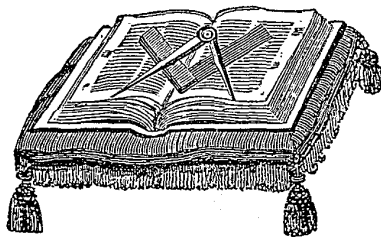


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THE
F R E E M A S O N S ' M A G A Z I N E
AND
M A S O N I C M I R R O R .

ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

At the conclusion of another volume of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE it becomes our duty, not less than our pleasure, to enter into a free and friendly council with our readers, to enable us to exchange mutual congratulations on what has been done in the past, and to express well-grounded hopes and aspirations for the future. As regards the former, that which stands prominently before us, and has elicited the eulogies and praises of the highest authorities of our Order, beginning with the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and following down the stream of Masonic rank, is the complete happiness and unity of sentiment and feeling which exists amongst the members of our Craft, "wherever dispersed over earth or water," at home or abroad, and the common and universal desire to carry out in all their integrity the great principles upon which our Order is founded. There pervades the whole Craft an earnest desire to smooth any difficulties if they should unhappily arise, and a spirit of forbearance in carrying out individual views when it is shown that the enforcement of them would tend to weaken, if not altogether disturb, the harmony of the general body. The cause of charity, in particular, has this year received special attention, and the Craft have just reason to congratulate themselves on the results that have followed the exertions of those brethren who at such pains and cost to themselves have served the office of stewards on those occasions. The whole of our institutions have been well supported, and although the contributions to the Boys' School were rather below what they were in one rather exceptional year, yet they were very satisfactory; and then, when we remember what was done at the festival for the Girls' School, which produced the largest sum ever contributed on one evening during the whole history of our Craft, we think, as set forth in the commencement of this article, that we have reason to exchange mutual congratulations, at least, on what has been done in the past. The subject, as we have said, has attracted the notice of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, for at the Grand Festival he specially alluded to the subject of our charities, when he said that during the last twenty years they had succeeded in a most wonderful and astonishing manner, and their exertions did the greatest possible honour to the Craft. His lordship at that time reviewed what had been done, and he ventured, from what he had heard, to predict that a large sum would be received at the coming festival for the Girls' School. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master's prophecy was fully realised, for the event produced the magnificent contribution of £6,000. This event, if it stood alone, would afford us grounds of congratulation, but while it is honourable to the Craft, it ought not to induce us to rest on our oars, but, on the contrary, stimulate us to greater exertions for the future. Long may our noble institutions stand as prominent landmarks of our Order, studded with the brightest gems which can adorn our Masonic profession, gathered by the careful and fostering hand of Charity.

Our esteemed Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, has, by the unanimous voice of the Craft, again been placed in the chair as the head and ruler of English Freemasons, an honour conferred upon his Lordship for the twenty-fourth time, but as he was *locum tenens* one year for the Duke of Sussex, he

has in fact officiated as Grand Master for a quarter of a century. This is a very long period to hold an office, but when it is accompanied by an annual election, it only shows the esteem in which his Lordship is held, and we can only hope that for many years one so beloved may continue to be our Grand Master. We have, it is true, an Annual Festival on every occasion when our Grand Master is installed into the chair, and when his virtues are duly acknowledged, but now having faithfully served the Craft for twenty-five years in that dignified office, we would suggest to our brethren whether this would not be a fitting opportunity for some special gathering of the Craft to acknowledge the eminent services and great ability of one who for such an extended period has advanced the interests of the Craft, and served them so long and so well.

During the half-year, some difficult questions from Colonial Grand Lodges have been submitted for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, and in every instance we believe decisions have been come to, consistent with justice to the brethren hailing under their respective banners, and calculated to cement, extend, and beautify our Order.

An important part of the new building erected by the Craft has, more than a month since, been completed, and that is the new hall in which all our Masonic festivals will hereafter take place, the old hall being reserved exclusively for the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, so that there is now no longer a necessity for the mixing up of the business of Freemasonry with tavern accommodation. This desideratum, long and ardently wished for, is now an accomplished fact, and Freemasonry is provided with a home where our ceremonies can be conducted with order and decorum, and free from any possible intrusion from those who are outside the pale of our Order.

The half-year has not closed without our having to deplore the loss we have sustained, by death, of some of the most eminent members of the Craft, and here we would particularly advert to that great patriarch and historian of Freemasonry, Dr. Oliver, whose noble teachings and refined precepts have endeared him to every heart, and whose writings have obtained for him an imperishable fame, for wherever his works are spoken of the name of Dr. Oliver will be loved and revered. He has, full of age and honour, been removed from us, but the recollection of his virtues "Shall long keep his memory green in our souls." We had not long recovered from the grief all must feel at the loss of so great a man, when our sorrows were only to be intensified by the announcement of the death of another and exalted Mason, our esteemed Bro. Sir Archibald Alison, the historian of Europe, who, like our Bro. Oliver, has established a fame which is undying, and left a legacy to posterity of priceless worth. He will ever be valued and estimated as the truthful, impartial, and constitutional historian of his country.

In concluding this address, we have only to thank our friends and correspondents for the communications and essays we have received from them, trusting that we may long enjoy the privilege of their acquaintance, and, while shaking hands with our old supporters, we at the same time extend our hand to others, so that as wide as possible we may enlarge the circle of our friends; at the same time assuring them no effort on our part for the future shall be wanting to make the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE the firm and steady exponent of those great principles which form the features and distinguishing characteristics of our noble Order.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1887.

THE SQUARE AND THE CUBE.
A MASONIC ESSAY.

By J. F. T.

It is no new thing to Masons that symbols have been used in all time as a means of teaching and impressing important truths. Rightly understood, everything is a symbol; everything speaks, if only we will properly interpret it, of the attributes of the Great Architect of the Universe. There are "sermons in stones, and God in everything." It is my intention in this essay to endeavour to unravel the meaning of some of our Masonic symbols. I shall indeed produce no new meanings, but I shall try to increase the appreciation of what are taught, by showing that they are no arbitrary explanations, but founded on real analogies.

Masonry teaches that man in his natural state is the brute or unhewn stone; not indeed devoid of a wild beauty of its own, but useless for embodiment in the building which represents society without preparation. Man as a good and useful member of society, capable of filling entirely his own place without trenching on his neighbours is symbolised by the cube. And the good Mason, ready to take his place in the Grand Lodge above is the perfect cube. In studying the practical mode of forming such a figure, we learn our own duties and shortcomings, as well as how to remove the latter; and I trust those who read this paper to the end will rise with a greater love for the Craft and a higher opinion of the wisdom of its founders, the beauty of its teachings, and the strength which pervades it.

First then with the gavel, the mason knocks off all those irregularities of surface and protuberances which prevent one stone from being applied to another without large vacuities, and reduces the stone to an approximation to its final form. These protuberances symbolise our self-love and impatience of all restraint. And as the protuberances are caused by the very hardness and rigidity of the stone which duly regulated it for the use to which it is destined, some learn that the passions and qualities with which we have been endowed by the Most High are not in themselves evil, but that they require restraint and regulation, subject to which they are essential to our due performance of our duty as members of society. The chisel is another tool for a further stage of preparation, but equally to remove irregularities of

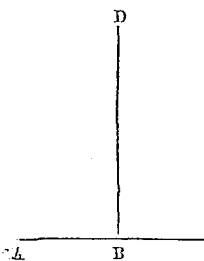
surface; and as the performance of this necessary preparation is the duty of the masters and governors of society, so from their qualities we may learn what should be some of the qualifications for these offices. They must have *temper*; that is, while hard enough to remove protuberances, they must not be too hard; some elasticity is absolutely necessary, or in removing the offending matter they will injure themselves and lose their efficiency. Judgment must guide their use, the weight and keenness of the tool; the hardness and elasticity of the material must all be considered in regulating the treatment; indeed, the nature of the material will exercise some influence in the selection of the form and temper of the tool.

We now come to the gauge or straight-edge and the square. These are not tools strictly; their object is not to prepare materials but to test the work, and accordingly they require care in their construction and in preserving them from influences which may warp and distort them, so as to render them not only unfit to serve their end, but injurious as sources of error. As they cannot, however, be used, and at the same time entirely protected from these influences, every good Mason should know the principles on which they are constructed, and be able to test and perfect them, as well as apply them.

In testing a straight-edge (which I will call for distinction A), we first make a second B, whose edge exactly fits that of A. If then A has any faults, B has the same number, but precisely opposite in nature; every protuberance on A is represented by a hollow in B. A third, C, is similarly fitted to A, B and C are then applied to each other. If A be true, B and C will coincide and prove its truth, but every fault in A will be represented by a want of coincidence in B and C of double its own amount. The edge of B is then corrected till on applying it to C, half the errors remain which were visible on its first application. A and C being then fitted to B, will, by their coincidence, prove the truth of all three, or give again a further correction; and by repetitions of this process we ultimately get a straight-edge. The straight line which mathematically represents the edge, morally represents our proper conduct under any circumstances. The universal use of the words *rectitude* and *straightforwardness* as expressions of approbation are enough to prove this, and come from the teachings of the ancient members of our Craft.

The square is the implement by which we test right angles. It consists of two straight edges placed at right angles to each other.*

“When one straight line standing on another straight line makes the adjacent angles equal each of them is called a right angles.” That is



if $A C$ be a straight line, and $B D$ stand on it at B , making the angle $D B C = D B A$, each is a right angle. If then we wish to test a square we get a plane surface (I shall afterwards have occasion to show how this may be done) and make one edge straight, testing it by the gauge or straight edge, making one edge of the square coincide with $B C$ part of the straight edge; we mark the other edge $B D$. Now revising the square, we examine the place of its edge. If it still coincide with $B D$ it is true; if not, the difference is double the error of the square, which must be corrected and tried again. The moral equivalent to the square is the principle of doing to others as we would they should do to us; and the square thus is seen to be an apt emblem of justice and impartiality.

In both these cases it will readily be seen that the principle involved is the making of an imperfect guide detects its own inaccuracies, which are then approximately corrected. A continued repetition of this alone produces truth. The ancient teachers of Masonry must have got and verified their principles by a mutual process analogous to the physical ones I have pointed out. If, however, we were possessed of gauges of undoubted accuracy we should by no very long process be able to compare ours with them. Such “The Book of the Law” furnishes, and we are saved much of the anxiety and thought which were once necessary to deduce guides to conduct.

Having good tests, the Mason proceeds to construct his cube. The cube is a solid contained by six equal squares. To form a cube, then, it is necessary to make six plane surfaces and six right angles. The workman judges the position in which he can best work his material. He then begins to make one plane or flat surface. After

* Such is Euclid's definition. We are in the habit of calling a square an angle of 90° . I have been more rigorous, first, because a square is not an angle, but the implement whose sides contain a right angle; second, because the only definition of a degree is, that it is the 90th part of a right angle. It is not the 360th part of a circle in any accurate sense.

roughly flattening it, he cuts a channel in any convenient direction, the bottom of which is flat, as tested by his straight edge. A second is then cut across this, so that at the place of crossing the two may coincide. These are again crossed by others, until the spaces are so small that they may be readily and accurately reduced to the general plane.

Having thus made one plane, which I will call $A B C D$, the workman makes two of its edges, $A D$, $D C$, in the figure true and perpendicular to each other, by cutting small portions of the adjacent faces, and he then makes $D E$ perpendicular to both, cutting a channel on the top of the stone, perpendicular to both $A D$ and $D C$, and another on the side. A channel or drift is then cut from C to E , and one from D at the same depth at the crossing. Then, as before, the plane $D C F E$ is completed by multiplying the channels and cutting away the intervals. So, again, the face $A D E G$ is cut. The three edges $A D$, $D C$, and $D E$ are now marked equal to the sides of the cube, and the other three faces are cut. If, now, all the angles have been truly set out, all the angles at π (opposite to α) will on trial be found right angles, and the sides meeting in π equal to those meeting in α . Probably trial will show that there is some error accumulated. The stone is good enough for ordinary buildings, but is not a true cube. Greater care will reduce this error, but no time or care will entirely remove it, for the tests can always be made more delicate than the work. The old craftsmen have taken great pains, for in the Temple it is said that the joints were invisible, and this could only have been attained by a truth of workmanship such as we never see now. In the Great Pyramid, supposed to have been built even before the time of Abraham, the joints of the casing are nowhere thicker than a sheet of paper, and this is to be seen in our own days. To attain such accuracy must have needed great pains and frequent revisions. But such forms are not perfect. That no pains, no time could make them. The imperfections of the materials alone would prevent this.

As it is quite practicable by watchful care to make an ashlar fit for ordinary use, some Masons can fit themselves for their places in society. The skill and care of the workman enables him to detect error in his own work, and the more excellent the work, the more carefully done, the

more surely the skill that executed it will detect defects where others who are casual observers fail to see them. So the true Mason will see faults and errors in himself; however perfect he may seem to his neighbours, he knows well that he is not perfect. If the end of Masonry were merely to fit us for our own places here, we should not have held out as our pattern the perfect cube; no! after filling his place in lodge here, after his work as a part of the earthly society is over, the Mason is to take his place above; he is to be an ashlar in the Great Temple not built with hands. For this he must be perfect, able to stand the tests of the Great Architect of the Universe. His life here passed in constant labour, carefully correcting his faults and shortcomings, he must when the call comes find himself only too defective, even in his own eyes. How, then, shall he dare to present himself to the square of the Grand Geometrician?

We are taught not to despair that by living in faith and the exercise of charity we have grounds for sure hope. Masonry teaches us that there is some way by which we shall be freed from our faults and defects; but it does not tell us how; on the contrary, we are taught that our light is but darkness visible. We seek the light which shines more and more to the perfect day. This the true Mason will seek, the mode in which we can become perfect is the true secret of Masonry and all its ceremonies and teaching should be incitements to further research. We shall not indeed here meet with complete success. Portions of truth we shall get,—glimpses, more or less perfect, of the great mystery,—a mystery so great that we could not comprehend it entirely. Firmly believing that our honest efforts cannot but lead us to some truth we shall not want faith, and we shall need all our charity to keep constantly before us the fact that we have not the whole truth, and that the results of the honest research of others will (even though we see not how) be another phase of the same verity. Hereafter the clouds and dimness will pass away. We now see as through a glass, darkly, then we shall see face to face; we shall know as we are known.

The world is getting to believe, however slowly, in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The day of narrowness and bigotry, of class and caste, seems passing away. There is, beyond dispute, a spirit abroad exciting to human thought, rousing to generous endeavour, stimulating to philanthropic deeds, refining constitutions and laws, and seeking, indeed, ever and irresistibly, by all right methods, to broaden and elevate our common humanity.

THE NEMESIS: A TALE OF THE DAYS OF TRAJAN.

By BRO. A. ONEAL HAYE, *K.M., K. Cal., Corresponding Member of the German Society, Leipzig, Knight Templar, Scot.; Author of "The History of the Knights Templars;" "Vava Queer;" "Gatherings in Wanderings;" "Songs and Ballads;" "Poemata;" "Legends of Edinburgh;" &c., &c., &c.; Poet Laureate of the Canon Gate, Kilwinning; P.M. St. Stephens; P.P.Z. of St. Andrews, R.A. Chap.; &c.; &c.*

(Continued from page 489.)

CHAPTER XV.

THE COENA OF MURTIUS.

Oh first fond love, pure love at sight,
The snowdrop of life's spring;
The brightest flower in hall or bower,
The airiest fairest thing—
The songs that lark sings to the sun,
Up in the ether high,
When morning breaks from out the gloom
To beautify the sky.—*A.O.H.*

"Murtius of Athens, to the noble Caius Fabius, greeting."

So began a letter to Caius from the Greek philosopher, containing an invitation to the feast, arranged between Balbus and Lais, for submitting the Roman to the fire of Phryne's eyes. The letter which Adrian had sent his cousin, had somewhat troubled Caius, who could not understand what important business compelled him to leave Rome. Had the duties of Caius, as an attendant upon the Emperor, permitted, in all likelihood, he would have offered to accompany his cousin on the journey, but at this time his presence was urgently required by Trajan at Rome, and so Adrian was not embarrassed by such an offer, which, in the circumstances, he must have been forced to decline, and, by the impossibility of giving a proper reason to satisfy Caius, would have wounded his affectionate feelings. For Caius, this journey was unfortunate, as it played him into the hands of Balbus and the Greeks. Caius would not have failed to inform Adrian of the invitation, and the latter who had a faint knowledge of the ill-fame of Murtius, and knew much of Balbus, would have forced him to decline it.

On the afternoon which had been fixed by Murtius for the entertainment, Balbus called upon Caius to conduct him to the Athenian's house, and play the part of introducer. Balbus was arrayed in the height of fashionable extravagance, his hair glistened with the most expensive spikenard, his fingers were loaded with gemmed rings, and he wore several valuable ornaments about his person. His gown was of fine cloth, and white as snow.

Caius, on the other hand, was plainly attired. His toga was bordered with a broad purple stripe, indicating his senatorial rank, and he wore the gold ring likewise, betokening his position in the social scale. Save these badges of his rank and importance, there was little difference between his attire, and that of a simple citizen. As he and Balbus paced the streets, the people turned round to gaze upon the unwonted spectacle of the bravest soldier and the bravest dandy of Rome, walking side by side. Balbus, vain of his companionship with one so distinguished as a citizen, a soldier, and a poet, laughed loudly to attract the attention of the populace, and ruffled proudly his gay plumes like a vain peacock, when he finds himself the object of contemplation. Caius, unconscious of all this byplay, walked quietly by the side of the dandy, saluting his acquaintances as he passed them, without noticing the equivocal glances they cast upon his companion.

"What news from the palace," asked Balbus, "does the great Emperor cast his eyes to other lands, or does he purpose to lead Rome's victorious legions to conquest once more, to cover them with fresh laurels?"

"Such a scheme he hath upon the East, when he has regulated the affairs of the city."

"Ha, is there aught requiring purgation in Rome?"

"So it would appear, if the priest Cassius is to be believed, only to my mind he is too keen in hunting down humble bees, and finding abuses where none exist. Not to say but that in the centre city of the world, as Rome is, abuses do not exist, for where people of all nations meet, sin and sorrow are sure to arise."

"Undoubtedly, but what has Cassius discovered now?"

"Destructive societies of course, the old story of the Christians seems to trouble his brain. Then he has found out a sect of philosophers, who preach universal brotherhood and are resolved to abolish all power. Jove knows an universal brotherhood is to be desired, as such a society would end politics, and bring back the golden age."

"A mad dream that. What more?"

"Ah the last is most serious. It would appear that a sect of these worshippers of Bacchus . . .

"Worshippers of whom?" said Balbus, stopping and looking Caius earnestly in the face.

"Of Bacchus. Have you heard of them?"

"I! no. I beg your pardon. I thought

Rome had been too hot for them. It must be a mistake."

"My own impression. They have been taught too rude a lesson to raise their heads in Rome again, besides I cannot believe that men can be so vile as to indulge in such hideous excesses, so repugnant to human nature, and so atrocious to virtue."

"Who can tell," replied Balbus, quietly, although his pulses beat with fury, "human nature is vastly depraved."

"I grant you that, but this is a pitch of depravity which exceeds belief. Cassius appears to be well informed. Cenna the writer seems to have had his eye upon them for a long while, and is authorised to spy them out."

"Cenna is the informer, the groveller among mud."

"I hope for the honour of human nature, that his information may prove false. It would be a great blot upon our fame, more especially when we see the example set us by the Empress and Trajan's sister."

Balbus was thunderstruck at the tidings. What a mine threatened to open beneath his feet. This he resolved to meet with all promptitude, and he ground his teeth as he thought of Cenna.

"You astonish me, Cassius, I hope with you that the tidings may prove false. Is there any truth in the rumour that Trajan destines you to high honours?"

"How mean you?" asked Caius, "he has already covered me with them. More would crush me under a weight of gratitude which I could never support."

"Oh, I daresay it is but Rome's gossip. I have heard it said he intends you marrying one of his family?"

"Nay, that is absurd."

"So I imagined, but here we are at Murtius's house."

At the door they were met by the Athenian, who welcomed them with an ostentatious display of hospitality, and greeted Caius with a somewhat overdrawn courtesy. He then conducted them to the bath room, where he bathed along with them, after which they changed their ordinary apparel for a festal gown, called the *vestis convivalis*. Their *soleae* or sandals were taken off by slaves that they might not soil the rich furniture, and thereafter they were conducted to an apartment, where Lais, Phryne, and Myra sat to re-

ceive the guests. Lais received Caius with much complaisance, and eyed him with considerable curiosity, somewhat like unto a naturalist, who has discovered a new species of animal. Phryne gazed at him with interest as her future lord, while Myra, replying slightly to the introduction, crossed over to a rare plant, and began to pick off its dead leaves. A shudder of disgust passed through the young Roman's frame as he met the gaze of Lais. Her cold, grey, gorgon eyes appeared to him as something treacherous and evil, and he hastily withdrew his from one, of whom his first impression was of dread and abhorrence. He could not account for that antipathy, although after events showed how true had been the antagonism between the instincts of his pure heart and the presence of the abandoned Lais. But when his eye rested upon the glorious beauty of Phryne, and her matchless smile of witchery met his gaze, he felt the blood beat madly in his heart, and an emotion new, strange and ecstatic, flush like a current of fire along his veins. Lais was forgot, the eye of Phryne banished his sentiment of fear.

There is but one true, lasting love, the love at first sight, that sacred sympathy which floods the heart with purer blood, and the soul with higher aspirations. Then does the world become a paradise full of the rarest blooms, then sing the birds songs of heaven among celestial trees, then the Zephyrs as their footsteps touch the earth, chaunt melodious dreams, and then, for the first time in the young heart's life, do the heavens fill his soul with that joyous awe, which, when dreams have faded, lights vanished, the roses bearing nothing but thorns, and the earth a wilderness and a desolation, still entrances his heart with the tidings of a better land, and a joy that emanates from the graves of the blessed in heaven. It is the light that divides the first infancy from the future manhood, the inspirer of noble deeds and generous actions, the boon of heaven, and the immortal gift of a beneficent God.

"Murtius, one word with you," said Balbus, leading him slightly apart beyond the hearing of the others. "Give no outward demonstration of surprise at what I am about to tell thee. We are betrayed."

"We! How mean you?"

"The house in the Suburra has been watched."

"By Bacchus, how knowest thou that?"

"Cassius told Trajan about it in the presence of Caius. It seems Cenna the author has been a

spy upon us for some time. It is serious. A hoist from the Tarpeian Rock is the least we can expect."

"He must be removed. Have I not heard that he owes thee money. Arrest him, and put him out of the way."

"That plan will not work well. Such an arrest would bring Rome about our ears. No, I have a safer. Maremma and two others will seize him, and a weight to his head and heels, and the Tiber will relieve us of his presence. We must break from the society."

"Easily said, but not so easily done. Think you the others will agree to it? not they!"

"They must, necessity has no law. The present danger will frighten them, and we can postpone the meetings from time to time under various pretexts. The first thing to be done is to capture and then silence Cenna. Let us join the others, our conversation may be noticed."

The feast was spread in an upper chamber of the house, the tables were covered with a profusion of expensive dishes, and costly wines. The guests were all men and women of family and wealth, for Murtius had a good acquaintanceship, and they came to his house, tempted by the prospect of meeting Caius. He was placed at the *medius*, or centre of the middle couch, the place of honour, and on either side of him reclined Lais and Phryne. While the long course of dishes passed before them, Caius chatted with his neighbours.

"Your cousin Adrian, I hear, has returned to Rome," said Lais.

"Yes, but he has left it suddenly again. There is no dependence to be placed upon these philosophers."

"He is a great student, I believe?"

"He has always been so. He loved the school better than the gymnasium even when a boy, and the love appears to have grown with his growth."

"You, on the other hand, took the nobler fields of arms and poesy to revel in."

"What would you have," replied Caius, laughing, "I am an ignorant fellow and circumstances forced me to take service with Mars. Somehow the odes of Horace rang in my ears, and from murmuring his, I came in time to murmur some of my own. Yet after all, arms and poesy are not so noble pursuits, as philosophy, although more highly esteemed by the populace, who would rather any day look upon a fight in the Colosseum than

listen to the sweetest song ever trilled by Horace."

"Are you not proud, then, of your fame as a soldier?"

"Where should I be? Rome has many a braver warrior than Caius Fabius; and I have seen doughtier deeds performed by a poor soldier than ever were dreamed of by the most valiant captain."

"Still a noble descent, and a famous name must ever produce gallanter soldiers than can be found in the ranks of the common people."

"It may be so, and in a manner it is so, for a man of birth dare not tarnish the proud fame of his ancestors. Yet bravery and honour belong to all classes and to all ages, and the time will come when from the obscurest persons will spring the noblest families, even as many a noble river has its rise in some mean hillock. Birth undoubtedly is much, education more, a noble birth may be said to be the unpolished diamond, but it requires education to make its beauty shine."

"Your cousin then is perfect?"

"He is far superior to me, both in true courage and poesy."

"Is he too a poet, do you remember any of his verses?"

"Numbers, but they are scarcely fit for a lady's ear, they breathe too much of the sternness of life."

"Let me hear one before I judge."

Caius paused and then repeated these verses:

"Sic itur ad astra"—the way would you know?

'Tis down the dark vallies, up mountains of snow:

'Tis out in the ocean, where wild tempests howl;

'Tis up in mid ether, where sullen clouds scowl,

'Tis out in the fields, 'tis encompass'd by bars—

"Sic itur ad astra"—the way to the stars.

"You must wade through the war-field, thigh deep in red gore;

O'er musty old volumes by midnight lamp pore

Must waste out a lifetime in anguish and pain,

Must sleep in the snowdrift, and couch in the rain,

To win up to glory, and fame's golden cars,

"Sic itur ad astra," 'tis the way to the stars.

Dear kinsmen must fall 'fore your step of disdain,

And love in its first blood be nip't, crush'd and slain.

The flowers they must wither, the ripe crops decay,

The full harvest rot, and the forest grow grey.

The heart's blood grow cold in humanity's wars—

"Sic itur ad astra," to win to the stars.

And standing alone on a lofty hill's head,

With wild glaring eyes staring down on the dead;

From a throne of thigh-bones, with a skull for a crown,

With no joy in the heart, on the brow a black frown;

You have travelled in blood, 'mid tumults and wars.

"Sic itur ad astra," the way to the stars.

"Although very mournful," said Phryne, with an unconscious sigh, clasping her beautiful hands "it rings with a sweet truthfulness. Glory, honour, fame, wealth, what are they after all to content and happiness."

"Surely, lady, your life must be happy," answered Caius, looking at her with an earnest tenderness."

"Oh, yes," replied Phryne, with a start, and crimsoning, "I was talking of those ambitious ones who, striving to grasp the stars, overlook in their madness, the true stars of life. I should like to know your cousin."

"You flatter Adrian. I am sure he would delight in your converse. He has gone from Rome for a period, but when he returns I will bring him hither."

"Caius," asked Lucius Decius, one of the guests, "is it true that Trajan meditates an expedition to the East?"

"Nothing has been definitely arranged yet, but the disturbed state of the Eastern provinces demand his attention. Our young soldiers are eager for war."

"The very children seem infected with the spirit. You will accompany the Emperor, will you not?"

"Undoubtedly."

"Then to you I shall confide one of my cubs, and I trust you will see his claws properly trimmed."

"Trust me for that, Decius. If hard blows can sicken, the soldiers under me always seek the heat of the battle."

"Aye, they have won you the name of Caius the Invincible, still I do not wish my boy killed altogether."

"I can promise him hard blows, but not a cuirass from death. Still it takes a strong blow to kill a Decius."

"I will trust him to you," was the gratified reply.

"Were you not timid," asked Phryne, "when first you rushed upon the enemy?"

"Timid! no. From my earliest days I had looked forward to my first battle, and when it came, I rode beside the great Emperor, whose eye, as it turned upon me, filled my soul with ardour, and I could have rushed upon a Titan with that gaze following me."

"I should have thought you would have been afraid."

"There was a company of us, fresh from Rome, who had never drawn blade in anger before. Our delight was to launch forth upon a body of the enemy, and cut our way through them. Trajan however called it folly, and compelled us to give it up. We nearly mutinied, and loudly complained, but Trajan laughed and called us reckless boys, and we laughed, and so the matter ended, although Lycus and Sempronius kept up the offended fit till the great fight with the Dacians. By the gods that was a sight; the earth trembled beneath our horses' hoofs—one charge and the day was ours, although the Dacians bravely contested every step."

So swept on the tide of talk, Caius and Phryne became more unrestrained as they became intimate. Lais seeing them so engrossed, turned with a smile to Balbus who was next to her, and spoke to him. Myra had slipped away from the table unperceived, and was then on her knees at her devotions.

"Murtius," said Decius, "cannot we speed the happy hours with a song. The fair Phryne doubtless will entrance us with her melody."

Phryne looked at her father, and then at Lais, who nodded. She ordered her lyre to be brought and then sung to Caius' surprised delight, one of his own odes. His poems are all lost with the exception of two or three; this one has however come down to us, and we give a poor translation of it:

When the Heaven is gleaming,
Bright with thousand eyes,
And the day light's dreaming
In the western skies:
Then I see arising
'Mid the leafy grove,
Orb of maiden's prizing,
Trembling Star of Love!

Oft beneath wild sorrow
Have I on it gazed,
Seen a bright to-morrow,
'Mid its glory raised,
And the bright to-morrow
From my heart woe drove;
Sunk the lingering sorrow,
'Fore the Star of Love!

O! through life's paths dreary
Through its toil and pain,
When my heart is weary,
May it shine again.
Shine still on and brighter
Than the planets prove,
Making hearts grow lighter,
Sweet, sweet Star of Love.

A prolonged shout of applause greeted the fair

songstress as she concluded. Lais, who had wreathed a crown of bay, lightly placed it on the head of Caius saying, "Let us not forget the author of the verses."

"Nay, rather," replied Caius, removing the crown from his own head and placing it upon Phryne's, "she best deserves the wreath, who has opened to us the music of the spheres, and let flow upon our banquet the melody of heaven."

"Thou art a flatterer, as well as a poet," said Phryne.

"What sayeth the proverb, 'the poet is a flatterer,' but believe me, fair one, I do not flatter thee."

"By the gods, she is fair game for flattery," cried Aulus Decimus, "if so rare perfection could be flattered."

"You pay me rarer flattery, in saying that I am above flattery. Wert thou ever in love," she continued, when once more the conversation became general, "methinks none but one in love could have penned these verses."

"Nay, nay," answered Caius hastily, "I was never in love, fair lady. We poets, they say, write best about what we know least of. It is the same with me."

"Ah, perhaps some lady could tell another tale."
"It would be false then, credit me."

And so the happy evening swept on till the hour when the revel broke up, and Caius went home. But the witching voice and the beautiful eyes of Phryne hunted him, and a strange emotion troubled his breast, and drove slumber away from his pillow. The long night did he sit, gazing forth upon the night, and the early dawn drove him forth to the hill side to muse over, and in waking dreams recall the magic of her look and voice. What a diffident trembling thing is first love, so easily fed, so easily kept alive. A lock will last a week, a smile a year, a kiss for ever. Day after day did he visit the fair enchantress, and firmly and more strongly did she ply her charms till she rivetted her spell upon his heart, and made him her willing and most abject slave. Oh what a priceless love, Phryne, dost thou think it so?"

At last Caius awoke to the consciousness of his own feelings; it flashed upon him like a ray of light that he loved her. Then with the diffident modesty which was his principal characteristic he suspended his visits. But the tortures which he endured during the ten days he did not visit his mistress, were terrible, and the habit of seeing

hence he loved every day so rudely broken in upon, he felt his brain madden. Often was he on the point of hastening to throw himself at the feet of his enslaver; but then the fears of his reception made him tremble. He ventured twice or thrice, when pressed by Balbus to do so, but he was restrained in his manner, and gave his attention more to Murtius and Laïs than to Phryne. The conspirators were somewhat at a loss to account for this change, and ere anything was done to clear the horizon, Adrian returned to Rome, and for several days Caius was not seen by anyone, for after discharging his duties at the palace, he devoted the remainder of the day to his cousin.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

SUGGESTIONS AS TO OUR CHARITIES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your insertion of my letter in your issue of the 15th Dec. last, induces me once again to trouble you and your readers upon the same subject. The only preliminary remark which I would make is, that my meaning in the previous letter would, perhaps, be a little clearer, if in the second column, p. 470, the two sentences, "the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," and "A Model Middle Class School" were separated only by a comma; and if a succeeding sentence were made to read, "Continental and Eastern languages; scientific knowledge," &c.

But the great question, which has always appeared to me imperative, when I consider these children's charities has been this:—Ought they in the common acceptance of the word really and only to be charities? I think not. There is something repulsive in the term to my mind when I apply it to my brother's child; and other's have thought the same thing, for we speak of both as Institutions.

I take it for granted that every Mason, being a good citizen, is anxious to rear his children to become useful members of society; and being moreover a true and loving father, sets his heart upon their respectable advancement in life—in most cases upon their moving in the social scale upwards as regards the position which he himself has occupied; and I take it still further for granted that he would consider education as the great instrument by which he should effect his wishes.

I speak from (to myself) good proof, my own experience extending for some years now over every grade of what is called the middle class, when I say that it is marvellous what sacrifices are made to ensure the best possible education for their children by parents of whom we should, perhaps, least expect them. I could tell histories which would relieve my remarks of triteness.

Now, Sir and Brother, what the parent would try to do, did try to do whilst alive, we, so far as we can, should do when he has been removed by the will of

the Great Architect from his place of labour and love here.

We take our equal's child under our care; that child we should look upon as an equal of our own children, cast for a time upon our hands. And whilst we foster it in its infancy, we should advance most studiously its ultimate interests, and as we do not dole out to it the dry crust and the little cup of cold water, let us thank God; so ought we not to be chary of the mental pabulum which we afford—so ought we not to imagine that we are very generous if an acquaintance with the "three R's," and a little French and Latin be instilled into our charge. Here I would wish to guard distinctly against a mistake, as if I were casting a slur of any kind upon the management of either the Boys' or Girls' School. So far from that, I cannot indulge myself when in London in a pleasure more completely to my taste than by visiting them. It is because things are working *so well* that I would suggest our going on to perfection, at all events that amount of the perfection of our age which our means may enable us to reach; and the more we give and do, the more shall we be able to give and do. I shall allude particularly to the Boys' School. What are our great spheres of labour? India presents in many ways, but especially in its Civil Service, promising fields for a young European's advancement. It will assuredly present *very* many more. Now not only is its language (the common Hindoostanee I mean) absolutely necessary for him who seeks fame or fortune there; but this language possesses an advantage, perhaps, superior to most other modern languages, at all events, for I would speak cautiously as to those with which I am acquainted, in a fitness to serve as a substitute for our usual substratum of education in the west—Latin. And for a smattering of Latin, of no earthly use, as boys generally at middle class schools learn it (I had better say *are taught it*), of no earthly use, except to foster idleness and embitter their days of learning, I would have substituted what is a *LIVING* language—which is an introduction to the politer languages of the East, as well as to an intimacy with the customs, manners, and modes of thought of two hundred millions of our fellow subjects. I do not say that I would discard Latin entirely from the curriculum, let it be a substratum for a superstructure where that superstructure is to be raised with a purpose; but I repeat it, it is useless to waste time, as so often is done over that language, whilst it is just as useless—perhaps more so—not to study it closely and thoroughly, an undertaking demanding great, too great, absorption of time. Let the substrata be laid with a special regard to the superstructures to be raised.

There appears to me no reason why our school should not acquire university distinction, as others of a similar class, but for *all* our boys the universities would by no means offer fair fields of advancement. And considering the paucity of those who would pass into the arms of the older alma maters, *CLASSICS* should *NOT* be made the substratum of the education given; and if not taught thoroughly, I would not teach them at all indifferently, *i.e.* to all the pupils.

Again, what gentleman is educated—what middle class man is now able to cope successfully with his compeers, now that the Continent is thrown open to

us, without a good knowledge of the Continental languages, German and French? Italy, too, has burst her fetters, and has, I verily believe, a future great and glorious before her. As a new country, to the commercial Englishman, she will be an object of the greatest interest. She has a language, on which ere long great demands will be made, for the intercourse of the nations, as she has a literature, which is hardly second to any.

These languages, especially the two first, should be taught by native professors colloquially, and with a special regard to commerce.

No pains should be spared to make the mathematical training complete. A discriminative reference should be kept here towards the counter, the desk, and the office. A banker once complained to me, that when youths entered his establishment, they had to be taught anew, as it were; they were, as a rule, ignorant of the simplest forms and matters which might so easily be taught them at school; and which, if taught them in the last few months of their stay there, would make them very much more valuable. Every boy should have been made to keep books, as a part of his school career, and it is surprising how willingly boys generally take to the subject. Land-surveying demands the same assertion.

Our school should, if for nothing else, become noted for its scientific knowledge. We might train engineers, and produce chemists, not self-sufficient nuisances with a little smattering, but thorough working students. For a good foundation in all these things our boys do not leave the institution too soon, provided that in their earlier years they have had all the careful training needful. For all this, good apparatus and every other appliance is wanted; but the thing will grow gradually and easily, if once determined upon, and commenced.

Drawing and music should *never* be absent from the curriculum of such a school. Surely MASONS should never forget their pretensions to the fine arts. But here I must stop. I want to do good, not to engross your pages; to provoke discussion to ventilate the subject, and to raise our educational tone. If you permit me, I shall say a little more another time. I trust I shall elicit from other brethren a view or two upon the subject. I shall be content if I only succeed in placing before the Craft the fact, that now, thanks many and warm to Bro. Binckes, we are capable of doing a great deal more than we have done, rapid though of the last few years our progress has been. I know he would rejoice if we had, what, I repeat it, we ought to have, *a*, if not *THE*, *model middle class school*.

I am, yours fraternally, W. N. KIL.

MONS. VICTOR HUGO'S ANNUAL CHARITABLE FESTIVAL.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As your correspondent in this district, seeing that in the institution of Freemasonry so much attention is paid to the relief of distress, and the feeding, clothing, and education of children suffering from poverty or orphanage, I think it well to call your attention to some circumstances here in Guernsey of a kindred character, though the promoter of them is not a member of our Craft. Still, were it possible, as has been suggested,

for us to make honorary members of such as are not initiated into the mysteries, his talents, his writings in the cause of humanity, his widely-spread influence, his practical and sustained efforts to relieve distress, would well entitle him to the distinction; indeed, the benefit would be reciprocal, for his name would be an additional guarantee for the honour, the usefulness, the reputation of our system.

On Thursday last I made it a point to attend the annual festival, given at the residence of Mons. Victor Hugo, to upwards of forty children, to whom he has for some years, at stated intervals, given a substantial meal, half of them meeting at his house on alternate Wednesdays. By advertisement all persons interested in the subject had been invited to attend, and thus I found a considerable party of ladies and gentlemen assembled. The proceedings were carried on in three rooms in succession. In the first, the children had a special repast of sandwiches, cake and wine at noon, in addition to the periodical dinners. This having evidently been thoroughly enjoyed, and visitors having been courteously invited to participate, the children were transferred to another apartment, accompanied by as many of the visitors as could be accommodated. Here substantial warm clothing was distributed to each child, after which an address was delivered by Mons. Victor Hugo, explanatory of the principles on which he acts and the motives by which he is guided. A third room was subsequently visited, from which daylight had been excluded, and that of gas substituted. In the centre a Christmas tree was displayed, the articles upon which were appropriately distributed to the children, and afterwards a few of greater value by lottery. One little girl received a doll as large as a baby, handsomely dressed in clothes which formed a strange contrast with those of the happy recipient. The proceedings, which lasted about two hours, terminated with the presentation, by Mons. Victor Hugo, of a considerable number of pieces of music to the young ladies present, as souvenirs of the day.

I hope I am not committing a breach of hospitality when I say that the rooms which were devoted to this noble purpose for the occasion, afforded subjects of great interest to the visitors, from the peculiar style of the fittings-up, in tapestry, fine carved black oak, and articles of vertu, each apartment different from the others, and all indicative of wealth, taste, and originality.

I send herewith the published account of the proceedings, with the address of Mons. Victor Hugo, as it appears in the *Guernsey Star* newspaper of this day, of which you can make such use as you think proper.

The narration now given through your pages may, perhaps, induce some members of our Craft, who have opportunities and ample means at their disposal, to follow the example of Mons. Hugo, and thus accomplish his object in the publicity of the annual *réunions*; for though as Masons our sympathies are especially enlisted in favour of our body, we are at the same time stimulated to do good to others in proportion to our means, at all times to endeavour to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, and "to pour the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the distressed."

Yours fraternally, H. H.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

Referring to the notice which appears on another page, of the consecration of Lodge Kelburne, Isle of Cumbrae, Scotland, the R.W.M. of the lodge, Bro. the Rev. Herbert H. Richardson, M.A., of St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, is a member of the Apollo University Lodge, Oxford, in which he was initiated in 1856. Bro. W. E. Gumbleton, the S.M., being the esteemed J.G.D. of the Grand Lodge of England.

We have just received intimation from the publisher of Dr. Oliver's Masonic Works, that a new edition is in the press of "The Origin of the Royal Arch Order of Freemasonry, Historically considered." Considerably enlarged, with copious notes by the learned Doctor. Dedicated by permission to the Most Noble the Duke of St. Albans, Prov. G.M. for Lincolnshire.

MASONIC FESTIVALS IN SCOTLAND.—We gave in a recent issue an account of the Centenary Festival of Lodge St. Mark (No. 102, S.C.), Glasgow. We give on another page of our present issue. Reports of the Centenary, Festival of the Union and Crown Lodge, 103, Glasgow, and of the 809th Anniversary of the Lodge St. John, Glasgow, No. 32, the latter lodge claiming to have been erected by charter from King Malcolm in 1057.

MONS. VICTOR HUGO'S BOUNTY.—We have pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to a letter from an esteemed correspondent in Guernsey, which will be found on another page, detailing an interesting ceremony which took place on the 27th December, at the residence of the illustrious writer Mons. Victor Hugo, when some forty poor children of all religious denominations had distributed amongst them gifts of substantial warm winter clothing, after partaking of a repast. Nor is this all, for be it said to the credit of the illustrious donor, he has for some years not only been in the habit of making this Christmas distribution, but he has also been in the habit of giving to some forty children a substantial meal, at stated intervals, half of the number of children mentioned meeting at his house on alternate Wednesdays; we purpose on another occasion giving the address delivered by Mons. Hugo upon the occasion referred to, explanatory of the principles on which acts and the motives by which he is guided, in thus endeavouring to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, and "to pour the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the distressed." We cordially endorse the remark made by our esteemed correspondent H. H., in the last paragraph of his letter, in which he states that the publication of the interesting particulars stated, "May perhaps induce some members of our Craft, who have opportunities and ample means at their disposal, to follow the example of Mons. Hugo, and thus accomplish his object in the publicity of the annual *réunions*."

MASONIC BALL.—A grand Masonic ball is announced to be held at Willis's Rooms on the 28th inst. The Stewards (forty in number), are chiefly Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers, and Masters, Past Masters, and officers, representing above twenty lodges. It is expected to be a great success, a large number of tickets having been already applied for. Programmes may be had at the office of the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.

METROPOLITAN.

INSTRUCTION.

THE UNITED MARINERS' LODGE OF INSTRUCTION (No. 30).—The annual banquet meeting of this old lodge of instruction was held on the 20th ult. at Bro. Scurr's, Masonic Tavern, East, the Three Cranes, Mile End-road.

The lodge of instruction having been opened in ample form, and the *pro forma* business disposed of, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was provided by Bro. Host Scurr, in the usual liberal and excellent manner which distinguishes that esteemed brother upon all occasions when called upon to cater for the comforts and happiness of the brethren.

The chair was taken at the banquet by Bro. G. J. Stevens, W.M., Secretary of the Doric Lodge (No. 933), supported by a numerous body of the members of the lodge of instruction and visiting brethren, including Bros. Johns, McDonald, and Scurr, of the mother lodge; Foulger, Saqui, Barnes, Drs. Swyer and Thompson, Kiddell, Chadwick, Fordham, Sherren, Brown, Curtis, Hudson, Scotcher, Jarman, Dawson (of the Yarboro' Lodge, No. 244, Jersey), Stevenson, and several other brethren too numerous to mention.

The cloth having been drawn and grace returned, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and, as customary amongst the Craft, were right heartily received and responded to.

The W. Master then proposed as the first toast that of "Prosperity to the United Mariners' Lodge of Instruction," and identifying with the toast the names of the oldest representatives present of that lodge of instruction, viz., Bros. McDonald, Johns, and Scurr. The W.M. in giving this toast alluded very feelingly to a circumstance which was much to be regretted, viz., that this lodge of instruction, which was one of the oldest lodges of instruction established at the east end of London, should not have received that support which it deserved, the more especially also as many brethren, now adepts in the Craft, would not have obtained their knowledge but for the instruction afforded them in this old lodge of instruction; he trusted that the resuscitation would proceed forthwith, and that the brethren would muster in force to support their venerable *alma mater*.

Song—"Good-bye, sweetheart, good-bye"—Bro. Jarman.

Bro. Johns, in responding to the toast, confirmed the statement made by the W.M., as to the Masonic instruction and re-vivication afforded several years back by the United Mariners' Lodge of Instruction. Masonry was at that time in a very backward state indeed at this end of London, and it was but due to this lodge of instruction to say that she had played a most prominent part in being the means of bringing new life to Masonry at the east end of London.

Bro. Scurr followed Bro. Johns, and took the opportunity of remarking that it was with much pain he had noticed the marked lack of encouragement given to this lodge of instruction by the mother lodge, he (Bro. Scurr) as a member of the mother lodge, felt it as a reflection upon the parent lodge, that she was unrepresented by one of the officers upon this occasion, and indeed, that the lodge of instruction had so seldom a representative present from the mother lodge to give encouragement to the efforts of the lodge of instruction, and to watch the progress made by the members." He (Bro. Scurr) held that it was the duty of the mother lodges having lodges of instruction attached to them, that they should take them under their fostering wing; and that they should make themselves cognisant of their proceedings, as Grand Lodge looked to mother lodges having lodges of instruction attached to them, as being responsible for the regularity of the proceedings of the instruction lodges established under their auspices.

The toast of "The Visiting Brethren" followed, and the W.M., in giving the toast, alluded to the pleasure it afforded him at seeing amongst them this evening a brother, Bro. Dawson, of the Yarboro' Lodge, 244, (Jersey), who had travelled from Jersey for the purpose of being present at the annual festival of this lodge of instruction, as the guest of the W.M.

Bro. Dawson having returned thanks in a few appropriate words, the W.M. then gave the toast which is always so warmly received at Masonic gatherings, that of "The Masonic Charities." He regretted that he felt he was not gifted as he could wish, to enable him to adequately dilate upon the merits, and importance to the Craft, of the noble institutions embraced in this toast. Each of the institutions have special claims upon the hearts and purses of the Order, and though he was averse to

pleading for any one of our three great charities in preference to either of the others, he was reminded, by seeing opposite to him that esteemed worker on behalf of the charities, Bro. Foulger, who was going up as one of the Stewards at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows—that there were special features in connection with this institution that commended it to the consideration and hearty support of the Craft, every thoughtful Mason could reflect that many a brother who once moved in a sphere of prosperity and comfort has become reduced in the sunset of his life by circumstances over which he had no control to a state of dire distress and suffering, in which he would probably have remained but for the noble asylum that stood ready to receive and shelter him under its hospitable roof; the Masonic fire nearly extinguished in the bosom of the aged and unfortunate brother, would, upon his admission to this noble asylum, be rekindled—phœnix-like, he would become revived, and his closing days be spent in the peaceful serenity of happiness and comfort. The W.M. trusted, therefore, that every possible support would be rendered to this and the other two great Masonic charities—the Girls' School and the Boys' School.

Comic song—"Reuben Wright and Phœbe Brown"—Bro. Samuel Thompson, M.D.

Bro. Foulger returned thanks very eloquently in responding to the toast of the charities as identified with the institution he (Bro. Foulger) had the honour to represent as a Steward. He made a powerful and telling appeal on its behalf, and acknowledged the great assistance he had received from lodges of instruction, the amounts received from them in support of his stewardship far exceeding that derived from mother lodges. And with reference to this lodge of instruction, he could not help paying a tribute of respect to Bro. Barnes in acknowledgment of the ready assistance he had received at his hands, whereby he had been enabled very materially to swell his list. Bro. Foulger concluded by stating, that without true charity Freemasonry would be a mere myth.

Bro. Barnes having followed in responding to the toast of the Charities, Bro. Saqui then proposed as the next toast, amidst the spontaneous acclamation of all present, that of "The Health of the Worshipful Master, Bro. G. J. Stevens." Bro. Saqui dilated at considerable length upon the attribute possessed by Bro. Stevens, who so eminently qualified him to fill the honourable and exalted position of an occupant of the chair K.S. He paid a justly merited tribute to the exemplary Masonic virtue—charity,—that gleamed so ardently within his breast, and alluded to the perseverance and application brought into requisition by Bro. Stevens to qualify himself to perform the responsible duties of Worshipful Master of a lodge. It had afforded him (Bro. Saqui) much gratification to witness the accomplished and perfect manner in which Bro. Stevens fulfilled all the duties required of a W.M., and that which rendered an additional attractiveness to Bro. Stevens' working, was the genial urbanity of manner, with which it was pervaded, and which so distinguished him out of the lodge when commingling with those who were so fortunate as to possess his friendship; he said fortunate, because he (Bro. Saqui) had found that when suffering under the depressing influences of "weary carking care," Bro. Stevens' enlivening, engaging manner, seemed to produce a sort of mesmeric sympathy; the currents of care flowed away and disappeared, and a much happier state of mind was the result. Bro. Saqui trusted that though their W.M. had only till now attained the chair in a lodge of instruction, that the day was not far distant when he should have the pleasure of congratulating their W.M. upon his filling the chair in a mother lodge, and he knew of few brethren calculated to fill that honourable position with greater credit than their esteemed W.M. Bro. Saqui concluded by calling upon the brethren to drink to "The Health of their Worshipful Master." The manner in which the toast was received, we can only describe as a perfect ovation.

Comic Song—"The Red Nose"—Bro. Bisson.

The W. Master returned thanks in that piquant and impressive manner for which he is so characteristic, and passed in review the several topics dwelt upon by Bro. Saqui; in proposing his health, he referred to a disagreeable circumstance which had occurred in a mother lodge, of which he was until recently the J.W., but which he had felt compelled upon point of principle and honour to recently resign, and forego that advancement in office which would otherwise have in all probability resulted to him. He said it was his ardent desire to prove himself in heart and hand a Freemason. He did not consider it was

sufficient to call one self by right a Freemason, but, that, remembering our obligation, we should prove ourselves by our actions to be Freemasons, in the most comprehensive acceptation of the word. Bro. Saqui had referred in very complimentary terms to what he considered to be the efficiency with which he (the W.M.) had arrived at in the working of the ceremonies. He could only say that if it was considered he was deserving of this compliment, he was pleased to learn that the studious attention he had given to lodges of instruction had been thus rewarded, for it was by regular attendance at lodges of instruction that he had been enabled to arrive at that knowledge which he now possessed. It was impossible for brethren to expect to receive in mother lodges alone the necessary instruction in all the beautiful truths and teachings of Freemasonry. He was himself comparatively a young Mason, and he trusted, therefore, that those desirous of making progress in Freemasonry would avail themselves of the facilities afforded by a constant attendance at lodges of instruction. The W.M., after a few more remarks, thanked the brethren again for the honour they had done him, and concluded by quaintly quoting the words of Sir Matthew Bramble, in "Humphrey Clinker":—"May the Beggar's benison always attend you." The W.M. then proposed as the next toast "The Health of their esteemed host, Bro. Scurr," and he paid a well-deserved compliment to Bro. Scurr and Sister Scurr, the hostess, for the admirable manner in which they had provided so successfully for the comfort and happiness of all present. The toast was received most cordially.

Song—Bro. J. Stevenson—"The Dress of Freemasons."

Bro. Scurr briefly but warmly returned thanks on behalf of himself and spouse for the compliment just paid them by the W.M. It always afforded him pleasure to find that the brethren were satisfied with the exertions he made to provide for their happiness.

The W. Master then proposed "The Prosperity of the Chronicle of the various events occurring in Masonic life, the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR," coupling with the toast the health of the representative of that journal, Bro. J. Stevenson, who was present amongst them this evening. The W.M. pointed out the many claims which commended this journal to the support of the Craft, as the only exponent in this country solely devoted to the interests of the Order. He testified, from his own experience, to the usefulness of this journal as a ventilator for the opinions of the Craft upon all matters affecting the cause of Freemasonry, and also the vast amount of Masonic information which it contained.

Song by the W.M.—"The Holy Friar."

Bro. Stevenson, apologising for the unavoidable late hour of his arrival at the meeting, on account of his duties in connection with the Magazine, returned thanks for the kind manner in which the last toast had been given by the W.M. and received by the brethren, and he assured them that no pains should be spared to render the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR worthy of the continued and, he trusted, greatly increased support of the Craft.

The toast of "The Health of the veteran Bro. Scotcher, the Secretary of this and the Yarboro' Lodges of Instruction," was then proposed by the W.M., in terms highly commendatory of the continued application of their esteemed brother to the cause of Freemasonry, and more especially to the duties of Masonic instruction. Bro. Scotcher's labours had been indefatigably extended over a long series of years. The toast having been right heartily received, Bro. Scotcher responded, thanking the brethren for the kind manner in which they had made reference to his services, and afterwards sang an excellent song with all that pristine vigour for which he is so characteristic, in spite of his advanced age.

The Tyler's toast, and the singing of the National Anthem, brought the proceedings of this happy evening to a timely close.

PROVINCIAL.

CORNWALL.

TRURO.—*One and All Lodge* (No. 330).—The brethren of this lodge held their annual meeting at their lodge-rooms, on Thursday, the 27th ult., when Bro. Sandoe was duly installed the Worshipful Master, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Alms, the retiring W.M. Bro. Sandoe appointed and invested Bros. Oliver, S.W.; Wallis, J.W.; White, Sec.; Oliver,

S.D.; Hambly, J.D.; Pearce and Beswetherick, Stewards; Hawksley, Chaplain; Carrol, I.G.; Everett, Tyler. Bro. White was unanimously elected the Steward of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity Fund. The brethren afterwards dined together at the Town Arms Hotel, when Bro. Sandoe catered in his usual good style.

Penzance.—*Mount Sinai Lodge* (No. 121).—St. John's Festival was celebrated by this lodge on Wednesday, the 26th ult., when Bro. F. Boase, the Mayor of the town, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The following officers were appointed:—Bros. W. D. Matthews, jun., S.W.; Goldsworthy, J.W.; S. Higgs, jun., S.D.; C. Guy, J.D.; C. Reed, Treas.; R. J. Hosking, Sec.; J. H. James and T. W. Pengelly, Stewards; W. Gurney, Org.; T. Hollow, Dir. of Cers.; J. Leven, I.P.M.; N. Pentreath, I.G.; H. Gaye, Tyler. The brethren resolved to present Bro. W. H. Holmes, a Mason of long standing and a worthy man, with the jewel of a P.M., to be paid for by individual subscriptions, and not from lodge funds. Bro. Holmes was collector of customs at Penzance, and has recently removed to Stockton-on-Tees. Various Masonic matters having been discussed and arranged, the brethren, to the number of twenty-five, sat down to a capital dinner spread by Bro. Longhurst, of the Union Hotel, which was followed by the usual loyal, Masonic, and fraternal toasts, very agreeably interspersed by some songs, accompanied by Bro. Gurney, on the harmonium.

Callington.—*Loyal Victoria Lodge* (No. 557).—The brethren of this lodge met at their room, at Callington, on the 31st ult., to hold their annual meeting on the festival of St. John, when Bro. J. Peter, Portreeve of the town, and Captain of the 5th D.C.V. Rifles, was duly installed as W.M. for the year ensuing. The ceremony was ably performed by Bro. Pearce, P. Prov. J.G.D.; Bro. Venning being the immediate P.M. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows, viz., Bros. S. Coward, S.W.; Crabb, J.W.; Pearce, P.M., Treas.; Taylor, P.M., Sec.; Steele, S.D.; Langford, J.D.; Harris, I.G.; Honwood, Tyler. Bro. Mason, P.M. and P. Prov. S.G.W., was unanimously elected Steward of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity Fund. The brethren then sat down to an excellent dinner, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. The lodge was finally closed at an early hour.

CHESHIRE.

CHESTER.—*Lodge of Independence* (No. 721).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place on Monday evening, 31st ult., at the Bars Hotel, when the following officers and members were present, viz.: Bros. W. R. Bainbridge, W.M.; Venables Williams, S.W.; Wm. Brown, J.W.; James Gerrard, P.M. and Treasurer; Elwood Tibbits, Secretary; H. Alsop, S.D.; J. McEvoy, J.D.; W. B. A. Bainbridge, I.G.; and W. Brisland, Tyler; Bros. Gwynne, Ellis, Parry, Green, Richmond, Sellars, M.D., Daine, Vernon, Morris, Tasker, Musgrave, J. C. Davies, M.D., John Jones, R. C. Smith, R. W. Worrall, and D. Thomas, Visitor, Wm. Mitchell, P.M. 69. The minutes of last lodge having been read and confirmed the brethren proceeded to elect the W.M. and Treas. for the ensuing year. Seven brethren being eligible for the chair the ballot was taken, when Bro. W. R. Bainbridge, W.M., and Bro. V. Williams, S.W., having an equal number of votes recorded in their favour, Bro. Bainbridge kindly gave way to Bro. Williams, who was declared duly elected. The brethren then unanimously re-elected: Bro. James Gerrard, P.M., as Treasurer, and at the same time complicated him on the able manner in which he had filed that office. Bros. J. C. Davies, R. C. Smith, R. W. Worrall, D. Thomas, and S. Jones, who had been previously initiated in this lodge, were then passed to the second degree. Bros. D. Gwynne and W. Vernon having tendered their resignation the same were accepted, and there being no further business before the lodge it was closed down in solemn form and adjourned, and the brethren retired for refreshment. After doing ample justice to Bro. Host Tasker's liberal catering, and after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Bro. Bainbridge proposed "The health of the Treasurer, Bro. J. Gerrard," which was enthusiastically received. Bro. Gerrard in replying proposed "Bro. E. Tibbits, the Secretary," who in responding proposed "The health of the W.M. Bro. W. R. Bainbridge," the tenor in which the proposition was made, and the manner in which it was received by the brethren clearly testifying the high respect and esteem in which Bro. Bainbridge is held by them. After the toasts of the "W. M. Elect," "Junior Warden," "Senior Deacon,"

"Inner Guard," and "Tyler," the brethren retired at an early hour.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*Fortitude Lodge* (No. 105).—This lodge had its banquet in the noble room of the Duke of Cornwall Hotel, on the 27th ult., Bro. Howse, the manager, being one of the members of the lodge. The dinner was presided over by Bro. R. Rodda, W.M., P. Prov. G.R., who for the second time holds the honourable position of Master of the Lodge. He was supported by the following P.M.'s of the lodge:—Bros. Nettleton, Jew, W. Phillips, Chapman, Stoneman, Killingly (of Exeter), Thuell, R. Ridley, R. R. Rodd, J. Rowe, and Heath. The dinner and the wines and dessert were excellent, and the attendance all that could be desired. It was in every respect calculated to give to the Duke of Cornwall a high character for its *cuisine* and the perfection of the arrangements. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were very happily given from the chair, and from other members of the Craft, and were pleasantly responded to. The toasts were interspersed with Masonic songs or sentiments, which were "said or sung" with that enthusiasm which always marks the brethren when they wish to do honour to the Craft. After the list of toasts had been gone through the meeting became convivial, and a most pleasant day was passed.

Harmony Lodge (No. 156).—The members of this lodge held their annual banquet of St. John's, at Bro. Endle's, White Swan Inn, St. Andrew's-street, on Thursday, the 27th December. Bro. S. Kessel, W.M., occupied the chair, and was ably supported by Bros. W. K. Michell, T. Yeo, C. Clarke, G. L. Roberts, and E. Arnold, P.M.'s; J. Foot, Sec.; and J. Manning, Treas. Bro. Bell, S.W., was unavoidably absent, but his chair was ably filled by Bro. James Willoughby. The following officers were also present:—Bros. Triplett, J.W.; A. Thomas, J.D.; J. Lakeman, J.D.; S. Clutterbuck, I.G.; W. Filditch, D.C.; Routcliff, A.D.C.; and Gloy and Gould, Stewards, together with nearly fifty of the brethren. The dinner was served in Bro. Endle's usual style, and gave every satisfaction. After the removal of the cloth, a number of loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to, and the lodge being closed, the meeting became convivial.

Lodge Brunswick (No. 159).—The brethren of this lodge met at their rooms, Masonic Hall, Union-road, on the 27th ult., for the purpose of installing Bro. George Warren as W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was impressively performed by Bros. Chapple, P. Prov. G.D.C., and Lose, Prov. G.P., P.M., and at the conclusion the W.M. invested his officers as follows:—Bros. G. Carter, S.W.; H. J. Trethevy, J.W.; J. May, P.M., Treas.; J. Austin, S.D.; G. Stentiford, J.D.; W. D. Thomas, I.G.; F. Radford, D.C.; A. Forsyth, Steward; J. Miller, Assistant Steward; — Radmore, Tyler; R. Lose, P.M., Sec. At the conclusion of the business of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to Bro. Thomas's, Great Western Hotel, where a banquet of the most choice description was ably prepared. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the brethren spent a very happy evening together.

Lodge Charity (No. 223).—The brethren of this lodge assembled at 4.30 p.m., on the 27th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Union-street, and after opening the lodge in the first degree, they proceeded to Mrs. Chubb's Hotel, where they held the annual banquet, there being present Bros. J. B. Witheridge, W.M.; Pollard, P. Prov. G.T.; Gamble, P. Prov. G., Assist. Dir. Cir.; and Browning, J. May, A. Woolf, J. Miller, P.M.'s; Bros. Jane, S.W.; Bray, J.W.; Hiffley, S.D.; Montgomery, J.D.; Warn, I.G.; Fose, D.C.; Willoughby, S.S.; Wright, J.S., and about twenty other brethren. The banquet was served in an excellent style, and after the cloth had been removed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly responded to.

DEVONPORT.—*Friendship Lodge* (No. 202).—The installation of the W.M. Elect, Bro. S. Keys, took place on the 27th ult., at the Lodge Room, St. Stephen-street. The ceremony was ably performed by Bro. Murch, P.M., after which the W.M. invested the following brethren with their insignia of office:—Bros. Tripp, S.W.; Knight, J.W.; Taylor, S.D.; Bray, J.D.; Murch, P.M., Sec.; Welch, P.M., Treas.; Kelk, Phelps, and Jones, Stewards; and Sullivan, I.G. The brethren afterwards adjourned to Bro. Jackman's, New Market Hotel, to partake of their annual banquet, which was prepared with the greatest possible credit to the host. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were enthusiastically drunk and responded to. The brethren separated at an early hour.

BRIXHAM.—*True Love and Unity Lodge* (No. 248).—The brethren of this lodge met on St. John's Day, for the purpose of installing W.M. and officers for the year ensuing. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and minutes of former meeting duly confirmed, the W.M. elect was installed according to ancient custom, after which the newly-installed Master appointed his officers as follows:—Bro. the Rev. J. R. Nankivell, S.W.; Bros. McCollough, J.W.; J. Johnson, Treas.; Stevens, Sec.; Brooking, S.D.; Lamswood, J.D.; P. Bartlett, I.G.; and Matthews, Tyler. The ceremony being over the brethren were called from labours to refreshment. An excellent supper had been provided by the Treasurer, Bro. W. Howard, P.M. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Joseph Johnson, P.M.

EXETER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 39).—On Thursday, the 27th ult., the annual banquet after the election of the W.M. of this lodge took place at Pope's Half Moon Hotel; Bro. Yelland, W.M., presided, supported by nearly fifty members of the Craft. Amongst the brethren present were the Bros. W. D. Moore, D. Prov. G.M., the Installing Master; Cann, W.M. St. George's Lodge; Cotton, J. C. Wilcocks, Dicks, May, Brewster, J. Laidman, F. Laidman, W. Richards, Bellerby, Wilcocks, Quicke, W. H. Geachias, Moass, Jones, Baily, Rogers, Delagarde, Harris, Gould, Edwards, Stafford, Channing, Blight, Gardner, Hodge, Clarke, Force, Gilbert, East, Euston, Bodley, Adams, Birket, &c. An excellent dinner was provided.

BARNSTABLE.—*Loyal Lodge* (No. 251).—The members of this lodge met at the Assembly Rooms, Boutport-street, on St. John's Day, to instal the W.M. for the ensuing year, &c., Bro. S. Featherstone and Bro. J. W. Tatham having been unanimously elected at the preceding meeting, the former to preside over the lodge, and the latter to fill the office of Treasurer. Bro. S. Featherstone was duly installed in the chair, the ceremony of installation being admirably done by Bro. J. R. Chanter. The W. M. having thanked the brethren for his appointment, proceeded to nominate his officers as follow:—Bros. J. Hill, I.P.M.; W. Horne, S.W.; C. S. Willshire, J.W.; Rev. J. Russell, Chaplain; J. W. List, Sec.; E. J. Arnold, S.D.; A. Balment, J.D.; J. Hancock, Supt. of Works; T. Blanchard, I.G.; J. Edwards, Org.; F. Symons and W. Curtis, Stewards; A. Bater and H. Gliddon, Tylers. After closing the lodge, the brethren sat down to supper. The W.M. presided, giving the customary loyal and Masonic toasts in appropriate terms, which were duly honoured by the company. The pleasures of the evening, which was most agreeably spent, were increased by the excellent songs of Bros. Edwards, Wickham, Horne, and List.

PLYMOUTH.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 70).—The annual festival of this lodge took place on Thursday evening, the 27th ult., and was observed in full ceremony, in the Huyshe Masonic Temple, in Princes-place. It was the first time the brethren congregated in this building, termed "beautiful" by authority, for the installation of their W.M. Forty years save one have now elapsed since this old lodge was removed from the metropolis of the province, through the kindness of their long-to-be-remembered and ever-to-be-revered chief, the late Bro. Earl Portescue; and during this range of years it has continued to preserve, and, be it hoped, will be allowed to perpetuate its ancient city's more ancient motto—*semper fidelis*, two words supposed to be as Masonic as civic, and as applicable to the members of the Craft as the inhabitants of Exeter. After the installation of Bro. G. G. Nicholls, as W.M. of this lodge, the following brethren were invested as his officers, viz.: Bros. J. B. W. Williams, S.W.; J. Downes, J.W.; J. Richards, S.D.; R. E. May, J.D.; Westcott, I.G.; A. H. Fey, S.S.; Knowsley, J.S.; Fey, Org.; Andrews, Dir. of Cers.; Smith, Tyler. The veteran Secretary, who stood the last of his race since the movement of the lodge to Plymouth, was re-appointed to his office by the new W.M. The I.P.M. of the lodge was Bro. J. Head. Bro. J. B. Gover, P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers., assisted most ably in the labours of the day, as did also Bros. Dupre, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Finemore, Prov. J.G.D.; Meynard, P. Prov. G. Treas.; W. F. P. Holmes, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Thomas, Phillips, Hambly, Ferris, and Watts. The members of the lodge present included Bros. Wainwright, Hayhes, Farthing, Tremayne, Rode, Ellis, Lavers, Conday, Brewer, &c. The following distinguished brethren were present as visitors, and attended at the banquet: Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Elliot, M.P.; Dr. Dowse, P. Prov. S.G.D.; Professor Sinclair, Dr. Laity, Hill, Harvey, P.M.; Henwood, &c. Bro. R. Ord, P.M., was unavoidably prevented attending the banquet. After the usual loyal toasts, Bro. the Right Hon.

Lord Elliot, M.P., in replying to the toast of his own health, assured the brethren that he fully appreciated their kindness, and such was the correctness of the lodge's working that in whatever quarter his duties might call him he should remember the proceedings of that day with the highest possible pleasure. Bro. Dowse and other visitors were alike sincere and successful in delivery. Several other toasts followed, and the meeting which will long be remembered as one of the brightest in the annals of Lodge No. 70, was brought to a timely conclusion.

TAVISTOCK.—*Bedford Lodge* (No. 282).—The St. John's festival of this flourishing lodge was held on the 31st ult. At half-past one the lodge was close tyled. After the usual routine business had been disposed of and a raising made, the W.M. elect, Bro. G. Merrifield, was installed in ancient form by Bro. H. E. Monk, I.P.M., assisted by Bro. T. Chapman, P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. W. Beck, S.W.; R. Brown, J.W.; E. Brooming, S.D.; L. Schwer, J.D.; R. Webb, I.G.; J. Andrews, Tyler; J. C. Wills, P.M., Treas.; W. Merrifield, P.M., Sec.; H. E. Monk, P.M. The brethren, numbering twenty-six, afterwards adjourned to the Bedford Hotel, where they partook of an excellent banquet provided by Bro. Northway; and subsequently the usual loyal toasts, and those pertaining to the Craft, were proposed, and heartily responded to.

E S S E X.

MALDON.

St. Peter's Lodge (No. 1,024).

PRESENTATION TO THE CHAPLAIN.

A pleasing ceremony took place at this lodge on the 21st ult., in the presentation of a token of fraternal regard to the Chaplain, the Rev. E. R. Horwood, Rector of All Saints, Maldon. The presentation was in the appropriate form of an eagle-shaped lectern—a contribution from the Masonic brotherhood of the town and neighbourhood towards the restoration and refitting of the parish church.

After a few words of explanation by Bro. W. Humphreys, P.M., Treas. of the lodge, to whom the task of selection had been deputed,

The W.M., Bro. GALE, rose, and in the name of the brethren present and absent—for all, he was happy to say, had unanimously concurred in the proceedings, requested their reverend brother's acceptance of the lectern as a present from them to the church of All Saints, Maldon, where they hoped it would be deemed worthy to find a place. It afforded them, he said, the greatest satisfaction to have the opportunity of adding this contribution to the noble work of restoration which they knew was going on in that church, and of expressing their esteem for their worthy chaplain and vicar. Long might he be spared to read from this lectern the blessed truths of the Bible, and much might his parishioners profit by them.

In reply, the Rev. Bro. HORWOOD said: W.M. and brethren, I rise with excessive pleasure, as vicar of the church in which this lectern is to be placed, and as chaplain of the lodge from which it emanates, to express to you my high admiration of the spirit which has prompted you to make this present, my approbation of the special gift you have selected, and my most grateful acknowledgments of the attachment you wish to evince thereby to myself personally. This is but a young lodge, and it is most pleasing to see you so soon catching the spirit of your ancient brethren, whose noblest efforts in every age have been exhibited in building up and embellishing temples to the honour of the Great Architect of the Universe; and as we are no longer operative, but rather speculative Masons, I could not conceive, when Bro. Humphrey did me the honour to consult me on the subject, a more appropriate gift for a Masonic lodge to offer or a Christian church to accept, than that which has been selected. The eagle is that royal majestic bird whose dwelling is amid the clouds and in the solitudes of the everlasting rocks; it will sit for hours mysteriously musing on the world below, or with unflinching eyes, with that peculiar property it possesses, gazing into the face of the noonday sun. Thus it is not only to us an emblem of the dignity, and mysteriousness, and permanency of Freemasonry, and of its peculiar privilege of having in its universality the sun always in its meridian; but in a measure it symbolises to us the attributes of Him who inhabiteth eternity, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man as mortal and with the eye of sense hath seen or can see, but whom, in the world beyond the clouds, man as immortal, as gifted with more than the eagles vision, with

the spiritual eye, shall see Him as He is, face to face, the Great Architect of the Universe, the sun of Righteousness, by every age, and in every clime adored. Again, if we look to the purpose to which this lectern is to be applied, it is, I conceive, peculiarly appropriate to Freemasonry. It is designed to bear that volume of the sacred law which, whether as Christian men or masons, we take for the rule of our faith—the Bible, the book of books, not of one nation only, but of all mankind; the guide both of the learned and the ignorant; the witness in every age of those higher things in the heart of man—the inspired source of truth—the way to a better life. There is one other striking circumstance I would mention. It has been the custom of the earliest ages to depict the four evangelists with certain significant emblems attached. The winged angel leans over the shoulder of St. Matthew; the winged lion crouches by St. Mark; the winged ox ruminates besides St. Luke, but the winged eagle is the emblem of that evangelist whose gospel so especially burns and breathes with those great primary characteristic principles of Freemasonry, brotherly love, relief, and truth, I mean St. John, the beloved disciple, who in his youth leaned on the bosom of Jesus, and whose dying testament to the world was, "Little children, love one another." I thank you once more most sincerely on behalf of myself and my parishioners, for this handsome present. Long may it stand in our parish church as a memorial of your generosity, and long may we and our children's children profit by the lessons which will be read from it, for there is a perpetuity attaching to the gifts and offerings we make to God's house, which belongs not to aught we expend on ourselves or on our houses. They are preserved and handed down from age to age, and thus it may be that even this, your offering of this evening, may be seen and spoken of by generations yet unborn, long after we have gone to our graves.

The lectern was carved in oak by Mr. Polley, of Coggeshall, and is partly gilded.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

HEREFORD—*Palladian Lodge* (No. 120).—This lodge held its annual festival on St. John's Day, on which occasion Bro. O. Shellard, the retiring W.M., was re-elected for the ensuing year. The brethren also presented him with a P.M.'s jewel, as a mark of their approbation of his conduct as Master of the lodge during the past year. The presentation having been duly made and feelingly acknowledged, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers; after which he proposed an address of thanks to Mrs. Lane Freer, widow of the late venerable Archdeacon Lane Freer, for the valuable and interesting volume containing memoir, extracts of speeches, &c., of her late lamented husband, with which she had recently presented those brethren who were members of the *Palladian Lodge* at the time of his lamented decease. The address was unanimously adopted, ordered to be entered upon the minutes, and a copy of it, engrossed on vellum, to be sent to Mrs. Lane Freer. After the business of the lodge had been transacted the brethren, according to annual custom, dined together, under the presidency of the newly installed W.M. An unusually large number of the brethren were present, and an agreeable evening was spent in the delivery of some excellent speeches, the singing of a few favourite songs, and the recitation of extracts from some of Shakespeare's best plays. Thus, while enjoying the good things provided for them by their host, Bro. Roberts, of the Mitre, they were partakers of the lighter enjoyments which proceed from "the feast of reason and flow of soul."

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

ST. HELEN'S.—*Lodge of Loyalty* (No. 897).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 18th ult., in the lodge-room, Fleece Hotel, for the usual despatch of business—the ceremony of installing Bro. Jas. Morris the W.M. elect, and celebrating the festival of St. John. The lodge was called for two o'clock, and was opened by Bro. Wignall, W.M., assisted by Bros. Morris, S.W.; Webster, P.M., J.W.; J. Robinson, Sec.; Seddon, S.D.; P. Robinson, J.D.; Harrison, I.G. The minutes of the previous lodge were read and confirmed, when Bro. Leather was examined, and retired for preparation, and on his re-admission was duly passed to the degree of F.C.; he then retired. The ceremony of installation was next proceeded with, and was performed by Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., in his usual kind and able manner. After the usual salutes the W.M. invested his officers:—D. Bates, S.W.; P. Robinson, J.W.; Jos.

Robinson, Sec.; Jos. Kenghside, S.D.; W. Harrison, J.D.; W. Butler, I.G.; and T. Sephton, Tyler. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, which was elegantly served by Bro. Taylor. In consequence of the indisposition of the W.M. the chair was taken, at his request, by Bro. Wignall, I.P.M. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts, intermixed with the harmony of the musical brethren, brought a very agreeable evening to a close.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 279).—The brethren of this lodge assembled on Thursday, the 27th ult., St. John's Day, for the installation of the W.M., the appointment of officers for the ensuing year, and other business. Among the brethren present were Bros. W. Kelly, P.M. and D. Prov. G.M., who presided in the absence of Bro. the Rev. E. W. Woodcock, the retiring W.M.; L. A. Clark, S.W. and W.M. elect; J. Adlaw, J.W.; W. Jackson, Sec.; Ride, S.D.; Stretton, J.D.; Gosling, as I.G., and others. Visitors: Bros. Captain Oakley (India); Major Brewin, P.M.; Duff, P.M.; J. E. Hodges, J.W.; Toller, J. C. Clarke, Hunt, Partridge, Baines, and Atkins, 523; Kemp, and others. The minutes of the last lodge having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. the Rev. C. G. Anderson, of the Howe and Charwood Lodge, Loughborough, and one of the Prov. G. Chaplains, as a joining member, who was declared to be unanimously elected. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. L. A. Clarke, the W.M. elect, was presented to the D. Prov. G.M., by Bro. Brewin, P.M., to receive the benefit of installation, and he then received the usual address, and having given his assent to the ancient charges, and having taken the O.B. as regards the government of the lodge, the lodge was opened in the third degree. The brethren were then called upon to retire, after which a Board of Installed Masters having been opened, the D. Prov. G.M. assisted by Bros. Brewin and Duff, P.M.'s, duly installed Bro. Clarke into the chair of K.S., and gave him the normal salute. The brethren being recalled, the usual addresses and salutes and the proclamations in the three degrees, were then given according to ancient form. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint his officers for the year, and invested those who were present, as follows:—Bros. J. Adlaw, S.W.; J. Ride, J.W.; Rev. I. G. Pucker, Chap.; Clement Stretton, Sec.; Rev. C. G. Anderson, S.D.; E. Gosling, J.D.; Thorpe, I.G.; C. Morris, P.M. and Prov. G. Sec., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, with thanks for his past services. A vote of thanks was also accorded to Bro. W. Jackson, on retiring from the office of Secretary, for his valuable services for the past two years. Arrangements had been made to celebrate the festival of St. John, by the usual banquet, and a large number of brethren, both of the Leicester and neighbouring lodges, had expressed their intention of being present. A few days before the meeting, however, intelligence was received that the universally-beloved Provincial Grand Master, Earl Howe, was lying in what was believed to be a hopeless state at Gopsall, from an alarming attack of suppressed gout in the stomach and the head. Notice was immediately sent out by the W.M. elect, that the banquet was postponed *sine die*. Fortunately, however, on Christmas-day a change for the better took place, and on the morning of St. John's Day, the gratifying intelligence was received that the crisis was past, and that the noble earl was then pronounced to be out of danger. It is intended that the banquet should take place at the first regular meeting of the lodge. The news of the alarming illness of Lord Howe had caused the greatest anxiety, and indeed, consternation, throughout the whole country, and especially in Leicester, where he has for many years been the most regular and active supporter of all meetings for charitable objects, and where a very few days before his late attack, and being even then in very bad health, he presided at a meeting of the governors of the Leicester Infirmary. His would indeed be a loss which would long be felt by all, and by none more than by the members of the Craft. Long may he be spared!

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 471).—The installation of the W.M. of this lodge took place on St. John's Day. The ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. Bell, P. Prov. S.G.W. of Bristol. The following appointments were made:—Bros. Bartholomew Thomas, W.M.; Henry Hellyer, P.M.; C. H. Oliver, S.W.; H. J. Parnall, J. W.; Rev. Alfred Elias, Chap.; W. Pickford, Treas.; W. Williams, Sec.; R. B. Evans, Dir. of Circ.; Rev. S.

Fox, S.D.; H. J. Gratte, J.D.; W. Wade, Librarian; H. J. Groves, Org.; Edward Davies, I.G.; J. Sanders and C. Smith, Stewards; W. McFee, Tyler. The installation banquet took place the same evening at the Westgate Hotel, Bro. B. Thomas, W.M. 471, presiding, supported by Col. Lyne, G.W.D. Prov. G.M., and about sixty other members of the Craft. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE.—*Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge* (No. 24).—On Thursday afternoon, the 27th ult.—St. John's Day—the brethren of this old lodge met at the lodge-room, Blackett-street, for the purpose of installing in the chair of K.S. the W.M. elect, Bro. J. F. Hall, S.W. The ceremony of installation was well performed by the W.M. Bro. A. Clapham, Prov. S.G.W. (Northumberland), after which the brethren saluted the W.M., who then invested the following brethren as his officers:—Bros. A. Clapham, I.P.M. and Treas.; Fulsham, S.W.; Cockburn, J.W.; Bousfield, Sec.; Rewcastle, S.D.; Harrison, J.D.; Pearson, I.G. After the lodge was closed, the brethren, in conjunction with those of Lodge De Loraine, No. 541, held their usual joint annual festival, at the house of Bro. Brown, Turk's Head Inn, Grey-street, the chair being occupied by Bro. Hall, W.M. 24, supported on his right by Bro. B. Smaile, W.M. 541. The vice-chair was filled by Bro. John Stokoe, S.W. 541, who was supported by Bro. Fulsham, S.W. 24. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the W.M., in responding to the toast of his health, ably advocated the Masonic charities, in which he was supported by Bro. T. Strachan, P.M., who pointed out the example of Lodge De Loraine, as one which would no doubt be followed by Lodge No. 24. The enjoyments of the evening were much enhanced by the excellent glee singing of Bro. Stokoe, Penman, Blenkinsop, and Hindhaugh, of Lodge de Loraine, and the songs so ably sung by Bros. Thompson, Harrison, Clapham, &c.

NEWCASTLE.—*Lodge De Loraine* (No. 541).—On Friday evening, the 21st ult., the members of this lodge met at the Freemasons' Hall, Blackett-street, to instal the W.M. elect, Bro. Benj. Smaile, S.W. The Installing Master was Bro. E. D. Davis, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.W. (Northumberland), who performed that ceremony in his usual impressive manner. After the brethren had saluted the newly-installed W.M. in ancient form, he proceeded to invest his officers as follows:—Bro. Thos. Smith, I.P.M.; Bros. John Stokoe, S.W. and Treas.; W. G. Laws, J.W.; Hubert Laws, Sec.; Modlin, S.D.; T. Blenkinsopp, J.D.; G. A. Laws, I.G.; Trotter, Tyler. Bro. T. Anderson, P.M. gave notice of motion for next meeting, "That a donation of twenty guineas be given to the Freemasons School for Boys." The lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a collation in the hall, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the evening passed in that harmonious and musical manner for which Lodge De Loraine stands pre-eminent.

BLYTH.—*Blagdon Lodge* (No. 659).—The annual meeting of this flourishing lodge took place at Blyth, on Thursday, the 20th ult. The lodge was opened in due form by Bro. A. R. Guthrie, W.M., assisted by his officers and a large number of brethren, including several visitors. Bro. W. Newman, the W.M. elect, was presented for installation, and having agreed to conform to the ancient usages was regularly installed in the chair of K.S. by Bro. W. Quarrie, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.D., who performed the ceremony in a very impressive manner. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. A. R. Guthrie, I.P.M.; J. R. Forster, S.W.; W. L. Johnson, J.W.; W. Quarrie, P.M., Treas. (elected); J. Sivan, Sec.; J. Rewcastle, S.D.; T. Ridley, J.D.; J. Bell, I.G.; R. Turner, Tyler. After the conclusion of the ceremonies the brethren adjourned to Bro. Austen's, where a splendid dinner was provided, the W.M. presiding, supported by Bros. R. Garland, Prov. G. Chap.; I. G. Tulloch, P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. Gibson, P. Prov. J.G.D.; A. G. Guthrie, P.M.; W. Quarrie, P. Prov. S.G.D.; J. Symington, P. Prov. A.G., Dir. of Cers.; R. Bell, P.M.; Y. Davison, P.M.; Reed, P.M. (636), &c.; the Wardens occupying the vice-chairs. The day was spent in that happy harmonious manner which is characteristic of the Blagdon lodge.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

SCARBORO'.—*Old Globe Lodge* (No. 200).—At the meeting of this lodge held on the evening of the 19th ult., the following brethren were present:—Bros. Godfrey Knight, W.M.; S.

X. Armitage, S.W.; J. M. Crosley, J.W.; A. H. Williamson, as S.D.; D. Fletcher, J.D.; Harrison, Org.; J. F. Spurr, W. F. Rooke, W. B. Stewart, J. W. Woodall, Treas., H. C. Martin, Hon. Sec., P.M.'s; Sanders and Ash, Tylers, and upwards of thirty other brethren, including amongst them as a visitor Bro. Thomas Cooper, P.M. 236, York. The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Roberts an G.A., of Lodge No. 172, was elected a joining member. Bros. Roberts and Stevenson, were then examined as to their proficiency in the first degree and retired, when the lodge having opened in the second degree, they were admitted and passed to the degree of F.C. The brethren who were not M.M.'s having retired, the lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Thomas Jackson having given satisfactory proof of his efficiency as a F.C., he was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge having been reduced to the first degree, and the brethren readmitted, two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation. The election of the W.M. for the ensuing year then took place, when Bro. Henry Appleby Williamson a P.S.W., was unanimously elected, and Bro. J. W. Woodall was re-elected Treas.; the lodge was closed in harmony and with prayer at nine o'clock.

MARK MASONRY.

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONPORT.—*Metham Lodge* (No. 96).—Under a warrant from the Grand Master of the Mark Masons of England a new lodge of this degree was opened at the Huyshe Masonic Hall, Stoke, on the 1st January inst. To perpetuate the memory of the services of Bro. L. P. Metham, the Prov. S.G.W. of Devon, to Masonry, and the esteem in which he is held by the Order in his province, the new lodge has been named as above the Metham of Mark Masons Lodge, No. 96. The following officers were appointed to the lodge by the G.M.'s warrant: Bro. Lose, P.M., P. Prov. G.P., the W.M.; Bro. J. Austin, Prov. G.A.D.C., S.W.; Bro. E. J. A. Bickford, J.W. On their assuming their chairs the W.M. appointed the following officers: Bros. J. May, P.M., P. Prov. G.A.D.C., Treasurer; Joseph Willoughby, Secretary; Warren, Prov. G.J.D., Registrar; S. Willoughby, M.O.; J. Roberts, S.O.; W. S. Martin, J.O.; J. Adams, J.D.; W. Bishop, I.G.; and Bro. Rashbrook was elected Tyler. During the evening several brethren were advanced, and other work done, and the lodge adjourned at an early hour.

SCARBORO'.—*Star-in-the-East Lodge* (No. 95).—At the meeting of this lodge, held on the evening of the 20th ult., the following members were present:—Brothers Rooke, W.M.; J. Woodall, S.W.; R. H. Peacock, J.W.; H. H. Knocker, M.O.; G. F. Spurr, S.O.; W. T. Farthing, J.O.; H. C. Martin, Supt. and Reg. of Marks; W. Peacock, S.D.; J. A. Chapman, J.D. and Treas.; J. D. C. Jackson, I.G.; D. Fletcher, H. W. Garnett, J. Rutter, W. Milner, Tyler. The visitors were Bros. A. B. Brockwell, No. 12, Hull; and J. Cooper, York. The lodge was opened at half-past six; the minutes of the past lodge meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. Johnstone, Veritz, J. Fox, Ruddock, Woodcock, Williamson, Grey, Dobson, Inskip, Stewart, and Rev. D. Alexander, were balloted for and unanimously elected and the first nine being present, they were prepared, admitted, and advanced to the degree of Mark Master Masons. Bros. Gibson and R. D. Woodall were proposed for advancement; and Bro. Brockwell of Minerva Mark Lodge, No. 12, Hull, was proposed as a joining member. Bro. J. W. Woodall, S.W., delivered the charge in a very impressive manner, and the lodge was closed at 9 p.m.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

KENT.

WOOLWICH.—*Invicta Chapter*.—A meeting of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Friday, the 21st ult., for the installation of candidates, as also for the annual installation of M.W.S. and the appointment of officers. The M.W.S. Bro. W. J. Meymott 30^o, occupied the throne, supported by Bro. Thompson 18^o, as High Prelate; Capt. Dadson 30^o, as 1st General; George Lambert 30^o, 2nd General; J. Ward 11^o, as G.M.; James Forrester 18^o, as R.; J. Taylor 18^o, as Capt. of Guard; G. Cockle 30^o, Herald; P. Laird

18°, Treas.; J. W. Figg 30°, Sec.; and there were also present the following members of the chapter and visitors:—Col. Clerk, S.G.I.G. 33°; Capt. Phillips, S.G.I.G. 33°; Col. Sandeman 32°; W. E. Gambleton 30°; J. J. Forrester; G. Powell 18°; Carter 18°; Martin 18°; Dr. Hughes, 18°. There were also present Bros. J. Reid, C. Allen, and S. Rosenthal, introduced by the M.W.S. The chapter was opened in accordance with ancient usage, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Letters were read from several of the candidates, regretting their inability, for various reasons, to attend upon that occasion, and chiefly in consequence of the proximity of the time of meeting to the Christmas holidays; Bro. Sir Charles Bright, M.P., and others, expressing their regret that absence from London would prevent them attending. Bro. Capt. J. W. C. Whitbread being present for the purpose of being installed, having had the preliminary degrees conferred upon him, was advanced to the degree of a Rose Croix Mason, and regularly proclaimed and installed. The High Prelate, Bro. Thompson, then proceeded to instal Bro. Capt. Dadson as the M.W.S. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed in an able and impressive manner, to the satisfaction of the members of the Supreme Council, and other members of the high degrees who were present. The M.W.S. then proceeded to appoint his officers as follow:—Bros. W. J. Meymott, High Prelate; G. Lambert, 1st Gen.; J. Ward, 2nd Gen.; James Forrester, G.M.; J. Taylor, R.; G. Cockle, Capt. of Guard; Capt. Sandeman, Herald; P. Laird, Treas. These appointments gave entire satisfaction to the members of the chapter, who, however, had occasion to express their regret at the desire of Bro. J. W. Figg to be relieved of the onerous duties of Hon. Secretary. Bro. Figg having placed his resignation in the hands of the M.W.S., stated that he thought the interests of the chapter would be best consulted by the appointment as Secretary of some more active member of the chapter, whose engagements permitted of his giving more time and attention to the duties than he could now conveniently do; whereupon Bro. Thompson, P.M.W.S., having kindly consented to undertake the duties, was appointed, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Figg for his kindness in undertaking and performing so admirably the duties of Hon. Secretary. The chapter then voted the sum of two pounds from its Charity Funds as the annual gift to the poor of the parish of Woolwich, to be placed in the hands of the rector, the Rev. Henry Brown. A further sum of 20s. 6d. was collected for the alms-box. The members and visitors afterwards dined together at the Freemasons' Tavern, opposite the Dockyard Railway Station, where, as usual, Bro. De Grey, as caterer, gave entire satisfaction to those who partook of his entertainment. There were twenty-three present. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren, as usual, left at an early hour, many returning to London.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

GUERNSEY.

LOYALTY LODGE (No. 243).—The monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, December 19th, at the Masonic rooms. In the absence of the W.M. from the island, this chair was taken by Bro. Brouard, P.M., supported by Bro. Le Page, P.M., acting as S.W., and Bro. Thurston, J.W. Although this was the night for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, besides the above named brethren, only six members of the lodge were present, with the addition of Bros. Smythson, W.M. of No. 168, and Dr. Hopkins, P.M., 43, and 958, &c., as visitors. On the proposition of the acting W.M. and S.W., Bro. Thurston was by ballot unanimously elected W.M. In the same manner Bro. Brouard was re-elected Treas. and Bro. Manger, Tyler. Bros. Thurston, Rendle, and Dawson were appointed auditors of the accounts. The lodge was closed at a quarter past eight, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

MARINERS' LODGE (No. 168).—The monthly meeting was held on Friday, December 28th, Christmas interfering with the usual day, at a quarter to eight the lodge was opened by Bro. Smythson, W.M., assisted by Bro. Wakely, S.W., Bro. Gaudin acting as J.W., and Bro. S. De Carteret, I.P.M. These, with the Secretary, the S.D., the I.G., Tyler, one other member, and Bro. Dr. Hopkins as a visitor, comprised all who were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. This being the evening for election of W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. Smythson was unanimously reappointed to that office,

Bro. Le Carpentier to that of Treasurer, and Bro. Mauger Tyler, An Audit Committee was chosen, and the lodge having been closed at half-past eight, the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

JERSEY.

CESAREE CHAPTER (No. 590).—The quarterly convocation of this chapter was held on Thursday, the 13th of December, at the Masonic Temple. It was opened in ancient form by Comp. A. Schmitt, I.P.Z., as Z., assisted by Comps. Wm. Adams, P.Z., as H.; Jn. Th' du Jardin, P.Z., as J.; Ph. W. Le Quesne, P.S., and Jn. Oatley, N. It was fairly attended. Letters were received from Comps. Jn. Durell, Z.; C. Le Sœur, H.; and Ph. Binck, P.Z., J., apologising for their unavoidable absence on this occasion. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read, duly confirmed and signed, Bros. Jn. Benest, Capt. Fk. Boudier, and Ph. Baudains jun., candidates for this supreme degree, were severally balloted for and unanimously elected. Bro. Fk. Boudier only being in attendance was exalted to the degree of H.R.A. Masonry, in a manner not to be excelled, by Comp. A. Schmitt, who gave the mystic, and Comp. Wm. Adams, the historic and symbolic lectures. Comd. Ph. W. Le Quesne performed his duties of P.S., in a commendable style. There being no other business before the chapter, it was closed in love and harmony at nine o'clock.

SCOTLAND.

PATRICK.—*St. Mary's Lodge* (No. 117).—The members of this lodge dined on the 20th ult. at Bro. Archibald Harkness s. The chair was occupied by the S.W. of the lodge supported, on the right by the P.M., and on the left by the newly elected R.W.M.; the office of croupier being allotted to the treasurer, supported by the J.W. and S.D. After dinner, loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to, when the chairman, in a very appropriate speech, in name of the lodge, presented the P.M., Bro. Alexander Campbell, with a handsome timpiece, also a fine shawl brooch for his lady, in token of their respect for him as their late R.W.M., and his unceasing endeavours to promote the welfare of the lodge. Bro. Campbell replied in a few neat and touching remarks, after which several members of the Craft added to the conviviality of the company by song singing—sentimental and comic; toasts being given in true masonic order. The company broke up with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman.

KILWINNING.—*The Mother Lodge of Scotland*.—The members of this ancient lodge met on the afternoon of Friday, for the election of office bearers for the ensuing year, when the following were unanimously chosen: Robert Wylie, R.W.M., and as such Prov. G.M. for Ayrshire; Hugh Conn, Adela Cottage, P.M.; Neil Robson, Bourtreehill, D.M.; John Copland, parochial teacher, S.M.; L. Mackersy, W.S., Edinburgh, Proxy Master; Dr. Andrew, S.W.; John Robertscn, J.W.; Patrick Burns, Secretary; John Whinton, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Campbell, John Sime, William Lee Ker, Chaplains; William Watson, S.D.; James Salter, J.D.; James Wylie, S.S.; James Crawford, J.S.; John Craig, I.G.; Robert Allison, Tyler. After the election and transaction of other business, the brethren again assembled in the evening to celebrate the festival of St. Thomas. There was a good attendance of resident members of the lodge. In the course of the evening large and respectable deputations were admitted with all the honours from the following lodges in the province, viz.: St. John's Kilwinning, Kilmarnock, 22, Bro. Mackay, A.M.; St. Andrew's, Kilmarnock, 126, Bro. M'Cutcheon, A.M.; St. Andrew's, Irvine, 149, Bro. Dr. Gray, R.W.M.; St. John, Beith, 157, Bro. Craig, A.M.; Stevenson, Thistle and Rose, 169, Bro. Boyd, R.W.M.; Blair, Dalry, 200, Bro. Dr. Sloan, R.W.M.; Royal Arch, West Kilbride, 314, Bro. Millar, A.M.; St. John's Royal Arch, Saltcoats and Ardrossan, 320, Bro. Paterson, A.M.; Neptune Kilwinning, Ardrossan, 442, Bro. Robertson, R.W.M.

CONSECRATION OF LODGE KELBURNE, ISLE OF CUMBRAE, (No. 459).

Agreeably to the announcement in our last we now give the promised report of the proceedings of the consecration of this lodge in the Masonic Hall, Cumbrae Hotel, Millport, on the 21st ult. The brethren assembled in great force in the lodge about three o'clock, many having come, as true Masons, from a great distance to take part in the interesting ceremony. There were

deputations from St. John's, 3^d, Glasgow; St. Mungo's, 27, Glasgow; Doric Kilwinning, 68, Port-Glasgow; St. Mark's, 102, Glasgow; St. John's, 173, Largs, who were a numerous company; St. John's, 292, Rothesay, amongst whom was the venerable, hale, and hearty Bro. Grant, who was at the laying of the foundation stone of Nelson's Monument, Glasgow, and who is probably the oldest Mason in Scotland; Renfrew County Kilwinning, 370, Paisley, and brethren from foreign lodges. Having vacated the lodge, the brethren formed in the street according to Masonic seniority, the brethren of the yet unconsecrated lodge coming last, and marched, headed by Piper Bro. Notman, through Millport up to the east shore, and back to the Garrison, the mansion of the Hon. G. F. Boyle, chief magistrate of the island. All the people in the town turned out to witness the procession, the *clat* of which was enhanced by the firing of cannon on the shore. At the Garrison, the brethren received with Masonic honours Bro. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, *Bart.*, Prov. G.M. of Renfrewshire West; Rev. — Walpole, Chap.; and Boag, Prov. G. Sec. The procession the turned back to the lodge for the consecration. The Masonic hall was beautifully decorated with evergreens, flowers, and fruits, and was otherwise amply furnished with all that was requisite for the lodge. The Bible bore the inscription:—"Presented by the Right Hon. Julia, Countess of Glasgow, to the Lodge Kelburne, Isle of Cumbrae, No. 459, 1866." The tracing-board was presented by the Hon. G. F. Boyle, and the jewellery and jewel box by Bro. W. E. Gumbleton. The business of the consecration was then proceeded with, Bro. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, in virtue of his commission from the Grand Lodge, presiding, Bro. Walpole acting as Chaplain; Bro. Boag, as G. Sec.; and, in the absence of Bro. Sir Michael's staff, who were serving as jurymen in a civil case at Greenock, Bro. Park officiating as S.W.; and Bro. Miller as J.W. When the consecration was over the following brethren were installed as office-bearers of the new lodge: Bros. the Rev. H. H. Richardson, R.W.M.; D. Fairley, D.M.; W. E. Gumbleton, S.M.; A. Dickson, S.W.; J. Gillies, J.W.; J. McGown, S.D.; R. P. Rees, Sec.; J. Ross, Treas.; J. King, I.G.; and W. M'Wha, Tyler. When the lodge had been closed, the brethren drank "Prosperity to the New Lodge;" "The Health of the Prov. G.M., Sir Michael S. Stewart, and of the brethren of St. John's Lodge, Largs," who were about to return home by steamer.

At six o'clock the brethren dined in the Masonic Hall of the Cumbrae Hotel. The Rev. H. H. Richardson, R.W.M., presided, having on his right Bro. Sir M. S. Stewart, and on his left Bro. Boag and the Rev. Bro. Walpole. The officers of the Lodge Kelburne occupied their respective places. The hall was crowded, over eighty sitting down to the dinner.

After dinner the lodge was duly opened and called from labour to refreshment, when the R.W.M. said: The first toast we always propose at Masonic meetings is that of "The Queen." It is usually joined with that of the Craft. Let us drink, then, "The Queen and the Craft."

The R.W.M.: The next toast on the list is "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." At present, I fear, we must regret there is only one member of the royal family who is a member of the Craft (the Duke of Cumberland), but the current report is, that on St. John's Day, or thereabouts, both his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh are to be initiated into the mysteries of our Craft. I only trust that the report may be true, and that the junior branches of the royal family will take up the cause of Freemasonry. If they do, I have no doubt they will become as good Freemasons as some of their royal predecessors. "The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, and the rest of the royal family."

The R.W.M. then said: As good and loyal Masons, we have done honour to the toast of her Majesty and the Royal Family. But, as Freemasons, we also have another sovereign—a Masonic sovereign in the person of Bro. White Melville, the Grand Master Mason of Scotland. I propose we should drink the health of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and our Masonic sovereign, to whom we all owe due allegiance, which I am sure members of the Lodge Kelburne will be the first to show.

The R.W.M.: We have done honour to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, but there are two other grand lodges in this kingdom—the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Ireland. We are more particularly connected with the former, for one of the officers of the Grand Lodge of England is Substitute Master of the Lodge Kelburne, in the island of Cumbrae. We therefore ought to drink the health of the Grand Lodge of

England: more especially should we do this, considering that one of its officers has not only consented to take office in the Lodge Kelburne, but has been one of its principal promoters. He also has given valuable presents, some of which may be seen in the Masonic clothing and jewels which three of our officers are wearing this evening. I propose we drink the health of the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, coupled with the names of the Earl of Zetland, the Duke of Leinster, and of Bro. W. E. Gumbleton.

The R.W.M.—The next toast is "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West," coupled with the name of the Provincial Grand Master, Sir Michael Shaw Stewart. But for his kindness, I do not know what the Lodge Kelburne would have done. As most of you are aware, we, the unhappy people of this little island of Cumbrae, have no Provincial Grand Lodge, and I have asked who are to take charge of us? At the recent centenary festival of the Lodge St. Mark, I was bold enough to ask Sir Michael whether, in the event of our applying to the Grand Lodge for consecration, he would undertake the duty of presiding. His answer was most prompt and kind; he said "Yes." You see he has fulfilled his promise to-day. While thanking Sir Michael for having taken this trouble—for we have no claim upon him; he is not our Provincial Grand Master—we have also to thank the other brethren of his lodge, who have travelled hither out of their own district to assist in the proceedings of this day. Brethren, "The Health of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West," coupled with the name of Bro. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart.

Bro. Sir Michael Shew Stewart,—Right Worshipful Sir, Wardens, and Brethren, I have to thank you, sir, very much for your kindness in proposing my health along with that of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West, and I have also to thank the Wardens and the brethren present for the very kind way in which they have received that toast. Certainly you, sir, have expressed yourself with regard to my coming here in a manner that I scarcely expected, because I was not aware that I had, in coming here to officiate, done anything which required such an acknowledgement of my services. Certainly when you asked me upon a very pleasant evening that we spent together to officiate in default of your having a Provincial Grand Master of your own, I never hesitated for a moment, and I said I would come with great pleasure. I beg to disclaim any merit in having been willing when asked, to come forward, because I should say that if a Mason would not, when it was in his power, render such a service to a brother, he would be unworthy to be a disciple and member of the Craft. I must say that though I have fortunately not a very great deal to do in the way of Masonry in my district, the Masons there being all well-behaved and orderly, still I am not altogether an idle man, and it has given me great pleasure to place my humble services at the disposal of your lodge. I only regret in one sense that my provincial staff were not able to accompany me from various causes which detained them, but I certainly was very well supported by the brethren who acted in their place, and I beg to return my thanks to them. Let me tell you I have been extremely glad to be present upon this occasion, and to see a lodge starting up so promisingly in this island. I thank you very much for the kindness you have shown to me this day. I have enjoyed myself well, and I think I can say the same for the other brethren not belonging to the Kelburne. We have been most hospitably received and entertained. I am sure we shall all return home—I am glad that period of the evening has not yet arrived—with pleasant and friendly recollections, and with our best wishes for the prosperity of the newly consecrated Lodge Kelburne (No. 459). I again beg to thank you, Right Worshipful Sir, for your kindness in proposing, and the brethren for the manner in which they received the toast of "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West," and coupling it with my name.

Bro. G. PARK, of 32 St. John's: It is with pleasure I rise to propose the toast of the evening—"Prosperity to the Lodge Kelburne." I am sorry this important toast has not fallen into better hands, for I think that, without exception, I have never seen—and I have been a Mason for not a few years—a new lodge perform its duties better than I have seen this lodge doing to-night. That augurs well for its prosperity. I hope the energies they have displayed since they were formed into a lodge will still continue to be manifested. I am sure my brethren both from the east and west wish them all prosperity. I can assure you that a happier night I have not spent.

The R.W. MASTER: On behalf of the members of the Lodge

Kelburne, I can only return you our most sincere thanks for the way in which our health has been proposed and received. I may mention that the Lodge Kelburne, now that it has been consecrated, was formed under circumstances of great difficulty. All credit connected with its formation I must give to the present Junior Warden. Ten years ago he suggested the idea of a Masonic lodge in Millport. The difficulty which first presented itself was that we did not know anybody in Millport as a Mason, besides ourselves, and you know that two could not commence a lodge. Things went on in that way every year, the Bro. Junior Warden always suggesting something about a Masonic lodge at Millport, till at last, this year, we seriously took up the idea. But, as I said, the whole credit must, in the first instance, be due to him. We had a meeting, at which we barely mustered seven brethren. We were assisted by several of our brethren who were down in summer from Glasgow. Very noticeable were Bro. M'Taggart, who is Master of Lodge 27, and Bro. Miller, P.M. 102, who is now present. We managed, with the assistance of these Glasgow brethren, to get a petition drawn up and sent to the Grand Lodge, by whom it was accepted, and from whom we received a working letter. We started on the 8th September. I think, at our first meeting, we numbered thirteen of our own members, who may be called the original members of the Lodge Kelburne. At present we number forty-four members. During these three and a half months I have had the honour and privilege of initiating into Masonry twenty-two, and we have had seven who joined us as affiliating brethren. That roll of members is not, perhaps, so large as I would have liked, but still we have increased visibly, we have trebled and that is something. I have no doubt at our next anniversary, we shall have increased more. Our great object in establishing a lodge in this island, was to try to spread Masonic principles, which are so well known to promote peace and harmony among all mankind. The only pity is they are not more generally known and acted upon, though, perhaps, even here, there may be some people who say "what nonsense." But if they speak thus, it is simply because they do not know anything about Freemasonry. Yet we trust—nay, we believe—that as people are coming to be admitted, as candidates, into our lodge, even in this remote island, they will find out that Masonry is, as we Masons know it to be, founded upon the strictest principles of morality and virtue, and that it inculcates harmony and good-will among mankind. Therefore it is that we trust its principles will gradually spread, not only throughout this island, but also throughout the adjacent islands.

Bro. Sir MICHAEL SHAW STEWART: I beg to propose the "Lodges of the Province of Argyleshire and the Isles." I am very sorry that the toast should be to a certain extent somewhat informal, as there ought probably to be a Provincial Grand Lodge of Argyleshire and the Isles. But your Worshipful Master, brethren, has given you a very good reason why that toast could not be proposed in that shape. I regret you should be in this position. I regret very much that when the Right Worshipful Master of this lodge applied to the Grand Lodge to know under which Provincial Lodge they were to work, the Grand Lodge did not at present seem to know. Perhaps it would have been as well that the Grand Lodge had been able to reply definitely about the matter. I remember Captain M'Donald, of the *Hogue*, telling me once that when he applied to head-quarters for a chaplain, the answer came back, "we have not one in store." I rather think, however, that was Capt. M'Donald's facetious way of putting the answer. The Grand Lodge may not have a Provincial Grand Master, but I may venture to say there is one in store for you. I could almost name one for you without going very far. I hope that Masonry will look up in this province, more especially because of the impetus it has received from the Lodge Kelburne, in this island. You have done much in the cause of Masonry, but yet you must set your wits about you, and get a Provincial Grand Master for the islands. I am sure you will, at any rate, do all honour to the lodges of the province in which we are now met. I am not acquainted with a great many lodges, but I have had the satisfaction of meeting some members of the lodges of this district who have upon more than one occasion done us the favour to come over and help us in Renfrewshire, and we have always been glad to see them. I will ask you to drink to the very good health of the lodges of this district. I shall beg leave to couple with this toast the name of a worthy Mason, the Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge, Rothesay, 292, Bro. Taylor.

Bro. TAYLOR returned thanks for the honour done to his and

the other lodges embraced in the toast. They had had great difficulties in the matter of a Provincial Grand Master, but they hoped they would get good assistance from the Kelburne Lodge, whose prosperity he was happy to see. He had had great happiness in his correspondence with the Kelburne, and he was sure all the members of his lodge would be glad to further it. He hoped they would be able to get a Provincial Grand Master who, along with his office-bearers, would look after the lodges. By that means their candidates and members would be better trained, and the knowledge of Masonry would be advanced.

Bro. A. DICKSON, S.W., in proposing "The Visiting Brethren" said he had been a Mason for nearly forty years, and had experienced kindness from his brethren in several parts of the globe. It might be truly said, in the words of an authority, that any Mason who was destitute would find in every clime a home, and in every land a brother.

Bro. PARK returned thanks for St. John's, Glasgow, 32; Bros. Young for St. Mungo, Glasgow, 27; Dr. J. Simpson-Cumming for Doric Kilwinning, Port-Glasgow, 68; Miller for St. Mark's, Glasgow, 102; Barclay for St. John's, Largs, 170; M'Master for St. John's, Greenock, 175; Taylor, for St. John's, Rothesay, 272; M'Crae for Renfrew County Kilwinning, Paisley, 370; Muir for Vancouver's Island, 789; Morrison for St. John's, Newfoundland, 844 E.C.

The R.W. MASTER said: I ought to have mentioned sooner that amongst the invitations sent was one to Col. Campbell, of Blythwood, who is Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, and who has been, unfortunately, detained in England. I received a note from him this morning, saying he had delayed his answer till he was certain whether he would be able to come or not. Unfortunately, he has been unable to come. I also had a letter from Sir James Ferguson, the late Prov. G.M. of Ayrshire. But he has been detained by his duties as a member of Government. Bro. Wylie, the Prov. G.M. of Ayrshire, is unable to come, for he is to-night keeping the festival of his own mother lodge, Kilwinning.

The Rev. Bro. WALPOLE: We have had, in remembrance the Lodges of Scotland, England, and Ireland collectively, our own included. The next toast—and I have the honour to propose it—is that of our brethren of the Craft who are scattered throughout the world—whether in civilised Europe, in the wilds of Africa, in America, or in Australia. Strange to say, there is no place in which Masonry has not found its way. News has come home from the wilds of Australia, that there lodges of Masons have been found. No one knows how they have got there. It is also important to consider that the benefit of Masonry has been manifested in the different wars which have been waged in Europe, and that the lives of brethren have been saved merely from their being Masons. Kind acts are very common, indeed, among Masons, however otherwise they may be separated.

"The Masonic Press" and "The Ladies" having been given, The R.W. MASTER said: I am going to propose a toast which more especially concerns the Lodge Kelburne—that is, "The health of our worthy brother and host this evening, Bro. John King." It is not the usual practice of the Lodge Kelburne to turn from labour to refreshment, so this is the first occasion of formally returning thanks in this way. Bro. John King has acted very fraternally towards us—he has granted us the free use of this room ever since we opened. We have given him a great deal of trouble, for, besides our regular meetings, we have had emergency meetings. I propose we should drink with all honours his health, not only for his excellent entertainment, but also for his generosity all along to this lodge.

Bro. JOHN KING said he was highly gratified at the compliment they had paid him. What he had done was very little, and he would be proud at any other time to do as much for the Masonic Craft.

Bro. MILLER proposed "The health of the office-bearers of the Lodge Kelburne," which was replied to by the Wardens.

The TYLER proposed, "The health of all poor and distressed Masons throughout the world."

The lodge was then closed in the usual manner, and the proceedings, which were varied by well-sung songs and by recitations, and were throughout of a most harmonious character, terminated.

GLASGOW.—*Union and Crown Lodge* (No. 103.)—The centenary festival of this lodge was celebrated on the 28th ult. A report of the proceedings will be found in another page.

809th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LODGE OF GLASGOW, ST. JOHN'S (No. 3).

This festival, as reported in another page, was celebrated in the Tontine Hotel on the 27th ult.

The following is a list of the office bearers for the present year:—Bros. Thos. Ramsay, R.W.M.; Wm. P. Buchan, S.W.; Wm. Osborne, J.W.; J. B. Walker, P.M.; James Manuel, D.M.; Wm. Waggett, S.M.; James M'Millan, Sec.; John Dawson, Treas.; A. C. Moffat, S.D.; Robert M'Aulay, J.D.; James Gillfillan, Chap.; John Baird, architect; Robert Watt, S.W.; Wm. Donald and T. H. Selater, J.S.'s; David Walker, director of music; Robert Drummond, James Allan, I.G.; James Pollock, Tyler.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

CENTENARY FESTIVAL OF UNION AND CROWN LODGE, No. 103.

On the 28th ultimo a grand soiree, concert, and assembly took place in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow, on the occasion of the centenary of Union and Crown Lodge, 103. The hall was crowded in every part, and the aspect of the building, decorated with many various emblems, the medals and jewels of the brethren, and the gay dresses of the ladies, was brilliant and attractive in the extreme. In the absence of Sir A. Alison, Bart., Prov. G.M., who was to have presided, the chair was occupied by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, P.M., Renfrewshire East, and on the platform, amongst others, were Bro. J. Cruickshanks, Deputy Prov. G.M.; James Thompson, Prov. G.W.; Rev. Mr. Pullar; Major Barbour, R.W.M., St. Marks; James Gillies, R.W.M. 103; James Boardman, Treasurer, 103; John Munro, Secretary, 103; W. B. Paterson, Lodge Commercial, 360; James Wallace, Lodge Commercial, 300; and deputations from the various lodges in the province. After tea,

The CHAIRMAN, in a few introductory remarks, apologised for the absence of Sir Archibald Alison, Bart., who had been prevented being present in consequence of official duty. After the Union and Crown Lodge had been in existence for 100 years, it was, he said, by no means strange or unexpected that the event should be commemorated by a centenary festival. In 1766 good John St. Clair, the first Master of the Lodge, founded it, and now, in 1866, could he come back to see this city, he would find it vastly changed since his days. Not only had the masonic art been visibly extended by the grand buildings in the streets, but also he thought in the increased Christian spirit and virtues which existed in the city. He thought the heaven of masonry had greatly leavened the whole lump. It was not often that one brother addressed another in full masonic costume when the bright eyes of the ladies beamed upon him with their lips wreathed in smiles. He could assure them that, under these circumstances, he felt hardly adequate to the position he occupied, but at the same time he felt very much gratified at being able to address the ladies in the cause of masonry, because he had been told by a great many, especially those who were married, that one of the great difficulties to their becoming masons was to overcome the prejudices of the softer sex. He hardly wondered at that, because they were the repositories of all men's secrets, and they ought to know all, and therefore they were rather jealous at being kept away from those secrets which bound the Craft so firmly together. But he could assure the ladies that they need not be alarmed on that score, because they knew the secrets already, for as the greater contained the lesser, and as the Masons' secrets were wrapt up in their hearts, every lady who had a Mason for her husband or a lover, must possess his heart, and therefore must possess his secrets also. He had now, he said, a duty to perform which he was certain would gratify his auditors, and that was, that he was now called upon at that moment to decorate with a gold medal, the breast of a real true and good Mason, the Master of the lodge in connection with which they had met, and who had been elected four times by his brother Masons. The medal, though valuable, was as but tinsel or brass compared to the good heart which it covered. (The Chairman then attached a beautiful gold medal to the breast of Bro. Gillies, the action being accompanied with loud cheers. It bears the following inscription: "Presented to Bro. James Gillies, R.W.M., by the brethren of the Glasgow Union and Crown Lodge, No. 103.—December 28th, 1866.")

Bro. Gillies briefly acknowledged the kind gift of his brethren,

intimating at the same time that had he been aware that such an honour was to have been conferred on him he might have endeavoured to say something worthy of the occasion. They would perhaps, however, take the wish for the deed, believing him when he said that he returned them his heartfelt thanks. He concluded by returning thanks to Bro. Lieut.-Col. Campbell for presiding, as he had travelled all the way from Bucks to be with them.

An excellent concert programme was then entered on, the entertainers being Miss Bessie Aitken, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Perston, Mr. J. Taylor, and the Glasgow Glee and Madrigal Union. A full dress assembly followed.

809th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LODGE OF GLASGOW ST. JOHN (No. 3).

The Lodge of Glasgow St. John (No. 3) celebrated on the 27th ult., in the Tontine Hotel, the 809th anniversary of its existence, it having been erected by charter from King Malcolm, in 1057.

The lodge having been duly opened in the adjacent room by the W.M., the Secretary read the minutes of nomination and election. Bro. J. Thomas, Prov. J.G.W., then proceeded to the installation of the office-bearers for the ensuing year, a ceremony which was performed very efficiently. The lodge having been duly closed, the brethren adjourned to the refreshment hall. Bro. T. Ramsey, the newly-installed W.M., filled the chair, and Bros. W. P. Buchan and William Osborne, the Wardens, occupied the position of croupiers. Eighty brethren sat to dinner.

After the removal of the cloth, the W.M. again opened the lodge in the hall in the first degree, and by his command the lodge was thereafter called from labour to refreshment. In connection with the toast, "The Queen and the Craft," the W.M. after remarking that he was sure it would meet with the most hearty response, and he felt assured the noble lady who governed our vast empire had no more loyal subjects than the Freemasons, went on to say that if the generous-hearted men of the sister isle were all Freemasons there could be no such thing as Fenianism there. That ridiculous, troublesome brotherhood and our Order were utterly opposed to each other. A part of the very essence of Freemasonry was loyalty to the Government, no matter in what country our lot might be cast. We possessed what he believed was the most ancient and enduring record of this feeling which was to be found in Masonic society—that much valued and quaintly carved oak chest, bearing the date 1684, and which had conspicuously cut on the front of it the words "God save ye King and Masons' Craft;" and as if to demonstrate the Freemason's excess almost of loyalty, that king was the foolish, unhappy James II., whom the majority at all events the most powerful portion, of his other subjects despised. In Ireland, very strange to say, he was beloved, and the blood of that brave people flowed freely for the cause of loyalty at the battle of the Boyne, six years after the date on the chest. There were no misguided or wicked people named Fenians in Ireland then, and he trusted that the sentiment of loyalty might soon revive in the breast of every native of Erin. Let the toast then be drunk, said the W.M., in nearly the words of our treasured box, "God save the Queen and Masons' Craft," and accordingly it received the highest honours of "slow and sure."

The Chairman then gave the next two toasts, "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," and "The Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland."

These were followed by appropriate music from an efficient band, under the leadership of Bro. Colgan, pianist.

The Senior Warden then proposed "The Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors."

A great variety of toasts followed. The meeting was brought to a close by Bro. Colgan and the whole company joining in "Auld Lang Syne."

Obituary.

BRO. ALDERMAN BEAN.

We regret to have to announce the death, on the 22nd ult., of Bro. William Bean, Alderman, Scarborough, and a very highly respected P.M. of the Old Globe Lodge, Scarborough, No. 200. We have prepared a notice of our deceased brother, which, together with an account of his funeral, which took place on the 28th ultimo. Want of space compels us to defer giving the full particulars until our next.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise, walked in the grounds on the afternoon of the 26th ult., and her Majesty went out on the morning of the 27th ult., attended by the Dowager Duchess of Athole. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, accompanied by Princess Christian and Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty walked in the grounds on the morning of the 29th ult., with Princess Beatrice. The Queen and the Royal Family saw the American yachts, *Henrietta*, *Fleetwing*, and *Vesta*, under sail, off Osborne, in the afternoon, they having been ordered round from Cowes, by Commander M. Vickar, of the New York Yacht Club, by her Majesty's desire. The Queen and their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice attended divine service on the morning of the 30th ult., at Whippingham Church. The Queen and Princess Christian walked in the grounds on the morning of the 31st ult., attended by the Dowager Duchess of Athole. The Queen walked in the grounds in the afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Athole; and her Majesty and Princess Louise walked, and rode on ponies on the 1st inst. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian and Princess Beatrice, drove out in the afternoon, and the other members of the Royal Family walked in the grounds.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The inquest on the bodies of the sufferers by the gas explosion in Clerkenwell has taken place. Owing to the bungling of somebody no further progress could be made than the identification of the bodies. The jury complained that their time should be thus wasted.—An unfortunate accident has happened at the Agricultural Hall. The last part of the entertainment given there by Messrs. Sanger was approaching its conclusion when a groom fell under the wheels of a ponderous car and was crushed to death. The audience was much agitated.—Greenhithe has been the scene of a sad catastrophe. On Christmas night a Mrs. Henry, a widow, carrying on the business of grocer in Greenhithe, retired to rest with her family, consisting of her sister, two of her children, and her servant. At about three o'clock in the morning they were aroused by the smell of smoke, and soon discovered that the house was in flames, and all escape cut off. The sister of Mrs. Henry jumped out of a window some twenty feet high, and thus escaped being burnt to death, but she has suffered serious injuries. The other inmates all lost their lives. An inquest has been held. After having heard some evidence the inquiry was adjourned for the attendance of the woman who escaped, and who was then unable to move about.—The Crystal Palace—deservedly the most popular place of recreation and amusement in and near London—was partially destroyed by fire on the 30th ultimo. The fire was seen about two o'clock in the afternoon, and originated—how no one knows—near to the reading room. There were but few persons in the building, and their efforts to stop the progress of the conflagration were wholly unavailing. They were reinforced by residents in the neighbourhood and navvies, who gladly gave their help. Still the fire spread until it touched the northern side of the great Handel orchestra. By this time help was coming from London. Captain Shaw was on the spot, and an abundant supply of water being to hand, the flames were checked. Unfortunately, however, the water tower had caught fire, and burned until everything in it that was inflammable had been consumed. The tropical department and the adjoining courts, with many of the birds and animals, have been destroyed. We believe the building is insured. So vast is the place, however, that there is no difficulty even now in accommodating and amusing any number of visitors.—Mr. Payne, the City

Coroner, was occupied on the 1st instant, investigating the causes which led to the death of a poor woman, named Anne Edwards, who with her husband, a porter, lived in Printer-street, Blackfriars. It seems that on Christmas Day the deceased complained of a pain under her heart. On the following day two doctors were called in; she was ordered some medicine declared by the doctors to be harmless; her husband gave her the medicine, but it only made her worse. The convulsions and other strange symptoms became so alarming that she was taken to the hospital, where she died on Friday. The medical gentlemen at the hospital who made a post mortem examination were of opinion that death was caused by poison. The two doctors who were called in thought excessive drinking to which, it was stated, deceased was to some extent addicted, might have caused the symptoms which rendered the case suspicious. Another suggestion was that as a short time before Christmas deceased had been making fancy chains for the decoration of her room, it was possible that she might have inhaled some of the arsenic on green paper. The inquiry was adjourned for the purpose of having deceased's stomach analysed. An inquest has been held on the body of a woman named Elizabeth Carry, who, it was suspected, had been murdered. The evidence showed that the woman and her husband a coal porter, were drinking together on Boxing-night, and about midnight the deceased was discovered lying in the roadway over the Regent's Canal, Linnehouse, quite helpless. She complained of having been waylaid by some men, and robbed and beaten. It was discovered that she had upon her serious marks of violence, including the breakage of five of her ribs. These injuries caused her death. The case being suspicious, and the evidence questionable, the inquiry was adjourned.—Snow fell heavily on the morning of the 2nd instant in London, and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, all over the country. The quantity must be much larger than has fallen on one day for several years. In London traffic in the streets was almost suspended. Omnibuses were few and far between. The few cabs which were brought out had, most of them, two horses harnessed to each, and even with this extra help passage through the thick snow was very difficult. The mails were all late. The parish authorities appear to have been fairly active in seeing that their contractors did something towards clearing the snow from the streets.—An important case came on for hearing before the Lord Mayor on the 2nd inst. It was a summons issued at the instance of the churchwardens, overseers, and assessors of tithes of the parish of Allhallows Staining, calling upon the master, wardens, and commonalty of the Ironmongers' Company to show cause why they refused to pay £186 13s. 4d. for the arrears of the tithes or commutation of tithes on their property. Counsel for the company maintained that his clients were not liable to be so rated, and declared that no such payment had been made by the company since 1719. Council for the parochial authorities maintained quite the contrary. After giving a patient hearing to both sides, the Lord Mayor held that the company would have to prove their right to exemption from liability, and there being no evidence adduced to establish that, he ordered the issue of the warrant as applied for, but hoped that arrangements would be entered into by which the important point at issue could be fully argued before another tribunal. It was finally arranged that the warrant should be suspended until the 1st of February, so as to give time to carry out the suggestion of the Lord Mayor.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

E. J. M.—Your report, as also those of several other esteemed correspondents, want of space compels us to defer giving this week.