 2d.

If, therefore, the result of the total five years, ending in the year 1869, were to have a corresponding increase with the previous periods of five years each, the amount of business that would be effected in the quinquennial period now running would be more than has ever been on record in any insurance establishment in this country.

The directors likewise have to report that the life and annuity funds have increased by the sum of £103,146 7s. 3d.

A further important testimony, however, is given that the Royal has not even yet arrived at the zenith of its favour with the public, by the fact that the sum assured for the six months of the present year, after deducting all guarantees thrown off, almost reaches half a million sterling, the actual amount being £499,124 4s. 3d., a sum larger than the total amount assured for the entire year commencing the last quinquennial period, so that, at any rate for one further year, the impetus of continued advance is not likely to slacken. In this department the shareholders and policy-holders have the opportunity, of which it is trusted they will avail themselves, not only to keep up the high position of the Royal, but even to advance it considerably. The result of such an activity on their part, it is confidently affirmed, would so tell upon the permanent prosperity of the establishment

that the favourable result of the property of the shareholder and on the profits of the life assurer would be such as would exceed their highest anticipations.

The consideration of the dividend and bonus for the year forms the only remaining topic of the report.

The directors propose to the proprietors that a dividend be declared of 3s. per share, and a bonus of 4s. per share, together 7s. per share, free of income tax.

It is a matter of satisfaction to state that after withdrawing the amount of this dividend and bonus from the profit and loss account, a credit balance will still remain to that account of no less than £62,076 9s. in addition to the reserve fund, which, by the augmentation of the year, now reaches the sum of £116,913 2s. 10d.

Notwithstanding, therefore, the comparatively unfavourable aspect of the fire insurance business these two funds together will now be actually more than they were only three years previously (1862) by the sum of £24,743 11s. 8d.

The period of 21 years which now marks the existence of the Royal Insurance Company naturally suggests one word of reference to the history of the growth of this establishment up to its present state of maturity.

THE SEWING MACHINE.

Mechanism may be truly said to have revolutionised some of the old systems of labour, and happily where machinery has been introduced as a substitute for human toil the artizan or labourer has been found to be better off. Into this question it is not our present purpose to enter, but simply to direct attention to what we may now call "a domestic institution." The sewing machine, having recently witnessed them in operation, in the new, extensive, and elegantly-fitted up show rooms of Messrs. Grover and Baker, Regent-street.

Not many years ago there was talk of it as a thing not quite accomplished, but about to be; and almost any expert needlewoman could demonstrate in a few minutes that nothing effective of the kind could ever be arranged, simply because the necessity of the needle going through the cloth and returning before a stitch could be formed, made the thing a bald impossibility. By-and-bye this question was answered, and after a time it was demonstrated that one sewing machine would do work with the celerity of as many sewing women as could be set around it in a 20ft. circle. But no sooner had it been demonstrated that sewing could be done by machinery than a host of inventions appeared with devices to overcome the various objections, and in a short time the comparatively crude idea of Howe, by the addition of these inventions, assumed the form of a really practical sewing machine. The difficulty of sewing curved seams disappeared before the "feeding" inventions; contrivances innumerable regulated the thread tensions; attachments for hemming, tucking, cording, braiding, &c., were added soon after; and the question then was not, could the machine sew? but, was there any description of sewing which it could not

perform? Take the Grover and Baker machine at the present day, which affords, perhaps, the best illustration of the advances made in this branch of the mechanised arts, and there is no kind of sewing, plain or ornamental, which the most skilled needlewoman can perform that it will not execute equally well as regards strength and durability, much neater and more beautiful in appearance, and in a tenth of the time.

The "Grover and Baker" or "Elastic Stitch" machine has no shuttle or bobbin, and the seam it produces is formed by the harmonious action of two needles—an upper or vertical needle, and an under or circular one; each loop of thread passed by the upper needle through the fabric is secured by a loop of under thread, which passes through and around it, tying it twice, thus making each stitch independent of its neighbour, forming a stitch that will not rip though every sixth stitch were cut. The crossing of the two threads are not drawn between the fibres of the materials to separate them—as is done by the "Shuttle" or "Lockstitch" machine—but drawn tight by the vertical action of the upper needle, compressing the material vertically but never longitudinally; hence there are no intervals between the stitches, and the material is not puckered. When the seam is drawn up, the loops of the under needle thread disappear from the under side of the material, and the loops from the under side thread are tightened and embedded in the form of an in-wrought braid upon the under surface; and it is this braid on the under side which produces the elasticity characteristic of this stitch. There are no points in this stitch which there is special wear or friction upon the threads. It gains its strength and elasticity chiefly from the under thread, which divides the strain between the several threads, and permits the upper one to compress the material between the stitches, whilst each loop gives or yields to the force which the under stitches feel, instead of concentrating the strain upon a single point of thread, as is the case with some other machines. Another feature in the "Elastic Stitch" machines consists of the great range of work to which it is adapted. In addition to sewing perfectly it is capable of doing the most intricate and elaborate patterns of embroidery.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

SISTERS' MASONIC CLOTHING IN FRANCE.

A lady correspondent will find my communication on this very important matter, vol. ix., page 158, of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. It gives me pleasure to learn that her husband, whom I know to be a very active and useful member of the Craft, is a subscriber to that publication.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CREED OF A CANDIDATE FOR INITIATION IN A LANCASHIRE LODGE.

The Master of a Lancashire Lodge has sent me a Paper entitled "Creed of a Candidate for Initiation," and he requests my opinion in regard to its sufficiency. This Creed is very skilfully drawn. It consists of two articles only—one is negative, the other is affirmative. The effect of the first is, that the Candidate denies Atheism. The effect of the second is, that he

affirms his belief in the Soul's Immortality. The insufficiency of this Creed is manifest. The Candidate denies Atheism, but he may have adopted some Religion which English Freemasonry does not tolerate, as Pantheism, Polytheism, or Fetichism. The belief in the Soul's Immortality does not help here; as the Pantheist, the Polytheist, and the Fetichist, each has his doctrine of a Life to come.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

FREEMASONRY WITHOUT RELIGION.—A COMPARISON.

My good Bro. * * * must excuse me, for I am in a humour somewhat critical. I would write, first, "Freemasonry undertaking its great and sacred task without religion;" next, "The Great Eastern proceeding on the voyage for laying down the Atlantic cable without her steam engines." With these alterations the comparison cannot, in my judgment, be deemed inappropriate.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

NATURAL RELIGION.—FREEMASONRY.

The answer to the question of the brother "just commencing his Masonic studies," is that natural religion is *necessarily* the religion of that Freemasonry which has assumed the character of universality, and admits into the lodge, without distinction, the followers of Jesus Christ, of Moses, of Zoroaster, and of Mahomet. My brother should look at my communications to the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE. "Religion of Freemasonry as a Universal Institution," vol. xiii., p. 391. "Freemasonry as a World-wide Association," vol. xiv., p. 69. "Why Freemasonry is called Universal," vol. xiv., p. 447. "The Voltairians," p. 6 of the present volume. "Great Architect of the Universe—Natural Theology," vol. xiv., p. 6. "Proof of the Existence of God adopted in Freemasonry," vol. xiii., p. 111. "Existence of God—Proof thereof," vol. xiv., p. 125. "Final Causes," vol. xiv. p. 409. "Metaphysical Proofs of the Existence of God," vol. xiv., p. 165. "Immortality of the Soul and Freemasonry," vol. xiii., p. 71. "Immortality of the Soul—Belief therein," vol. xiv., p. 328. "The Moral Law and Freemasonry," vol. xiv., p. 290. "Prayers in Lodge," vol. xiv., p. 306.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

REFORM IN MASONRY.

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

II.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I now beg to say a few words in reply to the letter on page 310, vol. xii., of your journal. You will find, on calm consideration, that my views are not so dangerous and execrable after all. On account of the near relationship between Germany and England, I should really be glad to see pleasant consequences for our harmony in future arise from the unpleasant discussions of the present day. Will you kindly bear in mind that among the large number of continental brethren who are in favour of reform, there are surely some combining great love of Masonry with intelligence and a practical turn of mind. It may, therefore, be assumed that, at all events, some good might be derived from reform proposals, supposing even

part of them not to agree with the state of things in England.

First, as regards the oath question. I remember what struggles took place in the British Parliament with reference to the modification of the form of oath in favour of Hebrews. On the present day this form exists no longer, and yet old England has not fallen to pieces. It will be the same with the form of oath in the Masonic fraternity; the Order will continue to exist even with a rectified oath. Should the brethren in some lodges insist on the preservation of the present formula, there is an easy way of getting over the difficulty. Let the old formula be read to the candidate at his initiation as an "historical document," and let him be obligated on a new, short, and less horrid formula. The honest Mason will be as much bound by his plain word of honour as he would by the most dismal oath; the dishonest brother, on the other hand, will break his word notwithstanding all possible oaths. This is evidenced by the many traitorous writings, laying open our rituals before the profane world, so that secrecy has become impossible in some countries, after some hundred thousands of pamphlets had been published containing the rituals of all symbolical and high degrees. All booksellers supply them on the Continent, and I have no doubt in England too. This horrid oath also rendered our Society suspicious in the eyes of governments, that used to say with truth that no oaths of *this* kind were requisite to profess such sublime principles as those laid down in our laws; that it was to be presumed that aspirations of a very questionable character were hidden under the cloak of humanity, charity, and education. But in order to attain some of our humane objects, we do certainly want a member to pledge his *word of honour* not to communicate to strangers anything taking place in the lodge, without the acquiescence of the lodge, and to such a pledge nobody can object. The rectification of the oath should not, therefore, be looked upon as an enormity. Scripture itself says, "Let your communication be yea, yea; nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these, cometh of evil."

As regards the admission to lodges, it should be borne in mind that some persons who have, for a certain reason, been refused in one lodge, apply for admission into another. We often see them, having been turned away at the door, walking in through the window. There ought to be a general law for the Fraternity, that every candidate for admission should formally declare not to have ever before applied to any other lodge, and that no lodge in A should admit anyone from B without the previous assent of the lodge in B. Persons who have been repelled here on one day, we find a few months later walking in as visitors, with European diplomas in their pockets. This irregularity, I have no doubt, might easily be put a stop to.

As regards the mode of promotion, grave objections are urged in many lodges. The adherents of reform wish promotions to be awarded gratuitously, as honorary distinctions of prominent merit, either for special labour for the benefit of the lodge, or for good works done in public, or for excellent moral conduct. In the ancient stonemasons' corporations no man was admitted as an F.C. or an M.M. without being possessed of a superior knowledge of the art.

Should promotions take place with us, without a full previous knowledge of the moral and intellectual importance of the respective degree? We are, therefore, of opinion that the shortest interval should be five months for raising to the degree of F.C., and seven months for the degree of M.M., but, as a rule, a full year should elapse between two several promotions.

We should also wish a better agreement to be arrived at with reference to signs, watchwords, and grips. It is highly inconvenient in Easts like those of the Levant, where there are lodges of all systems at work, that there should be so much variation in the most requisite means of recognition that we get into the greatest confusion as to the degrees of the various brethren. An agreement between the respective authorities might readily bring about this most desirable uniformity.

As regards the mental cultivation to be fostered in the lodges, it is the wish of the friends of reform that the labours should not consist only in initiations, promotions, and dinners; every initiation, promotion, or Masonic festival should be endowed with an intellectual character by means of some instructive lecture, and thus the collapse and mental stagnation prevented to which many lodges are reduced by the mere mechanical recital of rituals and "Mason making." It is a very general complaint among brethren that since their initiation they have never received any authentic information on the history of the Craft, any proper explanation of the rituals, and that, notwithstanding their Mastership, they know so little about matters Masonic (save signs, watchwords, and grips), that they become discouraged and keep aloof. We have so many eminent Masonic authors, and enjoy such an excellent periodical literature, that even the most overworked W.M. might do a little more in the direction pointed out. I do not mean to say by this that every lodge should cultivate philosophical *réveries*; the kind of mental labour to be performed would depend on the choice of the majority of the members. A lodge consisting of authors will require a different kind of instructive entertainment than one whose members belong chiefly to the military, commercial, or industrial professions. Surely our literature is rich enough in useful and beautiful books to bestow some intellectual charms and attractions upon our labours. Let Bros. read only Bro. Oliver's "Freemason's Treasury," and they will admit that the *tendencies* of the adherents of reform are not so very devoid of objects and purpose.

As regards the appointment of officials, we object to the too frequent re-elections, not to speak of permanent appointments, as practised in some lodges. This grievance hardly applies to our English brethren in most of whose lodges there exists the laudable habit of renewing the lists of officials once every year. It is to be hoped that this practice will soon become general.

With us there still exist difficulties in the relations between the Grand Lodges and working lodges. The present practice is that each lodge appoints a representative residing at the seat of the Grand Lodge, whose duty it is to attend at the quarterly communications. The reformers want, besides the latter, an annual and general meeting to which each working lodge would have to depute a direct repre-

sentative to advise with the others on special occurrences, propound the views of the individual lodges, prevent excesses of authority on the part of the Grand Lodges, facilitate a better understanding between the Grand Lodges and their "daughter lodges," and reduce the very extensive correspondence by means of friendly personal intercourse. This proposal was at first by no means agreeable to our Grand Lodges, but it has since gained ground, and its realisation may be considered fully secured at present. The mutual relations have assumed a more favourable aspect in various parts.

The amalgamation of the German Grand Lodges into a "General German Masonic Grand Lodge Union" is a matter of special interest to us alone, and its realisation a question of time. Most German Grand Lodges are favourable to the idea; but there are many other influences at work to prevent its realisation, most of the smaller Governments objecting to it on political grounds, on account of its tending to further also the unity of public life. However, it is to be hoped that this view will soon become obsolete. As an indispensable preliminary step, it would yet be necessary that the Prussian Grand Lodges rescind their illiberal and un-Masonic regulation, excluding all non-Christians from the Fraternity.

The position of the Masonic press in Germany is likewise a question merely of internal policy. Some Grand Lodges want to prevent the publication of lectures, reports, reviews, &c., in Masonic periodicals without previous authorisation, to which supererogation we naturally object, considering as we do the press as the organ of public conscience and means of general control, guarding against abuse of power and excess of authority.

In a future letter I shall request your permission to review those points of our programme in which our English brethren are at issue with us, viz., the question of the high degrees, of atheism, and the place of the Bible in the lodge.

Yours fraternally,

A GERMAN MASON IN TURKEY.

Constantinople, July, 1866.

AN INSURANCE RETROSPECT.—The public are now so much accustomed to the association of "success" with the name of the Royal Insurance Company, that the results of business disclosed in the report read at the annual meeting of the shareholders, which has just taken place, will not create any surprise, however much call there might be for that feeling, if the energy and prudence exercised in the conduct of its affairs were not already known so well! It appears that during the year 1865, in the life branch, an amount of business was rejected as ineligible, which would have formed a striking augmentation to the transactions of any smaller company, being no less than £189,000 of amount proposed. The sum actually accepted for new assurances on lives during the twelve months was over £880,000; while in the fire department, the net premiums were £414,000. The losses in this branch were heavy, in common with those of all other offices, but a profit of over £9,000 was made on the whole fire business for the year, and a dividend and bonus of 7s. per share (or 17½ per cent. on the original shares) was divided as usual during the last few years, leaving not only a large reserve fund, but also a large undivided balance still in the profit and loss accounts.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

PROVINCE OF BERKS AND BUCKS.—Agreeably to the announcement, which will be found in our advertising columns a Provincial Grand Lodge meeting will, by command of the R.W.A. Prov. G.M. Bro. Æ. J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, be held in the Masonic Hall, Reading, on Thursday next, the 23rd inst. at 12 noon. We refer our readers to our advertising columns for the programme of the proceedings. The following is an outline of the business to be transacted as per the Agenda Paper, viz.: To confirm the Minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held on the 23rd of May, 1865. To elect Provincial Grand Treasurer. Appointment and Investment of Provincial Grand Officers. Presentation of the Charity Jewel (instituted by H.R.H. the late Duke of Sussex, M.W.G.M) to Bros. J. Blandy, Jenkins, and J. Devereux. To receive the report of the Finance Committee. Notice of Motion by Bro. Biggs, P.M., 1,101. That the Provincial Grand Chaplain be requested to write a letter of condolence to the widow of the late esteemed brother, W. H. Hole, the S.G.W. of the Province, to express the sympathy of the Grand Lodge on her bereavement and the loss the province has sustained by the death of so worthy a brother.

At the quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, held at Edinburgh on the 6th instant, a communication from the R.W. Brother D. Murray Lyon, regarding the probable date of the Second Charter granted by the Scottish Craft to Sir William St. Clair was read and ordered to be printed in the forthcoming annual circular; and the Grand Secretary was instructed to convey to Brother Lyon the thanks of the Grand Lodge for his interesting paper.

METROPOLITAN.

DORIC LODGE (No. 933).—The summer festival of this lodge took place at Bro. Bennyfield's, the Crown Inn, Broxbourne, on the 8th inst. The resources of this establishment as a place to spend a happy day among the beautiful gardens are too well known to be mentioned here. The dinner, which was of the usual *vécherché* style, was served in the pavilion in the garden to a very select party, and presided over by Bro. W. Gilchrist, W.M. assisted by Bro. Robottom, S.W., and Bro. T. J. Barnes, sen., J.W. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts the W.M. proposed "The Health of the Ladies," remarking that he considered it their due to obtain such a recognition among the early toasts and not defer it until the brethren were departing. He was very proud to see around him such a goodly number of the wives, sisters, and sweethearts of Freemasons, because he thought it does good to the cause of Freemasonry that the gentler sex should share the delights of the brethren on every festive occasion. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm. Song—"Lovely woman," by Bro. Saqui. Bro. George Roberts, of the Yarbro' Lodge (554), in rising to return thanks for the ladies observed that for the nonce the W.M. and brethren would please to imagine him a lady, and in that character he begged on behalf of himself and sister to thank the W.M. and brethren for the kind way in which they had drunk their health; that the ladies would always be very happy to come to a Masonic banquet, especially if it had the charm of being partaken of among flowers. The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bro. Veny, of the Yarbro' Lodge (554) in a neat speech, expressive of the gratification he felt at being among the Doric brethren, and trusted he might be enabled to do likewise upon their next festival. The health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Scurr,

P.M., in his usual emphatic and terse manner. He said that the Doric had a Master who had been trained well in Freemasonry; who had served all the inferior offices, and was a proper and duly qualified Master to preside over the lodge, and he (Bro. Scurr) was very happy to say so, and he called upon the brethren to drink his health. Song—"The Englishman," Bro. Scurr. The W.M. in returning thanks, said he was deeply grateful for the compliment paid him, and especially for the way in which Bro. Scurr had proposed his health. It was true that he had filled all the inferior offices in the lodge before he was Master, which fact he considered not only necessary, but in every case should be the standard of a good working Mason, fit to preside over the business of a lodge. He was proud of being the Master of the Doric, and particularly upon this occasion being honoured as he was by so very smiling ladies; and in conclusion he hoped to be with the brethren upon many occasions, both at the lodge and at the banquet table, and he trusted he should always have the same good feeling extended towards him as upon the present occasion. Song—"Bonnie Dundee," by Bro. Robotom. The health of the P.M.'s, Bros. Hawkins and Scurr, was next proposed, and in doing so the W.M. was sorry that Bro. Hawkins was unavoidably absent. The brethren all knew and appreciated Bro. Hawkins as a worthy brother; but he (the W.M.) was happy to say he had Bro. Scurr sitting smiling between two ladies, looking the very picture of enjoyment. The brethren all knew Bro. Scurr, and what he had achieved for the Doric during his Mastership; for Bro. Scurr he had the most sincere and brotherly regard it was possible for one man to have for another. He had no hesitation in saying that the difficulties Bro. Scurr had gone through in the lodge, and ultimately surmounted, had entitled him to the esteem and respect of the whole of the brethren of the lodge, and to him the W.M. in particular, as he was Bro. Scurr's successor in the chair, and he was glad upon the present occasion of saying this of Bro. Scurr, and to wish him long life and prosperity. Song—"The wolf," Bro. Lea. Bro. Scurr thanked the W.M., and the brethren on behalf of Bro. Hawkins and himself for drinking their health, and stated, as the reason of Bro. Hawkins' absence that he had to attend a funeral, and hoped as the W.M. had said, to be with them many years to come. The health of Bro. Bennyfield was next drunk, and responded to. The health of the officers of the lodge was responded to by the S.W., and he hoped that the officers would be always well up to the mark, and endeavour to merit the encomium of the W.M. It should be added that the ladies, among whom were Mrs. Lea and Misses Barnes and Stevens, contributed greatly to the enjoyment of all present by the exercise of their vocal powers.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND.

INSTRUCTION.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge* (No. 310).—On Tuesday, the 14th inst., a lodge of instruction, in connection with the parent lodge, was held at the Freemason's Hall. Brethren present: Bros. G. Somerville, as W.M.; F. W. Hayward, P.M., as I.P.M. and Dir. of Cers.; W. H. Pulford, as S.W.; J. Brown, P.M., J.W.; B. H. Southcott, 123, as S.D.; J. B. Paisley, as J.D.; G. G. Hayward, I.G.; T. Storey, Tyler; also Bros. W. Irwin, J. Gibson, A. Woodhouse. The lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., after which he put round the test questions in the first degree, and Bro. W. H. Pulford worked the first section of the same degree. The evening was enlivened by the vocal powers of Bros. Southcott, 123, J. Gibson, and J. B. Paisley. The usual Masonic and loyal toasts were given; the health of Bro. Southcott, as visiting member, was proposed, and he returned thanks in a feeling manner. The Tyler's toast brought this happy evening to an end, and all parted in harmony.

DURHAM.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.

Opening of Wear Lodge Valley (No. 1,121).

This lodge was opened on the 6th inst., in the Savings' Bank by the R.W. Prov. G.M. Bro. John Fawcett, Bro. Sir H. Williamson, *Bart.*, *M.P.*, acting as D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Rev. John Cundill as, Prov. G. Chap.; Joseph Dodds, of Stockton as

Prov. G.S.W.; E. Waldy, Prov. G.J.W.; B. Levy, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; George Greenwell, Prov. G.S. as I.G.

The ceremony of consecration was most beautifully and solemnly gone through by the R.W. Prov. G.M., and Bro. Candill delivered a most excellent and eloquent oration on the principles and practice of the virtues which Freemasonry teaches. Bro. Joseph Nicholson, of Durham, the W.M. designate was duly installed as first Master and he appointed and invested the following brethren officers for the ensuing year, viz:—Bros. G. Carey, S.W.; T. B. Thwaites, J.W.; J. M. de Lacy, Treas.; Geo. Stillman, Sec.; John Proud, S.D.; Henry Kilburn, J.D.; Pickard, I.G.

The musical part of the programme was very efficiently rendered by Bros. J. Walkes, D. Lambert, and C. J. Simpson of Durham.

The lodge was comfortably filled with brethren from various parts, every seat that had been provided being occupied. The whole of the Masonic paraphernalia are of first class workmanship and design. The carpet, which is of Masonic device was manufactured by Messrs. Henderson and Co., of Durham.

After the lodge was closed the brethren adjourned to the Town Hall, where upwards of sixty sat down to a sumptuous banquet. The W.M. Bro. J. Nicholson, P.M. 124, and P. Pov. J.G.D., in the chair, supported right and left by Bros. J. Fawcett, Prov. G.M.; Sir H. Williamson, *Bart.*, *M.P.*, Prov. G.W.; Rev. J. Cundill, P.M., Prov. G. Treas.; James Dodds, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.W.; Wm. Stoker, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.W.; E. Waldy, *P.M.*, Prov. J.G.W.; B. Levy, *P.M.*, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Dr. Kirk, *P.M.*, P. Prov. G.J.W.; Rev. F. Thompson, P. Prov. G. Chap.; G. R. Bulman, Chap., 124; George Greenwell, of Durham, Prov. G. Sec.; R. Farrell, of Richmond, &c. Bro. Dr. Canney, S.W., 1,121, occupied the vice-chair.

After dinner "Non Nobis Domine" was sung, and the toasts followed interspersed with song and and glee. The brethren dispersed about seven o'clock, highly gratified with the day's proceedings.

DURHAM.—*Marquis of Granby Lodge* (No. 124).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, on the 7th inst. under the presidency of Bro. W. R. Mitz-Gerald, 18°. Amongst the officers present were Bros. W. Stoker, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W.; W. Brignall, P.M., P. Prov. G. Reg.; J. Nicholson, P.M., W.M. 1,121, P. Prov. J.G.D.; Rev. G. R. Bulman, M.A. Chap., &c., &c. The lodge was opened in the first degree and the minutes of the last general lodge read and confirmed. Bro. W. Howe, having duly served his term of apprenticeship, underwent the usual examination, and having acquitted himself satisfactorily he withdrew. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when he was re-admitted and passed to a F.C. Bro. W. Carr, being a candidate for raising, and having been examined in the usual manner, and shown his proficiency retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the third degree, after which he was introduced and raised to the sublime degree of M.M. In consequence of several brethren failing to present themselves in due course, the last-mentioned ceremony concluded the business of the evening. The lodge was closed in the several degrees with harmony and with prayer, after which the brethren adjourned to refreshment and spent the remainder of the evening very agreeably.

HAMPSHIRE.

LYMINGTON.—*New Forest Lodge* (No. 319).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 14th inst. Bro. Rankin Stebbing, W.M., in the Chair, who having initiated the son of the then immediate P.M. Bro. John Milner, proceeded to instal his successor, Bro. William Waterman as W.M. for the ensuing year, the lodge being honoured with the presence of Bro. A. H. Weston, W.M., of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, the Rev. Dr. Bradshaw, D.D., and other brethren from Southampton. Bro. P.M. Stebbing, on his retirement from the chair, received a special vote of thanks for his past services and also for the present to the lodge of a valuable old Masonic snuff-box, formerly belonging to some distinguished Lymington Masons, and now nearly 100 years old.

KENT.

It will be very satisfactory to the brethren generally to learn of the progress which Freemasonry continues to make in this province. Not only have three new lodges been consecrated in

the province this year, but it is highly satisfactory to learn that the sum of nearly £200 was given to our various Masonic Charities upon the occasion of the last Provincial Grand Meeting held at Sheerness, on the 18th ult., under the presidency of the Prov. G.M., Lord Viscount Holmesdale, M.P. The exact amount is £193 2s., being made up and voted as follows, viz. :— From the Charity Fund, to constitute the undermentioned lodges governors of the Aged Masons' Asylum, Erith, Lodge 615, £20; Sidcup, 829, £20; of the Boys' School, Sheerness, £21; Ramsgate, 429, £21; Dover, 199, £21; Maidstone, 503, £21; and from the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund, was voted to the Girls' School £52 10s.; half of the sum collected at the church was given to the Sheerness National Schools, the other half to the Masonic Boys' School, £16 12s.; total £193 2s. We have pleasure in giving publicity to the pleasing fact of the contribution by the brethren of the province of so much money, in aid of our Charities, and trust it may serve as a stimulus to some of the other Provincial Grand Lodges to go and do likewise.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

LIVERPOOL.—*Temple Lodge* (No. 1,094).—This lodge was opened in due form by the W.M. Bro. Richard H. D. Johnson, assisted by his officers, Bros. Johnson, S.W.; Smith, J.W.; Sheldon, S.D.; Winstanley, as J.D.; Marsh, P.M. Sec.; Woods, Treas., &c. Visitors: Bros. Jones, W.M., 249; Lunt, W.M. of the Everton Lodge; Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., &c., &c. Mr. Boucher was duly initiated into Freemasonry. The charge was given by the S.W. and the lecture on tools by J.W. in a very impressive manner. Bro. Richard Danson was raised to the degree of a M. Mason in the W. Master usual impressive way. The lodge was then closed to first degree. A gentleman was proposed for initiation. Bro. Smith, J.W., on behalf of Bro. Woods, Treas., presented to the W.M. a very beautiful portrait in oil in gold frame as a memorial of his (Bro. Johnson) being the first W.M. of the Temple Lodge. Bro. Smith said he had a very pleasing duty to perform, it was to propose the health of their W.M., who had the esteem and affection of all who know him; all could bear testimony to the zeal in the cause of Freemasonry and the devotion of Bro. Johnson, during his mastership to the duties of his office in cultivating the moral and social virtues, and carrying out those principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth, not only in letter but in the spirit. Bro. Smith then handed to Bro. Johnson a very beautiful portrait of himself in oil, having the following inscription, "Presented to Bro. R. H. D. Johnson, first W.M. of the Temple Lodge as a slight recognition of his services to Masonry in general, Aug. 8, 1866." Bro. Smith hoped in common with his brethren, that Bro. Johnson may be long with them and enjoy health, and that it may be an heirloom to his family for many generations. The W.M. Bro. Johnson, in very feeling and appropriate terms, thanked Bro. Wood for the honour he conferred upon him, and having been taken by surprise, he trusted they would make some allowance for the state his mind and feeling at the present time, for it was a state of pleasure, surprise, and gratitude. Bro. Johnson again thanked them, and resumed his seat evidently much affected. Thanks were voted to Bro. Wood, Treas., for his gift on behalf of the lodge. The brethren then enjoyed themselves with song, sentiment, and toast, and the greatest harmony prevailed until 10 o'clock, when they parted happy to meet again.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAATER OF ENGLAND.

A quarterly convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter was held at the Freemason's Hall on the 1st inst.

Present: Comps. J. Havers, J., as Z.; F. Pattison, P.N., as H.; G. W. K. Potter, P.P. Soj., as J.; E. S. Snell, Sword Bearer; A. Holman, Standard Bearer; A. Walls, Dir. of Cers.; B. Head, P.G.S.B.; N. Bradford, P. Dir. of Cers.; W. E. Walmisley, P.G.J.B.; G. Cox, P.G.S.B.; and J. Smith, P.G. Dir. of Cers. Comp. W. Young, P.G. Dir. of Cers., on the dais.

The report of the Committee of General Purposes was brought and read; it as follows:—

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 17th April to the 17th July, 1866, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:

	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
To balance 17th April		359	3	6
„ Subsequent receipts		285	1	6
		£644	5	0
	Dr.	£.	s.	d.
By Purchase of £300—3 per Cent Consols ..		261	7	6
„ Disbursements during the Quarter ...		139	4	4
		390	11	10
„ Balance		250	13	2
		£641	5	0

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

The committee have also to report that they have received the following petitions, namely:—

1stly. From Comps. H. Carrigg, as Z.; S. P. Bidder, as H.; G. F. East, as J.; and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Alexandria Lodge, No. 993, Levenshulme, near Manchester, to be called the Alexandria Chapter, to meet at the Mile House, Levenshulme, on the third Wednesday in each alternate month.

2ndly. From Comps. S. Percy, as Z.; D. Morris, as H.; E. Nathan, as J., and seven others for a chapter to be attached to the Derby Lodge, No. 1055, Cheetham, Lancashire, to be called the Derby Chapter, to meet at the Waterloo Hotel, Cheetham, Lancashire on the first Tuesday in each alternate month.

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

The committee have also to report, that they have had under their consideration a resolution passed by the United Grand Lodge at the quarterly communication, holden on Wednesday, the 6th June last, proposing to abolish the practice of paying the Grand Secretary, the clerks employed in his office, and the Grand Tyler, separate salaries from those paid by the Supreme Grand Chapter to the brethren by whom the office business relating to the Royal Arch is performed, and inviting the Grand Chapter to pay one-sixth of the salaries proposed to be paid according to the following scale: viz.—

The salary of the Grand Secretary to commence at £450 to increase to £600.

The salary of the First Clerk to commence at £200 to increase to £350.

The salary of the Second Clerk to commence at £150 to increase to £200.

The salary of the Third and Fourth Clerks to commence at £100 to increase to £150.

Your committee have well considered this proposal and finding that the sum now paid for office work by the Grand Chapter approximates very closely the proportion proposed to be paid, recommend for the adoption of the Grand Chapter the following resolution—"That in future the Supreme Grand Chapter, instead of paying separate salaries to the Grand Scribe E., the clerks in the office, and the Grand Janitor, shall pay one-sixth of the salaries fixed by the Grand Lodge to be hereafter paid to the Grand Secretary and his clerks, and the Grand Tyler."

Your committee have lastly to report, they have investigated a complaint preferred by a member of the Oriental Chapter, No. 687, Constantinople, against the First Principal of the said Chapter, for alleged irregularities. The circumstances of the case are as follow:—It appears from the statement made by the complainant, which is to a considerable extent corroborated by the explanation of the First Principal, that a meeting of the chapter was held on the 29th day of March last, when it was intended to ballot for and exalt certain candidates who had been proposed at a previous meeting of the chapter held on the 1st day of March. That on the ballot being taken for the first candidate he was rejected. That the Z., in accordance with some arrangement that had been previously made, immediately adjourned the chapter; and the proceedings for that day were abruptly terminated. That two days afterwards, namely on the 31st of March, another meeting was held, respecting the manner of convening which, contradictory statements are made by the complainant and the first Principal; the former alleging that the companions were verbally called together, the latter on the contrary, affirming that summonses were sent to all the members, the complainant included. The brother who was

rejected on the 29th, as well as the other candidates who had not been ballotted for at that meeting, were then ballotted for and exalted.

Your committee are of opinion that the First Principal had no power to adjourn the meeting of the 29th March and to call the companions together two days afterwards; and that consequently all the proceedings of the 31st March are irregular, and the exaltations that then took place void. That the omission to record on the minutes the result of the ballot on the 29th March is a serious irregularity, and that the conferring the degree of a Royal Arch Mason on the 31st of March on the brother who had been rejected on the 29th, is deserving of the gravest censure.

The committee have refrained from inflicting on the chapter the full amount of punishment merited, but they have on this occasion censured and reprimanded the Principals and cautioned them to be more careful for the future. They wish, however, to draw the attention of the Grand Chapter to the series of irregularities that have been committed by this chapter from its first establishment in 1863. Since this period its proceedings have several times been brought under the notice of, and been severely censured by Grand Chapter; and your committee fear that the feeling that has hitherto been shown will, if continued, render it necessary for Grand Chapter to adopt severe measures with reference to this continually offending chapter.—(Signed) WM. PULTENY SCOTT, President.

The several petitions above-mentioned were granted; and the resolution of the committee, based upon the resolution of the United Grand Lodge at the quarterly communication of June last, proposing to abolish the practice of paying the Grand Secretary, the clerks employed in his office, and the Grand Tyler, separate salaries from those paid by the Supreme Grand Chapter to the brethren by whom the office business relating to the Royal Arch is performed, and inviting the Grand Chapter to pay one-sixth of the Salaries proposed to be paid according to the scale above quoted, was also carried.

With reference to the complaint preferred by a member of the Oriental Chapter, No. 687, Constantinople, no action was taken on this, but Comp. Pulman, P.Z., of 687, explained the peculiar situation of the chapter at some length.

PANMURE LODGE.—The usual quarterly convocation of this chapter was held on Monday, the 18th inst., at the Loughboro' Hotel, Brixton, under the presidency of Comp. Stevens, M.E.Z. Comps. Nunn, H.; and Thomas, J. Comp. Levander, of Chapter 76, was admitted a joining member, and Bros. Smetzer and Ramsay, both of Lodge No. 720, were duly exalted to the R.A. degree. At the banquet which followed the business of the chapter, the M.E.Z. proposed the loyal and R.A. toasts in his usual effective manner, after which his own health was proposed by Comp. Reid, P.Z., and suitably acknowledged. Comp. Ramsay returned thanks on behalf of the newly-exalted companions; and at the request of the M.E.Z., Comp. Hodges, P.S., proposed "The Health of the Newly-accepted joining Member," for which Comp. Levander expressed his thanks. A very pleasant evening was passed, several of the companions having contributed greatly by their vocal strains to ensure that result.

HAMPSHIRE.

LYMINGTON.—*New Forest Chapter* (No. 319).—A Royal Arch chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, the 14th inst., M.E.Z. Rankin Stebbing, Z., presiding, and he was re-elected for the ensuing year. Comps. J. Milner was elected H.; and the Rev. Dr. Bradshaw, P.Z., as J. The members of the lodge and chapter joined in a most agreeable banquet in the evening, many distant brethren meeting together on the beautiful borders of the New Forest.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CONSECRATION OF THE CHAPTER OF CONCORD, ATTACHED TO THE ZETLAND LODGE (No. 608), FORT BEAUFORT.

The great success and careful management which has attended the Zetland Lodge since its foundation in 1853, induced its members to petition the Supreme Grand Chapter of England to grant a warrant for holding a Royal Arch Chapter, which charter was obtained a few months ago, and on Thursday, the 24th of May (Her Majesty's birthday), the consecration and installation of the principals took place. These duties were most ably performed by Comp. Board, Chapter 711, M.E.Z., assisted by Comps. Fairbridge and Hume, of Chapter 711, Levey, Street,

Nettleton, and Ball, who kindly came from a great distance to conduct these imposing ceremonies.

At 10 a.m. the chair of Z. was assumed by Comp. Board, supported by Comps. Hume as H., and Fairbridge as J.; and the M.E.Z. called upon Comp. Painter to read the warrant of constitution.

The principals were then duly installed, after which six brethren of Lodge 608, viz., Bros. T. Ward, P.M.; J. P. Pearson, W.M.; H. Wienand, Sec.; W. Estmont, Treas.; W. C. Henman, S.W.; and J. Vigne, Dir. of Cers., were exalted by the visiting principals, the ceremony being most creditably performed. The greatest credit reflects on Comp. Board for the masterly manner in which he went through this arduous task, for those who are acquainted with Royal Arch Masonry will know that it is no easy task to consecrate a chapter, and also to perform three distinct installations, and six exaltations. Our grateful thanks are due to all the companions who came from a great way to assist us.

Three other brethren of Lodge 608 were subsequently exalted by the newly-installed principals, viz., Bros. Blakeway, S.W., Story, and Niland.

In the evening the companions and several brethren dined together at Bro. Bishop's, who deserves great credit for the manner in which the repast was furnished. The usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts were duly honoured.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

ESSEX.

ROMFORD.—*Temple Crossing Encampment*.—At a meeting of this rapidly advancing encampment, holden at the Field of Encampment, White Hart Hotel, on Friday, the 19th instant, the Registrar, Sir Knt. Farran, P.E.C., in a most impressive manner, installed Comp. H. F. Smith of the Royal York Chapter, No. 7; Sir Knt. F. W. Mitchell, 2nd Captain, ably assisting as Prelate. Several propositions for installation at the November meeting were received; among the visitors we noticed Sir Knt. Major Du Cane, and the members were much gratified by the presence of Sir Knt. Capt. Biron, just returned from foreign service. Altogether the meeting was of a gratifying character. The Sir Knts. afterwards adjourned to their banquet room, from which, after a most excellent dinner, they retired in peace and goodwill.

INDIA.

BOMBAY.

LODGE CONCORD, No. 757.

A regular meeting of this well conducted and flourishing lodge was held on the 16th June, Bro. Dr. Thomas Diver, I.P.M. acting as W.M.; Rev. J. J. Farnham, P.M.; Bro. E. Parker, S.W.; T. Proud, J. W.; J. Thomas, Treas. and Org.; H. Prescott, Sec.; H. Freeman, S.D.; H. E. Gabeler, J.D.; J. Powell, I.G.; J. Jones, Tyler. There was a numerous attendance of the members of the lodge and of visiting brethren.

The lodge having been properly tyled, was opened in the first degree. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed.

Bro. Rev. J. J. Farnham was then elected an honorary member of the lodge. Bro. Farnham in a few words returned thanks for the high honour conferred on him by the brethren.

The ballot was taken for Bros. D. Campbell and R. Taylor as joining members, and the result in each case was announced clear.

The ballot was next taken for Messrs. W. Bainbridge and R. S. Edington, as candidates for initiation, and the result was announced in each case clear. Messrs. Bainbridge and Edington being in attendance, were introduced properly prepared and initiated in due and ancient form into the secrets and privileges of our holy Order.

The lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bros. T. McPherson and A. S. Moorehouse were examined as to their proficiency as Fellow Craftsmen, and having satisfactorily acquitted themselves, were passed out for preparation. In the

interim the lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bros. Moorehouse and McPherson were re-admitted properly prepared and duly raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons.

The lodge was then lowered to the second and first degree.

Bro. Diver rose and said: Brethren, I have a most pleasing duty to perform this evening; indeed, it is the pleasure of honouring a very worthy and highly esteemed brother of this lodge; one who has worked with zeal for the good of Lodge Concord for years past; I allude to our worthy and indefatigable Secretary Bro. H. Prescott. The brethren, to mark the high sense of their esteem and fraternal regard for him, had voted a jewel, which came to my hands by the last mail; I have brought it with me, and shall now, with your permission, present the same to Bro. Prescott. I hope there are still better things in store for him. The W.M. then requested Bro. Prescott to advance to the dais, and presenting him with the jewel, addressed him thus: Bro. Prescott, I am happy to be the medium of handing you this jewel, unanimously voted by the brethren of this lodge, and can conscientiously say that you have well earned this honour; for, to my own knowledge, you have truly worked hard for Concord; the brethren, I know, will agree with me when I say that for the two years that I was in the eastern chair, the prosperity and success of this lodge was in a great measure due to your exertions. I hope and trust that you will be long spared to be at your post amongst us, and that the blessing of God may be with you.

Bro. Prescott after having been saluted by the brethren rose, and said:—Worshipful Bro. Diver and brethren all, I am overpowered with all the kindness I have received from you, but more especially that of this evening, my heart is so full that I find it difficult to express my thanks as adequately as I could wish. I regret the absence from this meeting of two worthy and distinguished brethren, I allude to Bro. A. King P.M., and Bro. H. Wickham, the Master of this lodge; for the former proposed the presenting of this jewel to me, and the latter seconded the proposition, and which was so kindly and unanimously carried by the brethren of this lodge. However, I am proud and thankful to see Bro. Diver in the chair, for it was under this worthy brother that I had served as Secretary for two years. It is true that the duties of Secretary of such a large Lodge as Concord are hard, but I confess that in performing these duties I never looked forward for a reward; it was a labour of love, I never thought of receiving such a valuable gift for those labours. I now feel doubly bound to Lodge Concord and to the brethren who take such an interest in it. The prosperity of the lodge cannot be attributed to my humble efforts; we had able Worshipful Masters and officers to work for us, and above all the cordial support of the brethren; it is to this that we owe the prosperity of this lodge. The jewel presented to me tonight I shall prize most highly. I hope my conduct in after life will be such that it will prove to the brethren that the good of Lodge Concord has ever been my aim. If in the discharge of my duty I have unwittingly given offence to any brother, let him remember, "to err is human, to forgive divine." I have to thank the brethren individually for the kindness evinced towards me whenever I have called on them. I must now conclude by saying that I feel deeply grateful to the brethren for the kindness of this evening, which will never be effaced from my memory to the longest day I am spared. This jewel will be a valuable heir-loom in my family, and my children will look on it with feelings of pride and satisfaction. May Lodge Concord continue to flourish; may brotherly love be the predominant feeling of the brethren towards each other; may love, peace, and joy be always within these walls; and may God bless you and yours.

Bro. Prescott then said he had a most mournful duty to perform, it was to inform the brethren that a worthy brother who had joined this lodge last month was now no more; he alluded to Bro. Capt. J. Miller, who was suddenly removed from this world to the Grand Lodge above at a moment's notice. He would propose that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of the departed brother, and to place a minute of condolence on the lodge books. The proposition was carried in solemn silence.

Bro. Prescott then brought forward the case of the widow of a brother of this lodge, and asked that the same be sent up for the consideration of the lodge. Committee ordered accordingly.

Bro. the Rev. J. J. Farnham then intimated that a brother of the lodge was on the bed of sickness, and as he was an old member, he would ask for the sympathy of the brethren; it was

then resolved to give that brother twenty-five rupees per month for three months.

The minutes of the Standing Committee were then read and confirmed.

Read and recorded the letter of Bro. Senior Warden to Bro. the Rev. J. J. Farnham on the subject of the Masonic Hall, and the reply thereto. Bro. Farnham then proposed that Bros. Dr. Diver and E. Parker should attend the meeting of the brethren who are about to open a new Masonic Hall, and that they should represent this lodge. Bro. Avron seconded the proposition.

Bro. Prescott said he was sorry that he could not agree to the proposition. He would, therefore, propose as an amendment, "That the members of Lodge Concord are of opinion that the rooms they occupy are quite suitable as lodge rooms, they have, therefore, no desire to leave the house now in their occupation." Bro. T. Proud seconded the amendment. After a great deal of discussion the Secretary asked that his amendment should be put to the brethren of the lodge; it was accordingly put, when there were found thirty-one for the amendment and four for the proposition.

Several gentlemen were then proposed for initiation and the meeting broke up in love and concord at 9 p.m.

LODGE STAR OF INDIA, No. 1,062.

The regular meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masonic Hall near Baboola Tank, on the 7th June. The chair of K.S. was occupied by Bro. W. C. Penson, W.M.; Rev. J. J. Farnham, P.M.; Bros. E. Keily, S.W.; F. D. Parker, J.W.; J. Thomas, Sec.; J. R. K. Johnson, Org.; H. Buks, S.D.; A. Swift, J.D.; W. S. Wetherell, I.G.; J. Duffy, Tyler, and a goodly muster of members and visiting brethren.

The lodge having been properly tyled was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed.

The first business before the meeting was to ballot for as an Honorary Member Bro. the Rev. J. J. Farnham. In a few words the Worshipful Master eulogised the important services rendered to Masonry in general, and to this lodge in particular. The ballot was then taken, and Bro. the Rev. J. J. Farnham was unanimously elected. Bro. Farnham in a neat speech returned thanks for the honour done him.

The Secretary read a letter which had been received from the District Grand Secretary on the subject of merging the Charity Funds of the various lodges into one Fund of Benevolence. Resolved, "That while the members of Lodge Star of India object to merging their Charity Fund entirely into that of the District Grand Lodge, they are willing to co-operate with the committee of the District Grand Lodge by subscribing such a portion of their Charity Fund as may be hereafter determined on, provided the other lodges join in the movement, and that Bro. Penson and Bro. Keily be the representatives of this lodge." The Secretary was directed to communicate the above resolution to the various lodges, and request them to favour him with their views on the subject.

The ballot was taken for Mr. H. G. Tippet, a candidate for initiation, which proving clear, and that gentleman being in attendance, he was admitted properly prepared and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry.

The question of the intended Masonic hall was brought forward, when it was resolved "that this lodge is willing to co-operate in the scheme for the formation of a Masonic hall, and that Bro. Penson and Bro. Keily be named as representatives of this lodge, with power to pledge this lodge to a fair proportion of the expenses." It was also proposed that the Scotch lodges be invited to join in the movement.

Rs. 25 were voted for a distressed brother.

The Secretary was requested to thank the editors of the "History of Freemasonry" and the "Indian Journal of Freemasonry" for the book which each had presented the lodge.

There being no other business before the lodge, it was closed in peace and harmony at 8 p.m.

CEYLON.

SPHINX LODGE,

This lodge met on June 23rd last, it being the eve of St. John's day, for the installation of Bro. Gorman, the W.M. elect. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, the minutes of the last ordinary and subsequent emergency meetings were

read and confirmed. All brethren who had not passed the chair having been called upon to retire, the installation ceremony was proceeded with, Bros. Maitland, Lorenz, Venn, Joseph, and Rains, P.M.'s, and Bro. Scott, W.M., assisting. On its conclusion the brethren present were re-admitted, and they saluted the chair according to ancient custom. After which, the following officers were invested:—

Bro. J. Maitland	I.P.M.
" H. M. Evans	S.W.
" C. Kriekenbeck	J.W.
" C. A. Lorenz	Treas.
" S. Griener	Sec.
" Dundas Mouat	S.D.
" O'Halloran	J.D.
" W.H. Herbert	I.G.
" Ludekens	Steward.
" Mitchell	Tyler.

The business of the evening having been gone through, the lodge was closed in love, peace, and harmony, and the brethren retired to the club room, where about forty sat down to an excellent supper, which the stewards had provided and which was served on three tables, at the upper end of which the new W.M. presided. Justice having been done to the fare, the chairman after drinking wine with his officers, rose to propose the first toast. It was one which nothing he could say would add any lustre to, or make more acceptable to the Masonic Craft. He was about to ask them to drink to one, every phase of whose life proved her possessed in an unusual degree of all the qualities that adorn woman; whether as a wife, as a mother, or as the Queen and ruler of the country which they were all proud to call their own. History did not tell them of a monarch whose life had been so pure, whose morals had been so strict, and the whole tenor of whose career had been so befitting as her's. He would give them "The Queen."

Song—"God save the Queen."

The "Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family" was then proposed, in fitting terms, from the chair, and Bros. Nicholls and Ephraims sang—

"God bless the Prince of Wales."

The Chairman said the toast he was now about to propose would particularly come home to the hearts of Masons, and it was one to which they could not do too much honour,—it was "The three Grand Masters and the Craft, pure and ancient." He considered it fortunate that they had at the head of the respective constitutions, two noblemen so distinguished for all Masonic virtues, and one private gentleman of high reputation and unblemished character. The Craft was ancient and pure, and he did most earnestly hope that every Mason would prove himself worthy of his membership therein, before the outward world. In a place like Ceylon especially, where there were many ready to jeer and scoff at Masonry, members should be careful not to give any occasion for misrepresentation of the Order. Then, and then only, would Masonry regain the position it once held in Ceylon. It was said that there were some brothers in the island who had not discovered themselves as such, but this was not a matter for regret, because, however high their social position might be, it would add nothing to the lustre of the Order, of which those present were humble members. In time past even governors had not thought it derogatory to their dignity to mingle with their Masonic brethren; and should the time ever again arrive when a governor of Ceylon would boast that he was a Mason, it would be particularly incumbent on all Masons so to act before the world that he should not have cause to feel ashamed of the connection. He proposed the health of the three distinguished members of English society, the three Grand Masters, who fulfilled all the conditions he would wish Masons in Ceylon to exhibit, and the Craft pure and ancient.

Bro. Maitland said it devolved upon him to propose what might be properly called the toast of the evening, and it was exceedingly fortunate for him that no introduction was necessary to insure a bumper being drunk to the health of the new brother, Captain Gorman, and prosperity to the Sphinx Lodge. Bro. Gorman was well known to all the members of the lodge for his zeal and ability as a Mason, and of his popularity they had a convincing proof in the large attendance of the brethren to celebrate his installation. He wished him every success as the ruler of the Sphinx, and concluded by calling upon

the brethren to drink "The health of their new Worshipful Master."

Bro Gorman, W.M., returned thanks and remarked that he had a true and heartfelt respect for every brother who acted up to the true principles of Masonry, but the Craft would not thrive in Ceylon whilst some brethren displayed lukewarmness, others coldness, and apathy on the subject, feelings which betrayed a want of knowledge of the real nature of Masonry. Fortunately, however, the Sphinx Lodge had passed the stage when it cared for additions to its numbers. It was a matter of indifference now whether others joined its ranks, though it would be of course a subject of congratulation when good men desired to join.

The chairman said he had one more toast that could not be passed over, "The health of the retiring W.M. and Officers." It was not often that a large lodge like the Sphinx could afford to re-elect its chief officer; it had been done in the case of Bro. Col. Maydwell, a very efficient and much respected Master, and it had been done again in the case of Bro. Maitland. The flourishing state of the lodge, which Bro. Maitland justly regarded as the reward of his labours, was the best proof that the confidence of the electing brethren had not been misplaced. There were few left in the island who knew Bro. Maitland so well as the speaker did, and it afforded him peculiar pleasure to have the opportunity of naming an old friend in connection with the toast.

Bro. Maitland returned thanks for the very complimentary terms in which he had been spoken of by Bro. Gorman, and the very cordial manner in which his name had been received by the brethren. The remarks of the W.M. had led him to consider there were two epochs in his life for which he would ever look with sincere pleasure. They were the time when he was called upon to partake in the glories of the Crimean war and the period he had filled the chair of the chief lodge in the island.

He was under a deep debt of gratitude to the brethren in general and to the officers in particular for the unqualified support and assistance he had uniformly received from them. He had promised to do his duty to the utmost of his skill and ability in the interests of the lodge, and he considered himself amply rewarded by their hearty appreciation of his services.

Bros. Ferdinands and Larkum returned thanks on behalf of the officers of the lodge.

Bro. Lorenz proposed the sister lodges of St. John and Serendib. It did not require a speech from him, he said, to ensure a cordial reception of the toast. St. John's was the oldest lodge in the island, and as such it deserved the sympathy of the Sphinx. It had originally existed under the Dutch constitution, and under the same name, and he, of all Masons present, had peculiar reason to think and speak kindly of St. John's, as his father had been initiated into Freemasonry in it. The Serendib was an offspring of the Sphinx, and he hoped the ties that bound the mother-lodge to the child-lodge would never be broken.

Bro. Bischoff returned thanks.

Bro. Ferdinands proposed "The Visitors."

Bro. Joseph, P.M., returned thanks.

The tyler's toast having been drunk in solemn silence, the brethren separated in peace and harmony at half-past eleven o'clock.

REVIEWS.

The Bards and Authors of Cleveland and South Durham and the Vicinage. By GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL, F.S.A. Scot, &c., &c. London: John Russell Smith, 36, Soho-square. Manchester: Abel Heywood, Oldham-street.

The fourth part of Bro. Tweddell's work has reached us, and it is quite equal in interest to the preceding numbers.

It contains the biographies of Francis Mewburn, a local celebrity, and a man of considerable culture, as well as philanthropy; of Lionel Charlton, author of *The History of Whitby, and of Whitby Abbey, collected from the Original Records of the Abbey, and other Authentic Memoirs, never before made public*; and of John Jackson, of Rudby, a celebrated classical and mathematical teacher, as well as a poet of no inconsiderable standing.

We can imagine that this work must possess great interest for those dwelling in the neighbourhood in which the personages, whose names are chronicled therein, lived and moved. It has, moreover, an abiding interest for those, wherever scattered, who devote themselves to the study of archæological lore.

The Stream of English Masonry, depicting, at one glance, the Rise and Progress of Freemasonry in England, and exhibiting, in Chronological Order, the Most Remarkable Events from its Introduction to the Present Time. Dedicated to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England, by JOHN PEARSON BELL, M.D., D.Prov.G.M. for the N. and E. Ridings of Yorkshire. (Published by the Author, Waverley House, Hull.)

It gives us much pleasure to inform our readers that this work, the draft of which we noticed in our number of December 2nd, 1865, has at length been brought to light. "The Stream of English Masonry" forms a chart of about 6ft. in height by 2ft. 3in. in width. It gives, in a manner similar to the usual "streams of history," a graphic representation of the rise and progress of the Institution of Freemasonry in this country. A short introductory account of the origin and development of the Masonic art, from the erection of Solomon's Temple to the termination of the second Temple in Jerusalem, precedes the diagram. The latter commences from the arrival of Julius Cæsar in Britain, shows the gradual development of the Masonry, assisted by various *tributaries*, down to Queen Elizabeth's time, exhibits the career of the York Grand Lodge, then the *bifurcation* of the Masonic family in consequence of the schism of 1739, and its reunion in 1813, with indication of the progress of the Royal Arch. A broad and steadily widening course of water represents "the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England" in its present state. The name of the Grand Master for each successive year, from 1567 to 1866, appears in its respective place. The succinct record of important events in the various periods, given by the side of the "stream," forms a kind of skeleton history of Freemasonry. After a careful examination of Bro. Bell's work, we have come to the conclusion that it is fully equal to the object for which it was designed. The author has succeeded in making the Chart *self-explanatory*, whilst it is calculated by its pictorial character readily to convey to the mind the rise and course of English Freemasonry. Although some rather bold assertions of Masonic authors are incorporated in the tabulated data, we find that almost the whole of the facts recorded in the "stream" are as reliable as the sources from which they are derived may warrant. The style in which this chart is executed is most excellent. The heading as well as the *tout ensemble* bear a truly Masonic character; it is chiefly adorned by some very neat chromo-lithographic views of York Minster, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Boys' and the Girls' Schools, and the Croydon Asylum for Aged Masons. It should not be wanting on the wall of any lodge, and will also form a most appropriate ornament for every Masonic library.

In conclusion, we wish, however, to express a hope that the author will, in a future edition of his chart, manage to introduce the great names of Codrus, Pythagoras, and Archimedes into their proper places; also show the mystic link connecting the secret sciences of the ancients with modern Freemasonry.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen drove out on the afternoon of the 8th inst., with Princess Louise, and walked in the grounds on the morning of the 9th inst., with her Royal Highness. The Queen held a Council at one o'clock, at which were present the Earl of Derby, the Duke of Buckingham, and the Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy. The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, attended by Lady Augusta Stanley, and honoured Mr. and Mrs. Sheddon by a visit to Spring Hill, where her Majesty walked in the grounds. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, Princess Beatrice, and the Princess of Leiningen, embarked on the afternoon of the 10th inst., on board the Royal yacht *Alberta*, Captain his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen, and steamed down the Solent towards Hurst Castle. The Queen drove out in the afternoon of the 11th inst. with Princess Louise. Her Majesty, their Highnesses the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Louise, and Princess Beatrice, attended Divine service on the morning of the 12th inst., at Whippingham Church. The Queen walked in the grounds on the morning of the 13th inst., with Princess Louise. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, embarked in the afternoon on board the royal yacht *Alberta*, Captain his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen, and steamed through Spithead, passing close to the forts in course of erection there. The Queen drove out on the morning of the 14th inst., with Princess Louise. The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Princess Louise, and walked in the grounds on the morning of the 15th inst., with her Royal Highness.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly return issued by the Registrar-General of deaths in London, during the week ending Saturday, August 11, shows, we are happy to say, a considerable decrease, the numbers from cholera for the last five weeks being respectively—32, 346, 904, 1053, and 781; and from diarrhoea—150, 221, 349, 354, and 264. Of both forms of disease, therefore, 1045 persons died last week, which is less than in the previous week by 362, and it is a singular coincidence that the decrease in the deaths from all causes is exactly the same, namely 362. The daily return for Sunday and Monday last shows that 139 died of cholera and 46 of diarrhoea, giving as the average of each day 69½ and 36, as against 94 and 31 on Saturday, showing a considerable decrease in the former, and a slight increase in the latter. The deaths (divided into districts) on the two days, Sunday and Monday, were, from cholera—west, 1; north, 2; central, 3; east, 123; south, 11; from diarrhoea—west, 8; north, 6; central, 5; east, 14; south, 13. We repeat the words of the Registrar-General—"No greater mistake could be made than to relax the efforts for combating the disease, or for relieving the distress which it has already wrought."—On the 8th inst. Earl Russell delivered an inaugural address at the Exhibition of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science, and Art, at Tavistock. His Lordship pointed out that he had recently been so deeply immersed in politics that he had little time to devote to literature or science. He briefly touched upon the advances of science, and as to literature spoke with approval of the tendency of our modern poets to deal with the ordinary affections and relations of life. The most interesting part of the address, however, was that in which he reviewed the political tendency of the times. He declared he saw no signs of decay in modern nations, but rather increased stability. He made special allusion to the tendency of small nations to become fused with others, and thus to become great and powerful. The address altogether

was interesting.—It is satisfactory to learn that there is this week a decrease in the virulence of the cholera in the East of London. From various sources we have the intelligence that the deaths are much fewer and the attacks less in number. Southampton, too, is reported now to be free from the disease.—An action was tried at Guildford on the 10th inst., which was instructive in so far as it revealed the interior of a bank amalgamation. Mr. Hartland, formerly manager of the Exchange Bank, brought an action against the bank for damages for wrongful dismissal. The bank took over the business of the defunct Hamburg and London Bank, and Mr. Hartland was appointed manager, at a salary of £1,000 a year and commission. He complains that the directors, instead of attending to the legitimate business of the concern, were always discussing amalgamations, against which he protested. One of these amalgamations was with a concern called the Estates Bank, which was in reality part of a building society. For that business and its branches a total sum of £37,110 was paid by the Exchange Bank, that amount being entered in the accounts as preliminary expenses; out of this sum Mr. Horner, who had been manager of the Estates Bank, received £4,000, and Mr. J. O. Lever £2,000, and some person whose name was left blank, £2,000. Mr. Hartland told Mr. Horner that the arrangement was commercially dishonest and another was proposed which he thought equally objectionable. The result was that the Exchange Bank got into difficulties. Mr. Hartland was summarily dismissed, and Mr. Horner appointed manager in his place. Soon afterwards the concern closed its doors, and is now in progress of liquidation. The jury gave Mr. Hartland £880 damages.—The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to York has been attended with festivities of more than usual brilliancy. On the 10th inst., the Prince uncovered the Prince Consort memorial window in the Guildhall, and in the evening a ball was given in his honour. But the great feature was the illuminations, which, owing to the picturesque character of the old city, were more than usually effective. On the 11th inst., the Prince reviewed the Volunteers. The spectacle was very brilliant.—There has been a collision at the Itchingfield junction of the London and Brighton Railway. A train from London-bridge to Portsmouth and Littlehampton ran into an up-train just as it was crossing the main line to get upon the Steyning and Henfield line. The fireman of the up-train, a man named John Snatt, was killed, and several passengers were hurt. Fortunately the up-train was a very light one. No intelligible reason for the occurrence of the accident is given.—At the Central Criminal Court on the 13th inst., Henry Chambers, a blacksmith, of Maidstone, was put upon his trial for wilful and corrupt perjury committed before an election committee of the House of Commons. When before the committee Chambers swore to acts of bribery on the part of Messrs. Lee and Whatman, the sitting members for Maidstone, which, if true, would have not only lost those gentlemen their seats, but laid them open to prosecutions for corrupt practices. The committee did not believe Chambers, and he was ordered to be prosecuted for perjury. Messrs. Lee and Whatman both swore that the statements the prisoner had made before the committee were false. Witnesses were called for the defence, and at the end the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.—The inquest on the body of the poor fellow Snatt, who was killed by the railway collision at the Itchingfield junction of the London & Brighton line was opened on the 13th instant, at Horsham. The jury were conveyed to Itchingfield junction, and inspected the signals. Several witnesses were subsequently examined, including the driver, fire-

man, and guard of the train which was run into. It was stated that all the trains were late in starting from London Bridge on that day in consequence of new signals having been put up. The inquest was adjourned.—The police have made a great haul of stolen property in a house in the Waterloo-road. On the 13th inst. a black bag was stolen from a cab at Newington, and a policeman to whom information was given succeeded in discovering the lad who had stolen the bag. He said he had sold it for six shillings to a man in the Waterloo-road, and pointed out the house where the man lived. It was a Crothel at 13, Wellington-terrace. The police got in; found the bag and its contents, and also found a great quantity of valuable goods. These were evidently the produce of many robberies. The man and his wife, who keep the house, were taken into custody, and are remanded to give time for the identification of the property found.—At the Bankruptcy Court on the 14th inst., while a witness was under examination, a policeman entered, and taking him by the shoulder, told him he was "wanted" for embezzlement. It was contended that the witness was under the protection of the court, and the policeman was told that he would be committed for contempt if he persisted in the arrest. The policeman did not seem to care much for this, and Commissioner Holroyd was consulted. The Commissioner declined to interfere, and the policeman carried off his prisoner, totally disregarding a threat that his conduct should be reported to Colonel Frazer. The individual who was hauled so unceremoniously out, was, it seems, a Mr. Charles Holland. He was arrested on a charge of stealing some bills of exchange and embezzling two small sums of money. The person accusing him was the Mr. Dover whose case was being heard in bankruptcy when the arrest took place. On the 15th inst. Mr. Holland was brought up at the Guildhall Police-court to answer the charges. Those relating to bill-stealing were withdrawn, having admittedly no foundation; and Alderman Gabriel, who presided, after he had heard the evidence, dismissed the case, expressing the opinion that the charges had been made to serve a purpose.—Edwin Brown, the signalman at the Borough-road Station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, who, having got drunk, caused a collision at the Elephant and Castle Station on the 13th inst., was brought up again at the Southwark Police-court. The evidence adduced fully proved the culpability of the prisoner, and his advocate could only ask that he might be dealt with summarily. With this application the magistrate declined to comply, and committed the prisoner for trial.—A horrible tragedy has been enacted in Bethnal Green. A man named George Moyce cut his wife's throat and afterwards his own. The woman got out into the street screaming for help, and the people coming to her assistance carried her off to the London Hospital, where, it is hoped, she will recover. Moyce had so injured himself that he is dead.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—There seems to be an impression that the difficulties between Austria and Italy are likely to be surmounted. On the 9th inst. a further truce of twenty-four hours was agreed upon. The Paris Bourse grew brighter on receipt of the news, and great confidence was felt that the two Powers will be able to come to an agreement. This impression received confirmation by an announcement in the *Moniteur du Soir* that the Italians had evacuated the Tyrol and retired the line stipulated by the Austrians—namely, below the Tagliamento. This was stated in the *Nazione* to be a strategic movement merely. It does not seem, however, that Medici with his force has fallen back in the least from the position he had taken up on the road near Trent. The Italians are stated

have offered to purchase Trent and the other territory which now they require, but that Austria does not receive the proposal favourably. There is little fear, however, that an agreement of some kind will be come to. The Prussian papers are beginning to discuss the manner in which the annexed States are to be governed. A semi-official Berlin paper suggests that it would be well as far as possible to allow the laws by which these countries have hitherto been governed to remain in force. The King of the Belgians, who is a man of naturally delicate constitution, is suffering from a slight attack of illness.—The Porte and the new Roumanian Hospodar appear to have made up their differences. The Turkish troops are being drawn back, and Prince Charles of Hohenzollern is going to Constantinople. All this is believed to indicate that the Sultan means to recognise the new Hospodar.—The rebellion in Cochin China has been suppressed, and order restored.—France has demanded of Prussia the cession of the Rhenish Provinces. This demand, so fraught with peril to the peace of Europe unless it is the result of an understanding between the Emperor and Count Bismark, has been embodied in two notes addressed to the Prussian Government. The *Siecle* of the 10th inst., says that Prussia has not yet thought fit to entertain the French propositions. That Prussia should appear to hesitate does not necessarily imply the non-existence of an understanding; for if German territory has been bartered away by previous arrangement, the transaction of course would not be made too palpable. In any case Prussia must have her answer ready, as she could not fail to be prepared for such an eventuality as that which has now arisen.—The Turks have some more trouble on their hands. Reform having been refused, the Christians of Candia have risen in insurrection against them.—The fact that France is in treaty for the Rhenish Provinces is beyond all doubt; but we are yet in the dark as to the extent of the demand, and the manner in which it has been received. If the telegram first to hand described correctly what has been asked for, then it would seem that France wants some of the provinces of Belgium, as well as some of those which have hitherto been under the rule of Prussia. This we cannot believe. All that has passed would seem to indicate that at the interviews which took place between Count Bismarck and the Emperor Napoleon just after the Gastein Convention had been agreed upon, it was arranged that if Prussia was successful in gaining the position in Germany to which she aspired, France should receive an addition of territory. The Emperor's letter to his Foreign Minister just before the war broke out foreshadowed that which has happened, and there is no special reason to believe that the request now made to Prussia is an aggressive act on the part of France. No doubt the German papers representing, we believe, the German people, have declared that any cession of territory to France is out of the question. A semi-official paper at Berlin repeats this statement now, and, we doubt not, in the best faith. But the real thing to be considered is the decision of Count Bismarck. Has he promised the Emperor Napoleon the possession of the Rhine Provinces? If he has, then those provinces will be annexed beyond all doubt. It is to be noticed that a Paris paper—the *Etendard*—says the negotiations between France and Prussia are being conducted in the most cordial manner. This would seem to strengthen the opinion that the whole business is a matter of prior arrangement. If it be not, and France persist in her demand, then there will be war. Austria and Italy have come to an agreement. An armistice has been signed for four weeks, and to be continued unless notice to the contrary is given.

The difficulty has been the line of demarcation beyond which the Italian troops should not go. An arrangement has been made by which the Italians occupy simply Lombardo-Venetia, and do not come within certain fixed distances of the forts. A Brussels paper gives currency to a statement that there is great discontent in Vienna. It is stated that many arrests have been made, and that the Emperor, when he went into the streets, was met with the cries of "Abdicate." There is little doubt that the people of Vienna are much dissatisfied with the manner in which the war had been conducted. That some difficulties exist is certain from the fact that a change of Ministry has just taken place. A Vienna telegram says that news has arrived there of a battle in the Gulf of Mexico between a Prussian corvette and the Austrian corvette *Dandolo*. The victory, it adds, was with the latter. The *Constitutionnel* is instructed to calm the fears of those who imagine that the negotiations between France and Prussia for a "rectification" of the frontiers of the former country are likely to lead to war. Nothing, we are assured, is further from the thoughts of the two Governments than going to war. They are conducting their negotiations in the most friendly spirit. This gives increased strength to the opinion that the Emperor Napoleon and Count Bismarck understand each other. A correspondent of the *Siecle*, describing in true Gascon fashion a parting interview between himself and Count Bismarck, says that statesman assured him France and Prussia would remain fast friends. The German people are not consulted it seems. They, at any rate, do not regard the proposed cession favourably; but Count Bismarck will decide. The health of the Emperor Napoleon appears to be in a very critical state. He took cold at Vichy, and an attack of intermittent fever supervened. He has been unable to preside at two or three Cabinet Councils; and great alarm is felt in Paris respecting him. No new light has yet been shed on the French demand for an extension of her frontier. Our Berlin correspondent expresses the opinion of best-informed politicians when he says that a war between France and Prussia on a question of this kind might still further unite Germany. It seems to be taken for granted that Prussia will steadily refuse—if she has not already done so—to give an inch of territory. Yet upon good authority it is stated that what France requires is likely to be granted, and that it will be snips of land—part taken from Belgium, part from Holland, part from Prussia, and part from Bavaria. How far this will be approved by those who are concerned remains to be seen. But there is very little doubt that in making the proposition for an extension of French frontiers the Emperor was simply giving effect to a prior arrangement. There is not much fear of any difficulty arising. Count Bismarck can manage the Germans, and the Emperor will have scant consideration for others who may be affected.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

K.T. ("Indian Freemason's Friend.")—We are obliged to you for your letter. We had noticed the remarks to which you draw attention. We agree with you; we think, however, it is best to let the subject drop. If our contemporary chooses to amuse himself by throwing mud, he is at liberty to do so. We shall not follow his example.

P.M.—The Dep. Prov. G.M. would not be justified in appointing and investing other officers than those named by the Prov. G.M., with whom the appointment of the Prov. G. Officers (excepting the Treasurer) rests.

I.P.M.—Yes; the Grand Lodge dues having been paid, he would be entitled to vote.

G. A. SWENEY (Colaba).—You had better ascertain through whom you receive your copy of the *MAGAZINE*; it is not supplied from here.