

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1866.

DEAN STANLEY ON WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Everything emanating from the pen of the Dean of Westminster must command the respectful attention of Englishmen. His great abilities are universally acknowledged, even by those who may not quite accord with all his theological opinions. When we have him then discoursing on the noble building, the decanal chair of which he so ably fills—in the presence of the Prince of Wales and before the Royal Institution of Great Britain—we must feel that everything connected with the subject is intensely interesting to all, but especially to the members of the Masonic Order, for was it not our brethren who reared the splendid structure which formed the theme of his discourse, and of which we are justly so proud?

Nor are we disappointed. Dean Stanley has, in the paper now before us, manifested the accustomed vigour and beauty of his mind, which have rendered his "Sinai and Palestine" and the other numerous works that he has produced, so fascinating to a large and increasing circle of readers.

His very first passage arrests and arouses our attention—

"Like some tall palm the noiseless fabric sprang" was the well-known line of Reginald Heber, describing the rise of Solomon's temple.

"Like some tall palm," not only the Jewish temple, but many a Grecian temple, many a Roman basilica has sprung into existence. The growth of Westminster Abbey requires a more complex figure to do justice to its formation—a venerable oak, with gnarled, irregular growth, and spreading roots, and decaying bark, and twisted branches, and hollow trunk, and feeble shoots—the very counterpart of our English history in Church and State.

The great point of interest attaching to this venerable cathedral, according to the Dean, is that it has "been entwined by so many long continuous threads of diverse elements with the history of a whole nation."

"I might," he says, "trace its gradual origin from its geographical situation in the Isle of Thorns; from the charm of the name of St. Peter; from its neighbourhood to the palace of Westminster; from the strange enthusiasm of

Edward the Confessor. I might show how architecturally it represents the three great epochs of our national buildings; how under its first founder it was the earliest monument of Norman, European civilisation planted on our barbarous Anglo-Saxon soil; how under its second founder it was intended to be, and was, the most complete and beautiful specimen of the most beautiful style that the Middle Ages produced; how under its third founder it exhibits the last magnificent decay of medieval art, in the chapel of Henry VII. I might describe its close connection with the whole course of English history—how it has witnessed the coronation of all, the burial of far the larger number of our sovereigns, from the Conquest downwards; how, whilst it has been the seat of royalty, it has been the cradle of liberty; how out of its erection directly sprang, and within its precincts was first sheltered, that great assembly which at this moment concentrates on itself the thoughts of the whole nation."

"I might describe all the various assemblies and institutions which it has thus guarded under its wings, not only the House of Commons, but the ancient Treasury of England; the first English printing press; the early Councils of Westminster; the Westminster Assembly of Presbyterian Divines, the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury. I might show how it is the seat of the great school which has endeared the name of Westminster to the earliest years of so many illustrious Englishmen; how it has been the seat of the most honourable, the most ancient, and the most meritorious Order of English Knighthood. I might describe its peculiar jurisdiction, its venerable sanctuary, the refuge of kings as well as of outlaws; its political position, and its religious functions as the metropolitan church of the great city of Westminster; the long succession of abbots and of deans, with the privileges and exemptions which render them and the institution over which they preside one of the most peculiar in the Church and State of England."

Such was the programme from which Dr. Stanley might have selected subjects for his essay. He has, however, laid them aside, we trust, but for a season, and that on some or all these topics, we may have the privilege of hearing him again expatiate, and confines himself to one single aspect of Westminster Abbey, viz., its importance as the burial place of our celebrated men.

"It is this aspect," he remarks, "more than

any other that I have named, which most endears it to the mass of our countrymen. It is this that, more than any other, won for it the delightful visits of Addison, in the 'Spectator;' of Steele, in the 'Tattler;' of Goldsmith, in the 'Citizen of the World;' of Charles Lamb, in 'Elia;' of Washington Irving, in the 'Sketch Book.' It is this which intertwines it with so many eloquent passages in the writings of Macaulay. It is this which inspired the saying of Nelson—'A peerage or Westminster Abbey.'

After an allusion to what he aptly styles "the strange pile of heterogeneous monuments which disfigure its beautiful architecture," the Dean proceeds thus:—

"There are two great peculiarities which distinguish them (the tombs of our kings) from royal sepulchres in any part of the world. First, Westminster Abbey is connected not only with their deaths but their lives; it unites their coronations with their burials." On this he remarks—and certainly the remark is a striking one—that "this connection is rendered more impressive from its growth out of a noble characteristic of our English monarchy. The kings of England, unlike the sovereigns of other countries, never seem to have feared the sight of death." How unlike the kings of France, one of whom, Louis XIV., chose Versailles for his residence instead of St. Germain, because from St. Germain he could see the hated towers of the sepulchral abbey.

The second peculiarity to which Dean Stanley draws attention is, that the English kings repose amongst their subjects; neither in life nor in death have they been parted from their people. How different from the kings of Spain, the czars of Russia, the emperors of Austria, who rest absolutely alone in the vaults of the Escorial, of Moscow, of St. Petersburg, of Vienna.

We thank the Dean for these two noble thoughts on the courage of our kings, which we believe may equally be attributed to all their British subjects; and the sympathy that has nearly always subsisted between our sovereigns and their people.

The gradual process by which persons beneath the rank of royalty were admitted to the privilege of sepulture in the abbey, is next succinctly and lucidly traced. Due honour is paid to the illustrious dead who sleep therein:—Cromwell, and the other Commonwealth men, Pitt, Fox, &c.,

and the poets and historians, whose names will last as long as love of learning and refinement lasts.

When mentioning the noted actors who are buried within Westminster Abbey, Dean Stanley quotes a remarkable passage from Mr. Lecky's "History of Rationalism in Europe." Mr. Lecky, after contrasting the tolerance of the English and French Churches towards dramatists and actors, says, "This forbearance of the Church of England towards the stage has received its reward; and, if we except the short period after the Restoration, the English theatre has been that in which the moralist can find least to condemn." Query, is it not the tolerance and comprehensiveness of our national Church that render it so acceptable to the Craft, as a body?

The general remarks with which Dean Stanley brings his paper to a close, and which would be only marred by any attempt at condensation, are not only interesting, but most valuable. We would strongly recommend our brethren to read them, as we feel assured that pleasure and profit will be the result.—N. N.

"BEHOLD THE TEARS OF SUCH AS WERE OPPRESSED, AND THEY HAD NO COMFORTER."

We have been led to place these words of our Grand Master, Solomon, at the head of the few observations that we would venture to make on a subject, the magnitude of which has been brought under our notice, by a most able article that has appeared in our contemporary, the *Era*. The article in question is entitled—"What is to become of the evicted poor?" and is an *exposé* of the harsh and unfeeling manner in which unfortunate creatures have been ejected from their humble homes, in order to make room for the improvements that are being effected in Holborn-hill and the neighbourhood. "Well," it will be remarked, "it is quite right that they should be evicted, and that improvements should go on." "Certainly; but should not some compensation be given them; should not some kind efforts be made to find these poor, hard-worked people a lodgment elsewhere, such as would be commensurate with their means?" It appears that no such compensation has been awarded, no such efforts made; and the result is that many of them have been travelling

over London seeking, without success, some asylum for their wives and little ones.

Now such things ought not so to be. The chief magistrate of the city of London is a brother Mason and a kind-hearted man, we believe; we would therefore appeal to him and the Corporation over which he presides, to wipe off the injustice that has been done to these poor families who have been thus turned out of their homes.

It has been remarked that "a great deal too much is being made now-a-days of the working man. He is over petted and caressed." We do not dispute it. We believe that working men themselves nauseate a great deal of the twaddle and sentimentalism that is vented concerning them and their wrongs. By "the working men," however, we mean, as most people do, the mechanic and the artizan. *They* are perfectly competent to fight their battles, and to "hold their own." Those whom we would plead for, are the *poor*, who have often no helper—such as poor mangle-women, needle-women, widows, &c. And we say that there is not as much done for this class as there ought to be.

Look at those noble buildings that have been erected through the munificence of Mr. Peabody. Who are their occupants—the class intended by the benevolent founder? No. We are credibly informed that they are inhabited by industrious mechanics, warehousemen, and even clerks.

Well, it is the old story of "the weak going to the wall." "Behold the tears of the oppressed, and they had no comforter."

Some who read these words will remember a solemn moment in their lives, in which, as "poor fellow-soldiers of Jesus Christ," they pledged themselves to draw the mystic sword against the oppressor, and on behalf of the widow, the orphan, and the oppressed.

Bro. Knights of the Temple, why are we not more earnest in the fulfilment of our vows?

K. T.

NEGRO LODGES.

In the early part of the year 1784, certain coloured persons residing in Boston, Massachusetts, and claiming to be Masons, petitioned the Hon. Thomas Howard, Earl of Effingham, acting Grand Master under his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, for a charter, authorising them to open

and hold a lodge of Freemasons in the town of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts. This petition was intrusted to a Captain Scott, of the "London Packet," and by him taken out to London and placed in the hands of the proper Masonic authorities there. After some considerable delay, the reason for which is not known, the charter prayed for was granted to Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson, and several others, all coloured men, and inhabitants of Boston. It bears date September 29, 1784, and is signed by Rowland Holt, D. G. Master, and countersigned by William White, Grand Secretary. We think it probable that it also bears the name of the Duke of Cumberland, though of this we have no certain knowledge. We are also under the impression that the charter was not received, nor the lodge organised, until the year 1787. It was an ordinary charter, drawn up in the usual form, and conferred no other privileges than those which are ordinarily granted by such instruments. Prince Hall was its first Master. He was an intelligent and influential man among persons of his own colour. Of the other petitioners we have no knowledge; nor does it appear from anything that we have ever met with on the subject, where they obtained their Masonry, if they had any, or by what means they were enabled to satisfy the authorities at London that they were Masons.* Scott, who was probably a member of the Order, may have aided them in this respect, as he did in obtaining their charter. The lodge continued in active operation for some years, when it fell into abeyance. Of its proceedings, from this time until 1827, we have no definite information. In the last-named year, we find it in active operation under the Mastership of Mr. John T. Hilton, who, we believe, claimed for it the powers and prerogatives of a Grand Lodge; which powers it must, however, have assumed as early as 1812, in which year it is said to have granted a charter for Boyer Lodge No. 1 (coloured), of the city of New York. It was stricken from the registry of the Grand Lodge of England about the year 1813; and its lawful existence was then, of course, terminated, supposing it to have ever been anything other than an irregular organisation. But it was never anything else. Its original establishment in Boston was a violation of the jurisdictional rights of the Grand Lodges of

* It is said they were made in army lodges, but there is probably no authority for this.

Massachusetts; and, therefore, waiving the question of colour, it could never have been recognised, by them or any other Masonic body, as a lawful lodge. It never was so recognised; nor has there ever been, during the whole period of its existence, any recognition of its acts, or intercourse had with its members, by any Grand Lodge, or other Masonic body in this country.

Such is very briefly the origin of lodges of coloured Masons in America. Frequent attempts have been made to induce the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to acknowledge the lodge in this city, on the ground that it emanated from legal authority; but they have always been resisted, and all intercourse with it prohibited; not solely, and perhaps not principally, because it was composed of coloured men, but, primarily, because it was instituted in violation of the law of Masonic jurisdiction; and, secondly, because its charter was, more than half a century ago, revoked and annulled by the Grand Lodge from which it emanated.

But there is one view of this subject which it may be useful to consider, before it is too much embarrassed by prejudice or unavailing vituperation. "Negro lodges" exist among us to a much greater extent than is generally supposed.* They claim to be Masonic associations; but of this we have no means of judging. If they be so, they are clandestine and irregular, and with them the Masons of this country, whether North or South, can hold no intercourse or communication.

But it does not follow from this that it is either

* Our information on this point is to the following effect: 1. That there is a National Grand Lodge, with its Grand Master and Grand Secretary, at Philadelphia, having under its jurisdiction Grand Lodges (with subordinate lodges) in the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Louisiana, and California. 2. That there are subordinate lodges in most or all of the Western and Eastern States, not named above, except Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, and in the following additional Southern States, viz., Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky, where Grand Lodges have not yet been organised. 3. That there is a Grand Chapter, Grand Encampment, Grand Consistory, 32°, and Supreme Council, 33°, all located at Philadelphia, the two former having subordinate bodies in several of the States. We understand further that the Consistory and Supreme Council claim to have derived their authority from the Grand Orient at Hayti, with which body the Grand Lodges above referred to are said to be in regular communication. But of this we have seen no evidence. We have also heard a singular story of two of the continental Grand Lodges in connection with these parties, but our authority is not sufficiently definite or reliable.

wise, or prudent, or just, that we should denounce, proscribe, or revile them. We may regret their existence, or that they had not organised under some other name; but as they have not seen fit to do so, we cannot help ourselves, and must accept the fact as it is. From what we have been able to learn from their printed documents—from their periodicals, the by-laws of their lodges, and the published addresses of their more intelligent members—we are led to believe that they are a moral and benevolent association, and that they are doing much to relieve the necessities, to improve the social condition, and elevate the intellectual status of their own people. If this be so, the purpose of their association is a commendable one, and they will receive, at least from that part of the community who care little for Masonic relations, the encouragement which in their changed condition they so much need, and which is so essential to their personal welfare and usefulness. And, as from the peculiar nature of the case, whatever may be the character of their organisations, whether quasi-Masonic or otherwise, they can neither interfere with or impose upon our lodges, or in any other way become troublesome to us, we, as Masons, need not be very sensitive on account of their existence among us. They will take care of themselves; and our true policy is to allow them to do so without interference from us. Supposing them to be irregular Masons, there is a wide distinction between their lodges and similar clandestine bodies which are from time to time springing into existence under the patronage of men less honest in their purposes, though of whiter skins. In the latter case a fraud is practised upon the credulous, and, if opportunity offer, an imposition upon the lawful lodges of the country. In the former case, no such fraud is chargeable. They hold out no encouragement to their people that they will ever be recognised as Masons anywhere beyond their own circle; and it would be a mark of greater stupidity than their worst enemies give them credit for, if they should attempt to pass themselves off as Masons among those of a different class, in this country at least. Whatever might be the effect should any of them emigrate to Hayti, or other of the West India Islands, or England, or wherever else the colour of the skin is not a disqualification for admission to a Masonic lodge—supposing them to know enough of Masonry to pass the required examination—it is

impossible to say; nor is it a matter about which we need concern ourselves. There are safeguards enough for their protection; and if our brethren, in jurisdictions beyond the United States, fail to avail themselves of them, they alone are responsible for the consequences. We trust, therefore, in view of the whole matter, that our Grand Lodges, both North and South, will allow the subject to subside. No good can result from the further agitation of it, at least not until it shall assume a more serious aspect than it at present wears.—*Boston Freemasons' Monthly Magazine.*

HISTORY OF THE SECRET PRINCIPLE.

BY REV. A. B. CHAPIN, M.A.

Among the nations of antiquity Egypt stood first and foremost. That kingdom was planted in the lifetime of Peleg, and was at the meridian of its power and glory within a hundred years after the death of Abraham. At that early period it had reached an eminence in many of the arts and sciences which no nation or people has ever surpassed. Among this people, at that time, were found institutions, based on similar principles, and having several objects in view, with the one whose organisation we now celebrate. How far the correspondence would hold it is impossible for us to say. We only know that there were secrets which were revealed only to the initiated—that the mode of initiation was solemn and impressive, and well calculated to make a deep and abiding impression on the recipients. Advantages, too, were connected with the knowledge of these secrets; but what the benefits were it is not now possible for us to determine.

Besides the Egyptian mysteries, we find scattered throughout all Europe, and over a larger portion of Asia, secret associations—founded on similar principles—characterised by similar ceremonies, and having similar objects in view. Concerning these our means of knowledge are scanty and imperfect; but enough is known to show the identity and sameness of their origin and object. These are all sometimes spoken of as the mysteries of the Cabiri; a name which is of itself a mystery, and which no learning or research has yet been able to explain. We shall consider as briefly as possible what is known of the mysteries of the ancients, in order to show the identity of their origin and the sameness of their principles.

§ The Eleusinian mysteries, so called from the

city of Eleusis, where they were celebrated, belonged to the mysteries of the Cabiri, and were carried from Egypt to Greece, probably by King Erectheus, who first initiated the Athenians into that ancient association, and who instructed them in the manner of celebrating the same, several hundred years before the Christian era. We have a much more full and satisfactory account of the mysteries of Eleusis than those of Egypt, from which they were copied; and more full, indeed, than those of any other of the ancient mysteries. Consequently we shall go more into detail here than upon any other part of the antiquity of our subject. But it must be constantly borne in mind that as the mode of initiation, and the signs by which the initiated made themselves known to each other, were not allowed to be revealed, we can only make out these things by a careful comparison of the several incidental allusions made by those who had been initiated to the circumstances attending their initiation. Bearing this in mind, we shall proceed to give the best account we have been able to gather from the ancients concerning the matter.

The Eleusinian mysteries were divided into the lesser and the greater; the lesser being a state of preparation for the greater. Every native Greek, unless he had been convicted of some crime, might become a partaker in these mysteries after undergoing the proper purifications. This was done by abstinence of the body, by sacrifices, and by certain ceremonial washings. When the candidate had been thus prepared, he might be initiated into the greater and more sublime of the mysteries. At the opening of these a herald proclaimed, "Hence, far hence, be the impious, the profane, and those whose souls are polluted with guilt;" after which, death was the punishment inflicted upon him who, not having been initiated, should have the presumption to remain in the assembly.

The mode of initiation seems to have been nearly as follows: The candidates being crowned with myrtle—the emblem and token of their purification in the lesser mysteries—were introduced by night into a place called the mystical temple, which upon their approach was instantly involved in darkness. At their entrance they were reminded of the great benefits conferred upon men by a participation in those rites, and of the purity of heart necessary for a proper reception of them. They were then washed in water, in

token that as the body was thus cleansed from all impurities, so they should come with minds pure and undefiled. After this, certain of the mysteries were read to them out of a book, when the priest proposed to each candidate certain questions, to which they were required to make answers, and secrecy was enjoined under the highest penalties and sanctions. Then followed a scenic exhibition of various spectacles calculated to awaken the strongest emotions in the beholder. Funeral forms passed by, personifying death, and the ills that flesh is heir to. Then followed other scenes, representing the gloom and horrors of Tartarus—the dreary abode of the guilty—accompanied by awful groans, amid which might be heard the exhortation, “Learn by our experience to reverence the gods—to be just and grateful.” Accompanying these were sudden flashes of fire and the low rumbling as of distant thunder—rendered more terrific by the hideous phantoms and spectres that met their eyes on every side. To these succeeded still other scenes, representing the delightful abodes in the Elysian fields, illuminated by a serene and glorious light, from whence harmonious voices uttered the most enchanting sounds. Indeed, it was a general characteristic of all the Cabirian mysteries that they began in sorrow and ended in joy.

Persons who had thus been introduced into these mysteries were called the initiated, and the mode of initiation was called regeneration, or a new birth. What were the things made known to the candidate which he was not at liberty to reveal, it is impossible to tell. There is, however, much reason to believe, that the eternity and unity of the Godhead, his power in the creation, and the falsehood of polytheism were among the things thus taught. It is certain that a state of future rewards and punishments was most clearly set forth, and that many other things, in direct opposition to the prevailing vices of the age were inculcated and taught; and, at one time at least, the operations of nature and the origin of the arts were among the topics of consideration.

The initiated into these mysteries were believed to live in a state of greater happiness and security than other men, and to be under the more immediate care of the gods—to enjoy distinguished places in the Elysian fields—to enjoy a purer light, and to live more emphatically in the bosom of the Deity. Hence the Greeks came from

all parts to be initiated into these mysteries, and to receive this pledge of happiness.

Pythagoras, to whom belongs the honour of commencing a new era in the philosophy of the ancient world, availed himself of this feature of the ancient religion to instruct his disciples more thoroughly in the truths of religion and philosophy. Or, perhaps, Pythagoreanism is only a more full account of some parts of Eleusinianism. What was the precise mode of initiation into the mysteries of Pythagoreanism, we cannot tell. We only know that it was preceded by a state of preparation—that it was accompanied by the strictest obligations of secrecy—that the members had particular words and signs by which to recognise each other, which they were neither permitted to write nor reveal, and that all the secrets of the Order were handed down by memory.

The instructions of Pythagoras were twofold—exoteric or public, and esoteric or private. These last were never communicated to any but the initiated—to those who, having gone through with the previous training of a disciple, had arrived at the degree of companion, brother, friend. And even to these the secret instructions of his philosophy were imparted only under the form of symbols and images, after the Egyptian mode of sacred instruction. And this Pythagoras probably borrowed from the Egyptian priests, with whom he spent several years before establishing his system of philosophy. The business of the Pythagorean schools seems to have been principally the study of the arts and sciences; but there is sufficient evidence that they commenced and closed every day with religious duties. Something of the nature of those duties may be inferred from the following lines, which are a free translation of the “Golden Verses” of Pythagoras:—

“Let not soft slumber close thine eyes,
Before thou recollectest thrice
Thy train of actions through the day;
Where have my feet found out their way?
What have I learn’d—where’er I’ve been—
From all I’ve heard—from all I’ve seen?
What know I more that’s worth the knowing?
What have I sought that I should shun?
What duty have I left undone?
Or into what new follies run?
These self-inquiries are the road
That leads to virtue and to God.”

Another system of mysteries, different in name, and probably in many of its ceremonies, is also deserving of notice in this place. I refer to the ancient Druids of Gaul and Britain, and the mys-

teries called Druidism. Much learning and speculation have been expended upon the origin and meaning of the word Druid, but without much success. To me, however, it seems clearly to be the ancient Celtic drui, in the plural druidhe, denoting a druid, an angur, and a charmer. It is, in fact, a word denoting the same thing as the Magi among the Eastern nations, that is, wise man. This derivation agrees with the etymology, with the signification, and with the ancient usage of the word Druidism, which agreed in many respects with the peculiarities of Eleusinianism, but in more respects with Pythagoreanism. It agreed with both in its secrets, its impressive mode of initiation after a preparatory course, and in many other things. It corresponded also with the mysteries of Eleusis in professing to confer religious privileges; but its most prominent characteristic was in accordance with Pythagoreanism, being, to all intents and purposes, a school of science and the arts. And like that, too, it taught a contemplative system of religious philosophy, dealt in signs and symbols, and conveyed its learning by oral instruction. The Druidical seats of learning were located in the deep recess of some forest of oaks, where twelve years were required of one who would prepare himself for any of the professions; for among them as well as among us at the present day, religion, law, medicine, poetry, history, &c., were considered as distinct professions. These, however, formed the exoteric, or public branches of Druidical teaching, and give us no idea of the nature of their mysteries.

But in all of these ancient rites there were certain things in which they agreed. It was a leading characteristic of all that they began in sorrow and gloom and ended in light and joy; that they were calculated to remind men of their weakness, their ignorance, their helplessness, and their sinfulness of character; of the shortness and the uncertainty of life, of the ills which flesh is heir to, of the punishment of guilt and the reward of virtue, and the rising of the just to life eternal and immortal. In all, too, the mode of initiation was calculated to make a deep and lasting impression upon the mind of the candidate. For this purpose, striking exhibitions of the consequences of sin and the pleasures of virtue were presented in sudden contrast; and everything was designed to impress the beholder with a lively sense of what was thus represented. To these we may add some other

things, in which all the mysteries did, in effect, agree, though only hinted at, or slightly alluded to in some, while in others they were clearly and distinctly brought to light. And first among these was the doctrine of a new birth, or a wonderful regeneration. What was signified by this has been the subject of much debate and dispute. Some have supposed that these regeneratory sacrifices denoted a deep conviction pervading the Pagan world, that man had fallen from his original purity, and that they were symbolical of the new birth, which alone can fit us for heaven. But others suppose that they have no allusion to this whatever, but are corrupted copies of an original primitive religious ceremony, kept in commemoration of the preservation of Noah and his family in the ark.

In my own mind I have no doubt that both are partly right and partly wrong. That those mysteries were corrupted copies of a highly primitive rite, probably reaching back nearly to the time of Noah and celebrating his deliverance from the flood, has been satisfactorily proved by learned men. Now we have the testimony of an apostle to the fact that the ark of Noah, in which he was saved from the flood, was a symbol of that salvation which is signified by Christian baptism. If then, the mysteries of the ancients were copies, however corrupted, of such an ancient and primitive rite, then they must also have had reference, at the beginning, to the spiritual birth signified in baptism, of which the salvation of Noah in the ark was also a sign and symbol.

I am very far, however, from supposing that this idea was retained in all the mysteries of the ancients. On the contrary, I do not find any evidence that it was often thought of. But still I must express my most thorough conviction that there was enough retained in these symbols, even among the most corrupted, to lead the mind of a devout and reflecting man away from their outward meaning to their original and spiritual signification. The assistance which we receive from this view of the subject, serves as a key to unlock the origin and meaning of many of those ancient religious ceremonies, which otherwise must remain as mysterious to us as they did to the uninitiated of olden time. Even many of the ordinary ceremonies among the religious rites of the Greeks and Romans unfold a higher and more exalted meaning than at first they appear to present, when viewed in the light of this explanation. And, here

therefore, I may lay down this general and universal proposition, that every form of religion which now does exist, or ever has existed, was copied from an original divine institution, though many of them have been most wofully corrupted by the wickedness or folly of sinful man; and also that every form of the ancient mysteries was copied from some primitive and original religious rites. The design and meaning of these were often, yea generally, lost sight of, but this does not affect the question of their origin. The fact of there being such copies was expressly and distinctly asserted by the writers of the primitive church, and the point was proved as thoroughly as such a point is capable of being proved, by Justin Martyr, in his "Defence of Christianity," addressed to the Roman Emperor, A.D. 150.

But we must now leave this portion of our subject, and turn to one where mysteries more august and imposing, though attended by less of pomp and show, present themselves. I allude to the mysteries of the Christian Church, as they existed in the second century, between which and those we have just considered, there is a most striking resemblance. And here I must not forbear to notice that I am treading on delicate ground. It has been the field of much theological and historical controversy, and seems destined to continue so for some time to come. But this need not prevent me from declaring what are my own opinions on the subject, leaving other theologians and historians, who care to travel the same road, the privilege of doing as I have done—form their own opinions from an examination of the original authorities.

But in order to make myself more intelligible, it will be necessary for me to state that, for a long time the Christians were so much persecuted and trodden under foot, that they had no houses of public worship, but were obliged to celebrate the mysteries of our holy religion in dens, in caves, and in caverns, in the tombs, and in the fields, and in private dwellings. Nor was this all. They were under the necessity of setting watch to guard the entrance to their assemblies, lest some lurking spy should creep in and betray them. This, however, does not apply to their preaching, which was public; but only to the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper—especially to the latter. And hence arose a practice which has continued in the Church to the present day—and from which but few have ever de-

viated—that of sending away the congregation before the administration of the holy communion. No one who had not been completely initiated into the Christian religion, was permitted to be present at the celebration of that great and holy mystery, in which the Son of God gave his spiritual body and blood for the support and strengthening of the souls of his disciples.

But two things seem to have been incorporated into these secrets, which subsequently became severed—one, the spiritual education of all initiated Christians; and the other, the procuring of places suitable for holding their religious services. Or perhaps they were originally one, and the necessary secrecy of their deliberations caused one to grow out of the other. The object of one was to rear a material and visible house, in which Christians of every land might worship; of the other to rear spiritual temples meet for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. One was the outward and visible representation of the spiritual signification that was designed by the other. Hence the same language is often applied to both, or perhaps both were often meant when only one was spoken of. And because the temple of Solomon was the type of the Christian temple, so they adopted language that had been used of one when speaking of the other. Out of this last seems to have arisen the *Secret Discipline* of the primitive church, about which so much has been said and written, generally to very little purpose.

It has, however, been made to appear as exceedingly probable, that after Christianity became more generally diffused throughout the civilised world, that the *Secret Discipline* still remained, and those who professed it confined themselves mainly to the subject of church building. As soon, however, as the influence of the Christian religion became general, the custom of commencing other buildings than churches, with religious honours, arose, and hence the same persons were called to extend their labours to the building, or at least to the superintending of the building of towers, castles, and fortifications. To this were added the symbols of operative labour, still retaining these emblems which originally had a spiritual as well as a physical meaning.

We have not the means of tracing the precise history of this society or association until we come down to the eighth or ninth century. The reasons of this are, that the subject has not been thoroughly investigated, so far as we know, except as it existed

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

DEVONSHIRE.—A meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon will be held on Thursday, the 30th inst., at the new Lodge Rooms, Princess-place, Plymouth, when the late picture gallery of Mr. J. Bishop will be dedicated to Masonry, and the Erme (No. 1091) and Huyshe Lodges will be consecrated by R.W. Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, *M.A.*, Prov. G.M., &c., after which the brethren will march in procession to St. George's Hall, when the Provincial Grand Lodge will be opened and worked according to ancient custom. It is also expected that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, Grand Chapter, and Grand Encampment of Devon will be held during the week, as Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe is the chief officer in each of these degrees. A large attendance is confidently anticipated, and, as the province contains twenty-nine Craft lodges, eleven Mark lodges, seventeen chapters, and eight encampments, we certainly think nothing less than a grand meeting should be expected, especially when in several of the lodges the lectures of Freemasonry have of late received an extra share of attention, and that numerically the Craft has increased considerably of late years.

GRAND LODGE.—A general committee of Grand Lodge, consisting of Grand Officers and Masters of lodges, was held on Wednesday evening, the 22nd inst., when the business for the next quarterly communication was duly arranged for insertion in the agenda.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.—The Board of Benevolence held their usual monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday last, there being present, Bro. Emmens, G. Furst, in the chair; Bros. Savage, Smith, Sheen, Hodges, Clemon, Adlard, Potter, and others. There were nineteen applications for relief, of which two were dismissed, and three deferred. The following grants were recommended in the remaining fourteen cases:—

	£.	s.	d.
A brother (twenty years in the Craft)	50	0	0
" (aged 62)	30	0	0
" 	15	0	0
" (previously relieved with £20)	10	0	0
" (" " " £20)	5	0	0
A widow	20	0	0
" 	20	0	0
" (husband previously relieved with £20)	15	0	0
" 	10	0	0
" 	10	0	0
" 	10	0	0
" 	10	10	0
Three daughters of a brother	10	0	0
Total amount granted.....	£225	10	0

METROPOLITAN.

INSTALLATION.

FESTIVAL OF THE BEADON LODGE, DULWICH.

The installation of the W.M. elect (Bro. Parker) took place on Wednesday the 15th inst., at the Greyhound, Dulwich, one

of the most charming places of resort in the southern suburbs. The lodge was summoned for an early hour when the W.M. (Bro. A. P. Leonard) commenced the proceedings by raising and passing several members and also by initiating two gentlemen, viz., Mr. John F. Wiles and Mr. Wm. Halls. The chair was then taken by Bro. A. Avery, P.M. and Treasurer, and the W.M. presented to the Installing Master, his successor, Bro. Parker to receive the benefit of installation. The brethren below the rank of the chair having retired, a board of Installed Masters was duly formed and Bro. Parker properly installed. The brethren being admitted, the remainder of the ceremony was proceeded with in a manner greatly to the credit of all engaged in it. The newly installed Master then appointed his officers, as follows:—Bros. Meckham, S.W.; H. Massey, J.W.; E. C. Massey, S.D.; Unwin, J.D.; Drysdale, Organist; Poole, I.G.; and Clements, Dir. of Cers. The I.P.M. had kindly consented to accept the office of Secretary and was invested accordingly. Bro. Alfred Avery, P.M., who had been elected by the brethren was invested with the Treasurer's collar, and Bro. Daly, also re-elected by the lodge was invested as Tyler. The lodge being closed the brethren adjourned to the banquetting-room, where an excellent dinner had been prepared by Bro. Middlecott. The W.M., Bro. Parker, presided, supported on his left by the P.M.'s, and on his right by Bros. Hodges, P. Prov. G. Sec., Worcestershire, and W.M. of Lodge 720; H. Potter, P.M. 11; Walters, P.M. 73; W. E. Burgess, W.S. 720; R. Davey, 720; Coste, 9; Driscoll, 30; and numerous other visitors. After grace from the "Lauds Spiritual," exceedingly well chanted, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was followed by the National Anthem.

The W. Master next proposed "The Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master," which was as usual well received.

Song—"King Christmas," by Bro. Laundry.

In proposing the toast "The Earl de Grey and Ripon," the W. Master, in the absence of any officer of Grand Lodge, coupled with it the name of Bro. Hodges, a Past Provincial Grand Officer and Past Master, and who, as the W.M. observed, was still in harness as Master of a neighbouring lodge.

Bro. Hodges replied, reciprocating the friendly sentiments expressed towards himself and his lodge. He had come at short notice on the invitation of a worthy brother who owed allegiance to the Panmure Lodge as well as the Beadon Lodge, and he was glad to have been present on the occasion of his just merits being duly appreciated by his investiture as J.D. It had also been a great satisfaction to him to find that without any preconcerted arrangement several other members of his lodge were present to do honour to the newly-installed W.M., whom, with his officers, he (Bro. Hodges) hoped to receive as visitors at the Panmure Lodge in return for the hospitality they had that day received.

Song by Bro. Quelch, P.M.,—"All things love thee; so do I."

The W. Master next proposed "The Health of the Initiates," both of whom suitably replied.

Glee—"The Fisherman."

Bro. Leonard, I.P.M., then proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master, whom he eulogised for the excellence of his working, and predicted for him a successful year of office.

Bro. Parker, W.M., replied in suitable terms.

Song by Bro. Kennard,—"Tho' fortune darkly o'er me frowns."

The W. Master proposed "The Health of the Visitors," expressing his gratification at seeing so many present. The toast was replied to by Bros. Burgess, Davey, and several other visiting brethren.

Duet by Bros. Quelch and E. Seaman,—"Love and War."

"The Health of the Immediate Past Master," was then proposed and responded to, and was followed by a song by Bro. Drysdale.

The toast of the Past Masters was responded to by Bro. C. Potter, P.M.

"Soldier's Chorus." ("Faust.")

"The Health of the Officers" was proposed, and suitably acknowledged by Bro. Avery, P.M., Treas.

New song by Bro. Seaman, P.M., "Calm is the deep," followed by the Tyler's toast, which completed the programme.

The proceedings were of a singularly pleasing character, especially as regards the arrangements which were very efficiently carried out under the direction of Bro. J. Drysdale, Organist, who was most ably assisted by the W.M. and the brethren whose names we have mentioned in connection with the well selected songs, the titles of which we have given above.

We should not forget to add that a large sized portrait of the late much lamented Secretary (Bro. Blackburn), who died a few months ago, was placed for the first time in the lodge room. It was executed in oil from a small *carte de visite*, and is pronounced a most successful likeness, reflecting great credit upon the artists, Messrs. Cowan and Co., of 24, Piccadilly.

PROVINCIAL.

CORNWALL.

TRURO.—*Fortitude Lodge* (No. 131).—On Tuesday, the 14th inst., the members of this lodge held their regular monthly meeting at the Masonic Rooms, Quay street, Truro, at seven o'clock, p.m. A large number of the brethren were present, amongst whom we noticed, Bros. F. M. Williams, *M.P.*, S.W. 331; T. Chirgwin, P.M. 131, P. Prov. G.W. and G. Reg.; J. McLean, P.M. 131, P. Prov. G.D.; W. J. Johns, P.M. 131, P. Prov. G.S.B.; T. Solomon, P.M., P. Prov. G.D., and others. Bro. S. Holloway, W.M., presided with his accustomed ability. The minutes were read and confirmed, and the usual lodge business having been transacted, the W.M. requested Bro. T. Chirgwin, P.M., to deliver the lecture on the tracing board belonging to the first degree. The brethren paid great attention during the delivery of the same, and manifested their appreciation of Bro. T. Chirgwin's labours and Masonic erudition, in a manner gratifying both to the speaker and the lodge which possesses so noble an ornament to the Craft in Cornwall. Nothing then remaining but to mention the time-honoured custom and caution, the lodge was closed at an early hour, and the brethren adjourned to the Red Lion Hotel, to partake of a sumptuous repast. The banquet was presided over by the W.M. of the lodge, and we are but doing justice in stating that it was in every sense worthy of the brilliant company who assembled in honour of their member, Bro. F. M. Williams, *M.P.*, and of the anticipations that had been formed by the members for some days past. After having partaken of the substantial refreshment, the more important business of the evening commenced, when the table was cleared according to Masonic custom, and the banquetting room close tiled. The following toasts were then proposed by the Chairman and duly honoured. The "Queen and the Craft," "Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall and the Provincial Grand Lodge," "Master of the Fortitude Lodge," and the "Wardens and Officers." The Master then rose and proposed the toast of the evening in a neat and appropriate speech to the following effect:—"Brethren, it is with much pleasure that I rise to propose "The health of Bro. Frederick Martin Williams, *M.P.*," who is our guest this evening. Those who know me are aware that I speak my mind freely and independently, and will readily believe me when I say that I esteem Bro. Williams very highly indeed for his uniformly Masonic conduct, affable deportment, and generous heart; for the retiring manner in which he bestows his charity; for the promptitude in which he responded to our call, and helped us bountifully last year, when seeking to secure the election of Bro. Treleaven's son into the Boys' School, by presenting this lodge with two votes for that admirable Institution for life—(as also giving a similar present to the Phoenix Lodge in the same town); and for his honourable, straightforward, and gentlemanly services which have rendered him not only dear to Freemasons, but made him socially and morally a most valuable and influential citizen, and in every sense worthy of the many marks of approval he is so constantly receiving." At the conclusion of the speech—which was delivered with considerable warmth and earnestness—the whole of the brethren rose, and responded to it most enthusiastically, indeed so heartily, that we freely confess not having witnessed such a welcome before at any Masonic meeting. After the cheers had subsided, Bro. F. M. Williams, *M.P.*, thanked the W.M. for his exceedingly kind remarks, and especially for the very high eulogium that he had been pleased to pass on his services. He felt quite delighted at being present and assured the brethren that this most agreeable evening he had spent with them would always be remembered by him, and as one of the happiest and best spent periods of his life the 14th August, and the Fortitude Lodge, Truro, would be ever green in his calendar of Masonic events. He most ardently reciprocated their good wishes and desires, and so far as his donations were concerned he was more than compensated, in seeing how they were appreciated, and

being a perpetuity their happy effects would be continually and permanently beneficial. "The health of the Visitors" was then proposed, as also Bro. W. J. Hughan and others which were severally responded to. The brethren kept up the interest and pleasure with unabated energy for hours, and the W.M., by his ready attention, able management, and well-expressed remarks ably sustained the onerous duties of the chair to the complete satisfaction of all the members.

CUMBERLAND.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge* (No. 310).—On the 21st instant, a Lodge of Instruction was held, in connection with the parent lodge, the chair was occupied by Bro. W. H. Pulford as W.M.; J. B. Paisley, S.W.; W. Court, J.W.; F. W. Hayward, P.M., I.P.M. and Dir. of Cers.; G. G. Hayward, S.D.; G. Armstrong, J.D.; G. Somerville, Sec.; A. Woodhouse, I.G. Brethren present were: M. Fisher, T. Harris, J. Gibson, and J. Howe, *J.P.*, P.M. The lodge was duly opened according to ancient custom, when the necessary questions were put round by the W.M. after which Bro. F. W. Hayward requested the W.M. to work the sections in the first degree, which he did in a truly Masonic style, also the lecture on the second tracing board. Bro. J. B. Paisley proposed and Bro. F. W. Hayward seconded that a vote of thanks be given to the W.M., Bro. W. H. Pulford for his kindness for working in the manner he did. The W.M. returned thanks, and said that if all the brethren would do a something, even a little, there would be better working and better attendance at these instructions, for nothing pleased better than to be doing that something for Masonry. The lodge was then closed by Bro. A. Woodhouse, and all the brethren parted in harmony.

DEVONSHIRE.

MORICE TOWN, DEVONPORT.—*Lodge of St. Aubyn* (No. 954).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 14th inst. The lodge was duly opened in proper form by the W.M. The minutes of the previous regular and the emergent meeting were read, confirmed, and signed. A ballot was taken for the candidates proposed for initiation on the previous regular nights of meeting, as well as a candidate proposed under the emergency clauses of the Book of Constitutions; the results being that the whole were unanimously elected. According to usage in this lodge the Master then opened it to the second degree, and having obtained from the candidate proofs of the required proficiency, he was subsequently raised to the third degree; one candidate was also admitted to the privilege of the Craftsman degree; when the lodge was worked down to the first, two of the candidates for initiation being then present were initiated into the Order. The ceremonies of the evening having terminated the W.M. read the revised copy of the bye-laws, which were ordered to be printed. Some small matters of business were then introduced and ordered to stand over till the next lodge night. The Master having expressed gratitude to the Great Giver of all Good, the brethren adjourned to the new refreshment room for the first time; this addition to the lodge premises is a great improvement, and reflects considerable credit on the lessee, whose health was proposed with usual honours. After some further compliments to the P.M.'s, visitors, and the newly-initiated, the brethren adjourned, highly pleased with the work of the evening.

DORSETSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge for this province was held on Wednesday, the 8th inst., at the Guildhall, Dorchester. In the absence, owing to illness, of the Prov. G.M., Bro. J. M. P. Montagu D. Prov. G.M., presided, supported by the Prov. J.G.W.; Prov. G. Officers, and the Past Masters and Wardens of several of the lodges in the province, together with many visiting brethren from the lodges of the province and of the adjoining provinces.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and with solemn prayer. The usual business of the province was transacted. A sum of £10 being voted for the relief of Bro. W. Spicer, of Lodge No. 437, and a sum of £10 for the relief of Ann, the widow of Bro. C. Groves, late of Lodge No. 386.

The Prov. G. Treas., Bro. W. Hannen, P.M. 472, having resigned, Bro. C. Sykes, of Lodge No. 417 and of Weymouth, was elected Prov. G. Treas.

A procession was formed and the D. Prov. G.M. and brethren attended divine service at the church of the Holy Trinity, Dor-

chester. The sermon being preached by Bro. the Rev. W. M. Heath, Prov. G. Chap.

On the return from church resolutions were agreed to for the appointment of a Provincial Committee in aid of the Masonic Charities, and for discontinuing the procession to and attendance at church at the annual meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Prov. G.M. then called upon the officers for the past year to resign their collars, and appointed and invested the following officers for the year ensuing :—

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| Bro. G. R. Crickmay, P.M. 170 | Prov. G.S.W. |
| „ T. C. W. Saunders, P.M. 417 | „ G.J.W. |
| „ The Rev. H. Pix, 622 | „ G. Chap. |
| „ W. J. Hill, W.M. 1,037 | „ G. Reg. |
| „ T. Coombs, W.M. 417 | „ G. Sec. |
| „ J. New, W.M. 472 | „ G.S.D. |
| „ W. Chick, J.W. 417 | „ G.J.D. |
| „ D. Collett, W.M. 170 | „ G. Supt. of Works. |
| „ J. Maunders, P.M. 170 | „ G. Dir. of Cers. |
| „ J. J. Webb, 707 | „ G. Assist. Dir. of Cers. |
| „ G. F. Chick, J.W. 707 | „ G. Sword Bearer. |
| „ C. H. Crickmay, 170 | „ G. Purst. |

Prov. G. Stewards.

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Bros. W. Bryant, 170 | Bros. C. Parsons, 417 |
| „ E. Dunn, 170 | „ E. C. Gundry, 707 |
| „ S. Yearsley, 170 | „ E. A. H. Castleman, 707 |
| „ J. S. Drew, 387 | „ H. Patten, 1,037 |

Prov. G. Standard Bearers.

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bro. C. Jesty, 170 | Bro. R. Cox, 1037. |
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Bro. J. Lovelace, 417, Prov. G. Tyler.

The usual complimentary votes were accorded and the Provincial Grand lodge was closed at a quarter past four p.m.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

CRYSTAL PALACE CHAPTER (No. 742).—The installation meeting of this chapter was held on the 16th inst., the ceremonies of exaltation and installation being rendered most ably and efficiently by Comp. W. Watson, P.Z. Comp. W. Stewart was elected H.; Comp. Posse was installed as J. Comp. Downes, Z. elect, was unavoidably prevented attending, and sent an apology for his absence. There was a goodly muster of visiting companions. After the closing of the chapter the companions adjourned to the banquet, which was of a very *recherché* description. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and as usual most heartily received.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

A special meeting of this Royal Arch Chapter was held at the Masonic hall, Newgate-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Friday, the 10th inst., for the purpose of consecrating a new chapter to be nominated St. Peters Chapter (No. 481). It was opened in due form at three o'clock by the Prov. G. Superintendent, the Rev. Edward C. Ogle, supported by the following officers and companions :—

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|-------------------------|---------|
| Comp. E. D. Davis, P.Z. | as H. |
| „ B. J. Thompson, P.Z. | as J. |
| „ H. Hotham, P.Z. | as E. |
| „ J. S. Challoner, P.Z. | as N. |
| „ A. Clapham, P.Z. | as P.S. |
| „ Cockeroff, P.Z. | as A.S. |
| „ H. G. Anson, P.Z. | as A.S. |

There were also present Comps. Punston, H. G. Ludwig, R. Smaile, T. Robinson, J. G. Tullock, P.Z's; J. Jensen, J. Kelly, T. Smith, J. Little, R. Richardson, C. Jackson, T. B. Winter, J. H. Thompson, T. Woodruff, B. Smaile, and others.

The warrant granted by the Supreme Grand Chapter having been read, the Prov. G. Superintendent proceeded with the consecration, assisted by his officers, which beautiful and most impressive ceremony was performed with all the solemnity befitting the occasion, and in a manner most characteristic of the true Masonic spirit with which the worthy and much respected Prov. G. Superintendent is endowed.

The three principals of the new chapter having been installed

in their several chairs, viz., B. J. Thompson, Z.; J. Hopper, H.; H. G. Ludwig, J.; the chapter was prorogued for ordinary business until duly summoned by circular.

KNIGHTS OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

CORNWALL.

TURO.—*Fortitude Council* (No. 3).—A meeting of this council was held on Thursday, the 16th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Sir Kut. W. J. Hughan, Sov., in the chair, who was supported by the Sir Knts. C.A., M.A., and the other officers and several members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A large number of candidates were received for this beautiful Christian rite to be elevated at the next meeting, and, after the transaction of other important business, Sir Kut. Thomas Chirgwin, Master of Finances, was proposed as the Ill. Sov. for the year ensuing, amid the plaudits of the Sir Knts. The council was then closed with solemn prayer by the Rev. Prelate, and adjourned until October.

TURKEY.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF TURKEY.

A meeting was held at the Oriental Lodge Room, Pera, Constantinople, on the 2nd August. In the absence of the D.G.M. the Right Hon. Sir Henry L. Bulwer, the D.D.G.M. Bro. Hyde Clarke acted as D.G.M. Bro. W. W. Evans, acting D.D.G.M. Bro. A. Thompson, D.G.S.W. Bro. S. Scowlonidi acting D.G.J.W.

The District Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last District Grand Lodge were read and signed by the acting D.G.M. The District Grand Sec. Bro. R. A. Carleton read the following statement of the District Grand Treas. Bro. J. P. Brown, who was unavoidably absent.

“The D.G. Treas. has to report that he has not received the balance and accounts of the late D.G. Treas., and that no lodge or D.G. Officer has tendered him fees.

“The D.D.G.M. has received 300 piasters from the Homer Lodge at Smyrna on account of fees and £2 10s. for dispensations, and has paid 800 piasters for printing District Grand Lodge minutes besides disbursements for postages.”

On the motion of the acting D.G.M., seconded by Bro. Evans, it was resolved that the Treasurer's statement be received.

Moved by Bro. G. M. Warren, seconded by Bro. Scowlonidi. Resolved, That Bro. J. P. Brown be re-elected D.G. Treas.

The acting D.G.M., in calling attention to the Masonic zeal, displayed by Bro. C. A. Theodoridi, the D.G.S.B. alluded in terms of warm commendation to the services he had not only rendered to his Lodge the Arété, but to the district generally on the occasion of the late Girls' School festival in London, when their worthy brother appeared as the representative of his lodge, the first which had as yet been represented at either of the festivals, he had, therefore, much pleasure in moving that a special vote of thanks be given to Bro. C. A. Theodoridi, for the admirable and efficient manner in which he represented not only the Lodge Arété, but the district, at the recent festival of the Girls' School, in London, and that the D.G. Secretary is requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Arété Lodge. The resolution was seconded by Bro. A. Thompson, and carried unanimously. Bro. C. A. Theodoridi briefly returned thanks in feeling terms.

The Acting D.G. Master in referring to the services rendered by the D.G. Secretary, said it was not necessary to do more than mention that he had laboriously worked for them for four years, in what manner they knew best, he had, therefore felt it his duty to move

That the thanks of the District Grand Lodge be given to the D.G. Secretary for the manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office.

The D.G. Secretary having acknowledged the vote of thanks in suitable terms, the Acting D.G.M. then proceeded to appoint the following as D.G. Officers for the year 1866-7, those absent being invested by proxy :—

Bros. A. D. Schinas, P.D.G.D., P.M. Arété Lodge, No. 1041, Constantinople, D.S.G. Warden; E. W. Tinney, P.D.G. Reg.,

W.M. Hyde Clarke Lodge, Alexandria, D.S.G.; Rev. J. Lewis, P.S.W. Homer Lodge, Smyrna, D.G. Chap.; H. J. Knapp, P.S.W. Bulwer Lodge, Constantinople, D.G. Chap.; J. P. Brown, P.G.W., P.M. Bulwer Lodge, Constantinople, D.G. Treas.; J. Caner, P.M. St. George's Lodge, Smyrna, D.G. Reg.; R. A. Carleton, Oriental Lodge, Constantinople, D.G. Sec.; J. O'Connor, W.M. Homer Lodge, Smyrna, D.S.G. Deacon; S. Scontondi, W.M. Arété Lodge, Constantinople, D.J.G. Deacon; Alparian, W.M. Dekran Lodge, Smyrna, D.G. Dir. of Cers.; Schantz, W.M. St. John's Lodge, Alexandria, D. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Reade, S.W. Bulwer Lodge, Cairo, D.G. Supt. of Works; S. Joly, W.M. St. George's Lodge, Smyrna, Assist. D. G. Sec.; H. Krasnopolski, S.W. Deutscher Band Lodge, Constantinople, D. Assist. G. German Sec.; G. R. Warren, Oriental Lodge, Constantinople, D.G. Sword Bearer; Binney, Homer Lodge, Smyrna, D.G. Purst.; Sooboda, Homer Lodge, Smyrna, Assist. D.G. Purst.; Mibarman, S.W. Dekran Lodge, Smyrna; Nicolaidi, S.W. Arété Lodge, Constantinople; Evangelides, J.W. Hyde Clarke Lodge, Alexandria; M. Horensstein, Deutscher Band Lodge, Constantinople; Cuzzens, St. George's Lodge, Smyrna; and A. Churchill, Bulwer Lodge, Constantinople, all D.G. Stewards; T. Cipriotti, Oriental Lodge, Constantinople, D.G. Tyler; J. Stohl, Homer Lodge, Smyrna, Assist. D.G. Tyler.

The acting D.G.M. then delivered a lengthened and eloquent address on the present state and prospect of the districts, referring specially to the new constitutions, which would soon come into operation, and which would give vastly increased power and efficiency in the working of the District Grand Lodge. Individually he expressed his regret that their connection might, in the approaching year be severed, but he should always take a lively interest in what might concern the district.

On the motion of Bro. D.G. Sec., seconded by Bro. A. Thompson, a vote of thanks was passed to D.D.G.M. for the services he had rendered the district and for his conduct in the discharge of his duty that evening.

The acting D.G.M. thanked the District Grand Lodge for the kindness, which he had not only received on the present occasion but on all previous ones. He could assure them that nothing would ever be wanted on his part to merit the indulgence he had heretofore received at their hands, before he concluded he could not help alluding to how much they were indebted to their worthy Worshipful Bro. Alexander Thompson, not merely for his services as D.G.S.W. during the past year, but for granting the use of the Oriental Lodge Room of which he was W.M., for their present meeting: he begged to move a vote of thanks to their Bro.

Bro. Thompson said he highly appreciated this mark of their kindness, he felt he had but done his duty, and their recognition of it in the manner in which they had been pleased to acknowledge it, was more than he had a right to expect. He hoped the district would go on and flourish to the utmost extent of their hopes.

After the transaction of some formal business the District Grand Lodge was closed at 10 p.m.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, SCIENCE, MUSIC, DRAMA, AND THE FINE ARTS.

A new baritone, Mr. Stringer Clinch, is highly spoken of.

Mr. Sothern is about to play the rôle of *Claude Melnotte* in the provinces.

Mr. Burnand is at work on a burlesque for the Strand Theatre. It is said to be on a German subject.

The Variétés is about to put into rehearsal a new opéra bouffe, by Hervé, called "L'Œil Crevé."

"Black Sheep" is to be the title of Mr. E. Yates's new serial tale in "All the Year Round."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean are at present staying at Scarborough.

The *Orchestra* says it is intended to open the new theatre in Holborn about the third week in September, under Mr. Sefton Parry's management.

The veteran writer Barry Cornwall has published an original memoir of Charles Lamb, on which he has been busily engaged for several years.

The tenor Morini has signed a six months' engagement with Mr. Mapleson for a provincial town, to commence the 17th of September.

"Ecce Homo" has reached a twelfth thousand—a sale almost without precedent of late for a half guinea work on theology.

The *Western Times* says that the old Whig *Globe* has been purchased by Mr. Wescomb, the proprietor of the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, for the Charlton Club.

Miss Lilian Hastings, of the Bath and Bristol Theatres, played with the amateurs at Canterbury during the cricket week.

The Earl of Shaftesbury has accepted the office of President of the Social Science Association, which has been held since its establishment by Lord Brougham.

Mr. Watts has been appointed Keeper of the Department of Prints in the British Museum, succeeding Mr. Winter Jones, recently promoted to the post of Principal Librarian.

The *Official Review* hears that *Punch* has entered into an engagement with Artemus Ward, and the quaint American writer will forthwith attach himself as a sort of roving commissioner to the staff of the paper.

It is by no means decided, says the *Star Faneur*, that all the recommendations of the recent Theatres Committee will be ratified. A bill dealing with the question will be introduced by Government next session.

The *Queen* announces that Messrs. Williams and Norgate have in the press a new translation of all the "spurious gospels" now extant. This volume is to be followed shortly by the remaining Apocryphal Books of the New Testament—Acts, Epistles, and Revelations.

From a correspondence just published, it appears that it was proposed to spend no less a sum than £420,000 on buildings at South Kensington. The Treasury have, it appears, given a final sanction to the expenditure of £195,000 during the ensuing six years.

Mr. J. C. Hutton's "History of Sign Boards" reveals to us a fact of which, doubtless, but few of our readers were aware, viz., that many surnames of persons born in towns were derived from the signs which hung over the doors of their parents. For instance, there is little doubt but that Thomas à Beckett, who was born in London, was really "Thomas of the Snipe."

The Royal Academicians have accepted the offer of the government of Burlington House, together with the large space at the back of it, for the future home of the Academy, instead of the present site in Trafalgar-square, which will be appropriated entirely to the National Gallery.

The *Musical Standard* describes a new musical instrument of striking power and sweetness, and at the same time extremely simple construction. It resembles a piano with upright strings, except that the latter are replaced by tuning forks, which, to strengthen the sound, are arranged between two small tubes, one above and the other below them. The tuning-forks are sounded by hammers, and are

brought to silence at the proper time by means of dampers.

Mr. Bateman; the father of Miss Bateman, has arrived in London for the purpose of engaging musical artists for a tour through the principal cities of America. Mdme Parspa, Mr. Levy, the cornet player, and Mr. J. L. Hatton are amongst those whose services Mr. Bateman has secured.

At the annual public meeting of the Five Academies which compose the "Institute of France," M. Léonce de Lacergne, President of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, in an eloquent discourse, mentioned, among other marvels of the present century, the laying the Atlantic cable—"an enterprise the success of which was due to the quiet but steady persistence and the concentrated energy of a great country which has ever been the secure asylum of liberty—England."

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

ADELPHI.

It is still "A la Française" here, "The Fast Family" and "La Belle Hélène" remaining dominant, and drawing nightly a very numerous and select audience.

HAYMARKET.

Under the able management of Miss Amy Sedgwick, the attractions at this theatre continue to be overpowering. Miss Sedgwick displays her talents to the greatest possible advantage in the reproduction of Tom Taylor's comedy of "An Unequal Match," in which she takes her popular character of *Hester Grazebrook*. "The Unequal Match" is followed by the farce of "The Dancing Barber," the several parts in which are very well sustained.

PRINCESS'S.

Mr. Vining and his able supporting principal characters Mrs. Stirling, Miss Neilson, Miss Augusta Thomson, Mr. G. Honey, &c., continue to draw a crowded house nightly. The vigorous drama of the "Huguenot Captain" and the "Grand Ballet of Bohemians" comprise the bill of fare; nor must we omit to make mention of Mr. F. Lloyd's scenic effects illustrating bits of Old Paris.

OLYMPIC.

During the week Mr. Cheltnam's drama of "Six Years After, or the Ticket-of-leave Man's Wife" has been continued, supplemented to great advantage with "The Spoilt Child," and a charming ballet called the "Nymph of the Wood." In the latter the sisters Laura, Barbara, Hetty, and Clara Morgan display some admirable dancing.

STRAND.

During the week the performances have consisted of the latest edition of "Kenilworth," preceded by a comedietta called "The Weathercock," and concluding with the farce of "Timothy to the Rescue." We have to congratulate the management for the successful result of their labours to cater for the tastes and enjoyment of an appreciative playgoing public.

We must not omit to make mention of the new and beautiful scenery painted by Mr. Charles Fenton, and the gorgeous dresses by Mr. May and Mrs. Richardson.

Poetry.

TRUE FREEDOM—HOW TO GAIN IT.

Fraternity, Peace, Progress, Knowledge, Masonic Weapons, Masonic Victory.)

By CHARLES MACKAY.

We want no flag, no flaunting rag,
For Liberty to fight;
We want no blaze of murderous guns
To struggle for the right.
Our spears and swords are printed words;
The mind our battle plain.
We've won such victories before,
And so we shall again.

We love no triumphs sprung of force—

They stain her brightest cause;
'Tis not in blood that Liberty
Inscribes her civil laws.
She writes them on the people's hearts,
In language clear and plain;
True thoughts have moved the world before,
And so they shall again.

We yield to none in earnest love
Of Freedom's cause sublime;
We join their cry "Fraternity!"
We keep the march of Time.

And yet we grasp no pike or spear
Our victories to obtain;
We've won without their aid before,
And so we shall again.

We want no aid of barricade
To show a front of wrong;
We have a citadel in Truth,
More durable and strong.
Calm words, great thought, unflinching faith,
Have never striven in vain;
They've won our battles many a time,
And so they shall again.

Peace, progress, knowledge, brotherhood—
The ignorant may sneer,
The bad deny; but we rely
To see their triumph near.
No widow's groan shall load our cause,
No blood of brethren slain;
We've won without such aid before,
And so we shall again.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen drove out on the 15th inst., accompanied by Princess Louise and Prince Leopold, and her Majesty walked in the grounds on the morning of the 16th inst. The Queen drove out in a carriage and four in the afternoon, accompanied by Princess Louise and the Princess of Leiningen. Colonel Du Plat was in attendance upon horseback. Her Majesty walked in the grounds with Princess Louise on the morning of the 17th inst.—The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Princess Louise in a carriage and four, attended by the Hon. Flora McDonald; and her Majesty drove in the grounds on the morning of the 18th inst. with Princess Louise. The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Princess Louise, Prince Arthur accompanying her Majesty on horseback.—The Queen walked in the grounds on the morning of the 20th inst. with Princess

Louise and Prince Arthur.—The Queen drove out in the afternoon with Princess Beatrice, in a carriage and four, attended by Lady Churchill, and her Majesty walked in the grounds on the morning of the 22nd inst. with her Royal Highness. Her Majesty the Queen, with their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, left Osborne at a quarter past three o'clock, and arrived at Windsor Castle a quarter before seven.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The weekly return of the Registrar-General of the deaths in the metropolis up to Saturday last is so far of a satisfactory character that it shows a decrease in the whole number of deaths, as compared with the previous week, of 500, the respective totals being 2,299 and 1,799. The deaths from cholera for the last six weeks have been respectively as follow:—32, 346, 904, 1,053, 781, and 455; and from diarrhoea, 150, 221, 349, 354, 264, and 194. The decrease, therefore, in the deaths from the two kindred diseases in the last as compared with the previous week has been 406, or 64.9 as against 1,045. This decrease is absolutely the greatest in childhood cases, but relatively greatest in manhood cases. The Registrar gives some very interesting facts as regards the incidence of the epidemic. The fatalities in the west have been highest in Kensington and lowest in St. James's, Westminster, the scene formerly of the Broad-street pump mortality. In the southern districts the mortality has not exceeded three per 1,000, and even at Greenwich, where Mr. Glaisher observed the famous blue mist, it is not higher. Those southern districts most affected lie low, are generally poor, and were decimated by cholera in the epidemics of 1849 and 1854, whereon the impure water of the tidal Thames was distributed; but as they have almost entirely escaped this attack, it is remarked that they are now supplied with water drawn above Teddington Lock from the Thames. The water in a more remarkable degree appears connected with the awful fatality in the eastern districts. In the borough of Liverpool, out of 513 deaths registered last week 157 were attributable to cholera, and 636 diarrhoea, showing an increase as compared with the preceding week in deaths from cholera of 31, and a decrease in those from diarrhoea of 12. Epidemic cholera, the Registrar adds, does not exist in any other of the larger towns. The annual rates of mortality per 1,000 in the metropolis and 12 other of the principal places in the kingdom for the week ending August 11 were as follow:—Birmingham, 19; Bristol, 20; Dublin, 22; Edinburgh, 24; Glasgow, Leeds, and Sheffield, 25; Salford and Manchester, 27; Hull, 29; London, 31; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 32; and Liverpool, 56. The difference in numbers between the first and last of this list is startling.—Now that the bank rate has been reduced, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has left town for Haghenden Manor. It may fairly be presumed that the representations made to the right hon. gentleman by the deputations which waited upon him have induced him to put some pressure on the Bank directors, and thus to bring about the reduction of the rate to 8 per cent.—The Duke of Cambridge has presented his report to the War Office upon the Volunteer review at York. His royal highness speaks in high terms of the manner in which the men went through their evolutions, and says the review demonstrated how efficient a force the volunteer body is becoming.—The inquiry into the case of alleged breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act by two persons named Ellis and Peters was resumed at the Bow-street Police-court. The prisoners are charged with having enlisted seamen to serve on board Chilian vessels against Spain. Sir Thomas Henry committed them for trial in the Court of Queen's Bench, but admitted them to bail.—Mrs. Gladstone wisely persists in her scheme for the establishment of a free orphanage-

She thinks, and thinks rightly, that the home should be made a permanent one, and that the various plans which have been suggested should be concentrated in one effort.—A very lamentable accident took place in Ely-court, Holborn, at an early hour on the 16th inst. A house, inhabited by no fewer than twenty-two persons, utterly collapsed while the unfortunate creatures were in bed. How many of them escaped is a marvel; but although some twenty extricated themselves from their perilous position, two were buried in the ruins, and lost their lives. How many more over-crowded tenements, mouldering with age, and all but ready to overwhelm their inmates demand the scrutiny of district surveyors in the same and kindred localities?—The Bishop of London spent the 19th inst. in true apostolic fashion. He visited the cholera haunts of London, and preached to the poor suffering people. From hospital to hospital he passed among the sick and the dying, ministering words of comfort everywhere.—Some extraordinary evidence has come out before the Yarmouth Bribery Commission. On the 17th inst. a Mr. J. Cooper complacently narrated how at the last election about £3,500 was brought to him by a stranger, and how he distributed it in bribes to secure the election of Sir Edmund Lacon and Mr. Goodson. He professed not to know whence it had come, but thought perhaps "the Club" had found it. But a witness came forward on the 18th inst. who told the source from whence this golden stream had flowed. This was Mr. Nightingale, the managing partner of Sir Edmund Lacon in his brewery business. Mr. Nightingale having determined that Sir Edmund Lacon should not be "victimised" at the last election drew £4,000, and gave £3,500 of it to Cooper and the rest to a man named Shuckford. The money was sent by a Mr. Aldred. Mr. Nightingale sent the money to Cooper as the "illegal agent" of the Tory party—rather a fine distinction. At a previous election Mr. Nightingale had spent £1,000 in a similar manner, and this Sir E. Lacon had paid among the election expenses without inquiry and without complaint. The £4,000 Sir Edmund knew nothing whatever about, and Mr. Nightingale was quite indifferent as to whether it was ever repaid. He should not have mentioned the matter to Sir Edmund, but he thought it probable that now that gentleman knew of it he would repay the money. Perhaps, too, now that Sir Edmund knows of it, he will sacrifice something to political decency and retire from the representation of that charming borough, Great Yarmouth.—An action was tried on the 17th and 18th inst., at Guildford, in which Mr. Losoby, a warehouseman, of Wood-street, Cheapside, sought to recover £2,000 from the General Life and Fire Insurance Company on a policy of insurance against fire. A fire took place some time ago on the premises of Mr. Losoby, and he alleged that goods to the value of over £2,000 were destroyed. The company disputed the claim on the ground that no such amount of goods had been destroyed. Evidence was called on both sides, and eventually the jury returned a verdict for the defendants.—The Islington authorities are displaying much laudable activity in hunting up the plague-nests which exist in that as well as other districts of the metropolis. A striking instance of the great necessity of such supervision and prompt action came before the Clerkenwell Police-court on the 20th inst. It is to be hoped other parochial authorities will keep as sharp a look out, and act promptly when necessary.—Sir Edmund Lacon was called as a witness before the Yarmouth Bribery Commission. His evidence is of a very singular character. He denied all knowledge of the payments made on his behalf by Mr. Nightingale, and was especially anxious to state that there had been bribery on the Liberal side. The other evidence was all interesting.—An inquest has been held on the bodies of the sufferers by the falling of the house in Ely-place, Holborn. The evidence simply corroborated the reports which have already appeared. It was made

clear, however, that the cause of the accident was the absence of a supporting beam which had been removed some time ago. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, coupling with it a censure of the owners of the house.—The collision which took place off Aldborough on the 19th inst., between the *Bruiser* and the *Haswell*, is, on the information yet to hand, perfectly inexplicable. The weather was fine and clear, and the sea smooth as a mill-pond, and yet these two steamers, both of which are said to have carried their proper lights, came into collision. How many lives have been lost is not yet known; but there seems to have been at least twenty or thirty. The affair will, of course, be fully inquired into. It is to be hoped that, as far as possible, the person who is to blame will be severely punished.—The Foresters had a great day at the Crystal Palace. They travelled thither in thousands, many of them decked out with the insignia of their respective lodges. Fortunately the day was very fine, and there was nothing to militate against the pleasure of the holiday makers.—The meeting of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Company was rather stormy. There was a lower dividend, and this was not soothing. Then the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Companies have got power to make an independent line into Brighton, and this was a grievance to be discussed. The chairman of the company expressed great doubts whether the projected line would ever be made, or, if made, whether it would ever pay. The report and accounts were finally adopted.—A number of poor families who have hitherto resided in Union-court are required to leave their houses, which are to be pulled down to make room for the Holborn Valley improvement. Habitations suited to their means are not easily obtainable, and hence they are most unwilling to remove. The officer of the City of London began to evict them on the 21st inst. A disturbance ensued, in the course of which much mischief was done.—The Reigate Election Commissioners began their inquiries on the 22nd inst. The most noticeable statement was that of Mr. James Searle, mayor of the borough, who expressed an opinion that there had been more treating at late elections than formerly. He traced it to the election of 1858, when Mr. Doulton the present member for Lambeth, was sent down by Mr. Roupell to contest the borough. At that election, said Mr. Searle, the debauchery was very great. The inquiry is to be resumed to-day.—The electors of Maidstone, in public meeting assembled, have declared their belief in the innocence of their representatives, Messrs. Loo and Whatman, in respect of the charge of bribery made against them by the blacksmith Chambers. Both members attended the meeting, and solemnly denied the truth of the charges made by Chambers. They were loudly cheered.—Southampton was on the 21st inst. the scene of two demonstrations, both in their way equally significant. At the Philharmonic Rooms about a hundred persons assembled to dine with Mr. ex-Governor Eyre, and to hear what that gentleman had to say in defence of conduct which the Government of England considered was deserving of deprivation of power and of summary dismissal from office. In another part of the town, and at the same time, over 2,000 of the inhabitants assembled for the purpose of “condemning the wholesale hanging, shooting, and flogging that followed the suppression of the outbreak in Jamaica, and also to protest against the ill-adviced attempt of a few persons in this town to connect the people of Southampton with a demonstration in favour of ex-Governor Eyre, who has been censured and recalled by the Government for his conduct in relation to those deplorable events.” The diners outthorowed Herod in their endorsement of the Jamaica massacres. The indignation meeting was unmistakably the voice of the people, and uttered to some purpose.—The adjourned inquest on the body of the boy Jefferys, who

was found hung in a collar in St. Giles's, was resumed on the 22nd inst. A letter was read from the Home Office, explaining that the Government could not offer a reward for the apprehension of the boy's father until the jury had returned a verdict of wilful murder against him. The jury then found a verdict of wilful murder against Richard Jefferys.—The grand jury at the Middlesex session made a presentment to the effect that they did not think a grand jury was of the least use. They urged that the cases all underwent preliminary examination by professional men, and that therefore, there was no need of the services of a grand jury. The Assistant-Judge promised to forward their presentment to the proper quarter.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Napoleon Fêtes are in full swing in Paris, and, as a consequence, there is not much news from that city. The last papers which were published there are of anything but a lively character. There is little doubt, however, that the decision of the Emperor not to press his demands for territorial compensation meets with the general approval of the people. Some of the papers go into elaborate disquisitions to prove that Napoleon would be fully justified in insisting upon a cession of territory by Prussia; but there is no indication that they have much popular support.—It was stated the other day that not improbably the war between Prussia and Bavaria might be resumed on the conclusion of the armistice. The official *Bavarian Gazette* now announces that there is no fear of any such thing. The negotiations are proceeding favourably. The Prussian official papers are careful to inform us that though there are minor difficulties in the way, yet that the Prague peace negotiations are progressing favourably. It seems there is some trouble in the adjustment of the division of Federal property, and this, of course delays the desired conclusion.—The Emperor Napoleon has given Europe another proof of his moderation. He has addressed a letter to King Leopold assuring him that he has no desire to annex any portion of the Belgian territory, and that, on the contrary he entertains the utmost good will towards his dynasty. Nobody believed that he ever had any intention of taking anything from Belgium, save those alarmists who would fain have us now be expecting an invasion from France.—As to the peace negotiations there is no news but that which is favourable. With one slight exception. The official paper of Vienna hints that Austria in the settlement of affairs with Italy, will require some of the passes into the Tyrol, which are now in Italian possession. Austria may, perhaps, in this demand have the strict letter of treaty on her side; but she would act wisely to make these demands with discretion. Italy is in no very amiable mood at the turn which things have taken. Should Austria insist upon hard terms she will sow the seeds of a future war, and that at no very great distance of time.—The Czar is delighted at the turn events have taken in Germany, and has addressed autograph letter in that sense to the King of Prussia. The Emperor Alexander understands the art of making a virtue of necessity.—From various sources comes the news that the Pope and the Emperor of the French are drawing closer together. Only a few days ago the *Temps* had a story to the effect that the Pope wished the Emperor to become his Vicar for the protection of the States of the Church. Now the *Liberté* tells us that the Emperor has asked his Holiness to join with him heartily in carrying through the work in which he is engaged, and that the Pope, melted with pity, consents. All this, if it were true, would seem to indicate that there is likely to be a hitch in the carrying out of the September Convention.—An international exhibition of articles connected with the fisheries was opened at Boulogne on the 16th inst., with great ceremony. These exhibitions are rare, being utterly unknown in England, and three having only been held on

the Continent—namely, at Amsterdam, Bergou, and Archelon. The Boulogne exhibition is most complete, and embraces every kind of article used in connection with fishing and fisheries. England is said to be the country worst represented on this occasion, and this is much to be regretted, because in a matter affecting so largely the entire population of our country, everything that tends to improve the knowledge of how best to carry on such a branch of industry as that of fishing must be of the very highest importance. The Boulogne Exhibition is to remain open to the public until the 13th of October.—The peace negotiations between Prussia and Austria are reported to be progressing satisfactorily, and it is thought that peace itself will be formally concluded within eight or ten days. The Emperor Napoleon, annoyed by the schemes of aggrandisement which have been attributed to him since the publication of his despatch to the Prussian Court, has taken means to assure the English Government that he never contemplated the acquisition of a single inch of Belgian territory. Another satisfactory piece of intelligence is that the hitch which had arisen in the peace negotiations between Prussia and Bavaria is removed, and that there is every prospect of a speedy settlement of the question.—A telegram informs us that the Pope has resolved to enter into negotiations directly with King Victor Emmanuel. This is much more likely to be true than the story which the *Temps* and the *Liberté* were circulating last week of an appeal to the Emperor Napoleon.—The health of the Emperor has occasioned considerable uneasiness in Paris; and it was noticed that he abstained from driving out in public or making his other usual appearances out of doors. This anxiety must have been dissipated on the 17th inst. when his Majesty drove through the Bois de Boulogne. He was enthusiastically cheered, which may, perhaps, be regarded as an expression of thankfulness at his recovery, and of sympathy with his recent policy.—Accounts from Paris state that great incredulity prevails there in reference to the alleged amicable settlement of the question raised between France and Prussia. It is said that so far from France being on terms of close friendship with Prussia, she is seeking alliances with Russia and Austria, and that Russia has sent a diplomatist to Paris to arrange the matter. All this is but the resuscitation of old suspicions in which no one now places the least reliance. Russia is quite content with the turn things have taken, and the Emperor Alexander has written in that tone to the King of Prussia. The Emperor Napoleon has shown no inclination whatever towards seeking a quarrel with Germany. We have no reason to doubt his declarations that he has no object of aggrandisement in view, and that he desires to live in peace with his neighbours. The truth is these rumours are for the most part, if not invented, at any rate touched up by the correspondents of journals whose object is to create a feeling of alarm in this country. Happily they have had no success as yet.—The Russians appear to have two little difficulties in hand just now. The Polish exiles who were recently banished so remorselessly to Siberia have risen in insurrection there. At Irkutsk they seem to have achieved a momentary success. The people, too, of Soukum-Kale, in Circassia, have revolted in consequence of the heavy taxes which it was sought to impose upon them. They appear to have slain several Russian soldiers.—In Prussia, the King and his ministers are busy arranging for the consolidation of the new kingdom. The process is not likely to be very difficult, for the annexations are all to the tastes of the people concerned. The address of the Upper House has been presented to the King, and has been graciously received.—A story is circulated that at Prague only the peace between Prussia and Austria is to be settled. Italy is to wait until afterwards before her business is arranged, and she is requested to bear in

mind in the negotiations what may have been done in Prague. Whether this means that Count Bismarck has now done with Italy and casts her off, we cannot say; but it is certain that the Italians have lately come to expect some such statement.—The *Moniteur* thinks it necessary to contradict the statement that the Emperor Napoleon has written a letter to the King of the Belgians giving him an assurance that he has no intention of annexing Belgian territory. The official paper adds to this information that the French Government has given the English Government to understand that it is not proposed by France to take the Fortresses of Marienburg and Philippoville, which are in the hands of a neutral Power. In all probability in some quarters this will be interpreted as meaning that France has some sinister designs upon some parts of Belgium. Its real meaning we take to be that the Emperor does not choose to have his actions misrepresented, and that he therefore simply contradicts a statement which is untrue.—It is now stated that the peace negotiations between Italy and Austria will be conducted at Vienna. There seems to be no doubt that peace will be made, Italy taking the best terms she can get, and asking for more than is likely to be given. Meantime, Austria is resuming her old evil ways in the Trentino. The Austrian commander of the district ordered the municipality of Trent to give a public *fête* on the occasion of the birthday of the Emperor Francis Joseph. The municipality declined to obey willingly. They would make holiday if they had written orders from the Austrian authorities to do so, but not otherwise. We are not told whether these written orders were given. That must be most gratifying rejoicing which takes place according to command.—An official paper of St. Petersburg says that the rising of the Polish exiles at Irkutsk has been suppressed, and that several of the insurgents have been put to death.—There is nothing in the continental news to indicate that anything will interfere with the speedy conclusion of peace. [The Bavarian Chambers are summoned, and the terms of peace proposed by Prussia are to be laid before them. It becomes more evident that Count Bismarck does not intend the work of annexation to be done by halves. He argues that as far as possible an actual amalgamation of the annexed States with Prussia is desirable, and regrets that this cannot take place just yet with respect to Saxony. According to a French paper, Bavaria is to pay Prussia 30,000,000 florins towards the expenses of the war. She is not asked, however, to cede much territory. Hesse-Homburg is to be ceded to Prussia by the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, and Prussia is to garrison Mentz. It is stated in a Vienna paper that an effort is about to be made to conciliate Hungary. That country is to have a separate Ministry. But the announcement is coupled with another which certainly will not gratify the Hungarians—namely, that the Ministry is to be of an eminently Conservative character. The *Patrie* says that the Emperor Napoleon will make a direct cession of Venetia to Italy. Who doubted it?—The Turks are likely apparently to be ejected from Candia. There is an insurrection there, and the insurgents numbering some 25,000 strong have secured important positions. The Turks have made some attempts at repression, but appear to be wholly unable to cope with the revolt.]

AMERICA.—A telegram from New York reports fresh successes on the part of the Liberals of Mexico. The Emperor Maximilian can have little hope of retaining his worthless sceptre, even if the Empress Charlotte is successful in her mission to Paris.—The Atlantic Telegraph brings a piece of news which is not very intelligible. It is that President Johnson ignores the blockade of Matamoros. Does this mean that American ships will force the blockade? If that be the case, and they are to be supported by the United States Government, it is an act of war. We do not believe any such course will be taken.