

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1867.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

NOTES BY A NOVICE.

(Continued from page 24.)

The most renowned leaders of the First Crusade were Godfrey, Count de Bouillon, who was believed to be a lineal descendant of Charlemagne; his brother, Baldwin; Hugh, Count de Vermandois, brother to the French King; Robert, Duke of Normandy; Count Raymond de Toulouse; Stephen, Count de Blois; and Bohemond, Prince of Tarentum. The Hermit led the way, having under his banner an undisciplined multitude of sixty thousand men, who had been the first to abandon their ordinary pursuits and hasten to the field. The princes, knights, and men-at-arms followed, and six hundred thousand pilgrims, capable of wielding sword or lance, formed the rearguard of the Christian army. Over the mountains of Taurus, into the smiling vales of Syria, they poured like a torrent; Antioch, Tripoli, Tyre, Jaffa—every town of importance opened its gates at their approach, and at length the hallowed walls of Jerusalem appeared in sight. A long and terrible siege ensued, but, on the 15th of July, 1099, the soldiers of the Cross were triumphant, and their banners waved over the holy places which for four hundred and sixty years had been polluted by the presence of the infidel.

When the carnage was over, the Crusaders laid aside their warlike weapons, and, barefooted and uncovered, proceeded in solemn procession to the Redeemer's tomb. After the performance of this religious duty, they elected Godfrey de Bouillon King of Palestine, as the worthiest champion of the true faith. The new monarch immediately visited the House of St. John, which was then filled with wounded soldiers, to whom he personally administered aid and consolation, and, to mark his sense of the humane services rendered by the brethren, Godfrey endowed the hospital with the Lordship of Montboire, in Brabant, and all its dependencies. The King's example was quickly followed by other princes and nobles, and in a short time the Hospitallers possessed the revenues of many rich manors and demesnes both in Europe and Asia. The brotherhood not only increased in wealth but in numbers, as several illustrious warriors, actuated by pious zeal, resolved to adopt

the habit of the fraternity, and devote their lives to the service of God and their fellow men.

Raymond de Puis, Dudon de Comps, and Canon de Montaigu—all gentlemen of noble ancestry—were among those who took the required vows at the altar of St. John. Aided by Peter Gerard, the rector's counsel and guidance, the Hospitallers became a religious institution, and were recognised and confirmed by Pope Paschal the Second, who conferred upon them many important privileges. Meanwhile, the Christians were busily employed in expelling the infidels from the maritime and other strongholds of Palestine.

Under King Godfrey, who died about a year after his election to the throne, and his brother and successor, Baldwin, who died in 1118, the Crusaders were eminently successful in their enterprises. The death of Gerard the rector at this period was followed by the election of Raymond de Puis as the chief of the Hospitallers, and this brave and devout knight conceived the chivalrous project of adding the warlike duties of the field to the engagements contracted in the monastery.

At the call of their illustrious Grand Master, the brotherhood solemnly took upon themselves a new vow to defend the Church against the enemies of the Christian faith. Raymond then divided them into three classes—viz., nobility, clergy, and serjens. The knights, or the first class, were men of patrician rank, who were appointed to bear arms and fill the higher offices of the Order. The second class, or ecclesiastics, acted as chaplains, and ministered to the sick and destitute in the Hospital. The serjens, serving-brethren, or half-knights, composed the third class, and were employed either in the field or the infirmary as occasion required. After this change in the organisation of the fraternity, the Hospitallers continued to increase in wealth and power, and, in a short time, so great was the influx of new members, that the Order was subdivided into eight languages or nations—viz., 1st, Provence; 2nd, Auvergne; 3rd, France; 4th, Italy; 5th, Arragon; 6th, England, comprising Wales, Scotland, and Ireland; 7th, Germany; and 8th, Castile, which included Portugal and Leon.

The success of the Order of St. John gave rise to the formation of a kindred body, afterwards equally renowned but more unfortunate than its great prototype—viz., the fraternity of Knights Templar; and for nearly two centuries the banner

of the White Cross* and the standard of the Bauseant led their gallant followers to victory on the plains of Syria.

It is not our province in this brief notice to recount the deeds of valour, the acts of humanity, the indomitable perseverance of these children of chivalry in the course of their long and chequered career; it will suffice to say that, in the middle of the twelfth century, the Order of Knights Hospitallers numbered 30,000 members, their treasury was the richest in Europe, and their Master was considered the most powerful potentate in the East.

ORATION DELIVERED AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

By Bro. the Rev. PETER BROWNE.

Your extreme kindness has elevated me to a giddy eminence from whence I would be sure to fall without the consciousness of having your cheering countenance and support; my feeble hands would soon hang down and sink beneath the task you have this day assigned me, on so short a notice, was I not assured that your brotherly love and sympathy sustained me. I never would have voluntarily undertaken to deliver this "oration"—so called—conscious as I am of my utter incapacity, from want of experience, from want of eloquence (for I meekly say with Moses: "I am not eloquent") to do justice to a theme which has occupied the mind, the tongue, the pen, of the greatest and most illustrious men that have adorned the world and transmitted an imperishable name to posterity.

The nightingale may claim the topmost bough,
While the poor grasshopper must chirp below;
Like him unnoticed, I, and such as I,
Spread little wings, and rather skip than fly.

When the stripling David was reproached by his brethren for presumption in offering to encounter the blaspheming Philistine who defied the armies of the living God, with a "heart touched by God," and the fire of patriotism burning in his heart, answered, "Is there not a cause?" And is not the burning love of Masonry a sufficient cause to impel me forward to the front rank to

* The White Cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John, and the Red Cross, or Bauseant, the symbol of the Templars.

gratify your wishes on this occasion, and out of the abundance of my heart to speak its praises? David trusted not in the armour which he had not proved, and in the use of which he was inexperienced, but in the simple sling and pebble to which he was accustomed, and so was divinely blessed in his enterprise. And on this occasion, when, by your command, I handle a subject solemn and majestic in its nature, and gigantic in its dimensions, I shall not ransack the exhaustless stores of Masonic literature, or wield the rusty weapons of its armoury, however interesting and instructive the one, and powerful for offence and defence the other, but on the sling of truth, simplicity, and love, while I touch as briefly as possible on the fundamental, moral, and religious principles on which our beloved institution is founded, which having been originally built by the "wise man," King Solomon, on the Rock of the Temple at Jerusalem, whatever rains have descended, whatever floods have come, whatever winds have beat against it, it has withstood the shock and shall never fall. What, then, are the grand fundamental principles on which our glorious temple is laid?

First—*The Word of God*. "What advantage, then, hath the Jew?" argued the great Apostle of the Gentiles. "Much every way, but chiefly that unto them were committed the lively oracles of God." Upon these (the Old Testament Scriptures), it is quite evident to you all, the first degrees of Masonry, with which you are cognisant, are entirely built; thus incidentally, but conclusively, establishing the antiquity of our system. Such of you as have attained to the higher degrees of the art have seen and felt the beautiful concurrent harmony between the Old and New Testament Scriptures developed in those most interesting orders, of which we cannot here speak more particularly. A whole Bible we make the basis of our entire proceedings; we place it where it ought to be, on the most honourable and conspicuous pedestal in our lodges; it is carried before us in all our public processions, and, like the Sanctuary of the Ark which contained that sacred treasure, it is accompanied and carried by the Levites and ministers of the Word—we so make it the "lantern of our feet, and the light of our paths." The great philosopher, John Locke, who wrote on the "Human Understanding," said of the inspired volume—"It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter." And of it the poet Cowper has sung:

The Word of God no longer suffers wrong,
Bound in the fetters of an unknown tongue,
But speaks with plainness art could never mend
What simplest minds can soonest comprehend.

From this pure fountain of truth we Masons derive all our principles of religion and morality—our duty towards God and to our neighbour. In our triangle is represented our belief in a Triune God, the Great Architect of the Universe. “In the beginning *God* (Elohim in the plural joined to a verb singular) created the heavens and the earth.” “*The Spirit* of God moved on the face of the waters,” reduced their chaotic mass to order, and to beauty, when the morning stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted for joy. The first chapter of St. John’s Gospel, now and always open before us, and on which rest the square and compasses, tells us “without the word,” Christ, “was not anything made that was made.” Thus demonstrating that our Triune God was the Great Architect of the Universe. We fully recognise the love of God in “sending his Son into the world that we might live *through him*, and in sending him to bless us in turning away every one of us from our iniquities.”

Faith, hope, and charity, or love, are the three graces and pillars of our glorious temple, and all our worshippers who enter our hallowed shrines, are taught to love God with all their hearts, and their neighbours as themselves. I have not time (for I am limited to twenty minutes) to descant in all the moral obligations and virtues we strongly enjoin, and strictly enforce in our Order, such as benevolence, purity in thought, word, and deed; *love of the brethren*—“let brotherly love continue, be kindly, affectionate, one to another; love the brotherhood, fear God, honour the king, be pitiful, be courteous.” No enmity can enter our peaceful portals—the serpent of discord neither hisses nor stings here—all is harmony and love; the only contention and rivalry I have ever noticed in our meetings was to “do good unto all men,” “give honour to whom honour is due,” and to stretch the liberality of our benevolence to the utmost limits of our power, according to the apostolic motto of our institution, “pure religion before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

Witness our noble institutions for the maintenance and education of the orphans of our Order, and providing for their employment in life. We know full well how our noble and distinguished P.G.M., Earl

de Grey and Ripon, used every effort to make the recent appeal for funds for the Girls’ School a success in the province of West Yorkshire; and it was eminently so; though it pleased the Great Architect of the Universe, in whom we live and move and have our being, to take away “the desire of his eyes with a stroke,” and bring down a beloved mother to the grave, just at the time when he anticipated pleasure and satisfaction in presiding at the great festival in London, and reaping the fruits of his exertions in announcing from the chair that the brethren of his province had magnanimously responded to his call, and presented to him a *beauteous Masonic coronet* of nearly £2,000 subscriptions. May he live long to see us ever thus *abound in the riches of our liberality*. How cheerfully has this Grand Lodge at all times provided for the wants of distressed Masons and their widows and children, having this apostolic maxim for their presiding star, “remember them that are in bonds as bound with them, and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves in the body,” and therefore liable to like visitations. Innumerable other advantages and beauties in the galaxy of our system I might depict, but time says “Tace.” I shall, therefore, wind up with asking this solemn question, has our illustrious Order been received with that favour which it so richly merits in the world? Ten thousand times, no! It has in all ages been pursued with hatred and persecution; its mysteries have been celebrated in dens and caves of the earth to escape the grasp of its deadly foes. The Papacy has ever manifested the most ruthless hate against it down to the present hour; we have the honour of being annually denounced as the off-scouring of all things by his Holiness the Pope, and ranked with rebel Fenians. The history of the murderous and cruel persecution of the Knights Templars, even in England, as described by Dean Hooke, in his lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury, would harrow up your feelings. There is every reason to believe that Masonry was deeply-rooted amongst the enlightened and reforming Wichcliffites and Lollards, as appears by the following letter of the great and learned John Locke to Lord Pembroke, taken from the Book of Irish Constitutions.

“My Lord,—I have at length, by the help of Mr. Collins, procured a copy of that MS. in the Bodleian library which you were so curious to see; and in obedience to your lordship’s commands, I herewith send it to you. Most of the

notes annexed to it are what I made yesterday for the reading of my Lady Masham, who is become so fond of Masonry, as to say that she now more than ever wishes herself a man, that she might be capable of admission into the Fraternity.

"The MS., of which this is a copy, appears to be about 160 years old; yet (as your lordship will observe by the title) it is itself a copy of one yet more ancient by about 100 years; for the original is said to be the hand-writing of K. Henry VI. Where that Prince had it is at present an uncertainty; but it seems to me to be an examination (taken perhaps before the king) of some one of the brotherhood of Masons; among whom he entered himself, as it is said, when he came out of his minority, and thenceforth put a stop to a persecution that had been raised against them. But I must not detain your lordship longer by my preface to the thing itself.

"I know not what effect the sight of this old paper may have upon your lordship, but for my own part, I cannot deny that it has so much raised my curiosity as to induce me to enter myself into the Fraternity, which I am determined to do (if I may be admitted) the next time I go to London, and that will be shortly.

"I am, my lord,

"Your lordship's most obedient,

"And most humble servant,

"JOHN LOCKE."

No doubt Lord Cobham, the patron of Wicliffe, was a Mason, and, as being heretical in this particular as well as in religion, the statutes "de comburendis hereticis" were enacted.

But in every age in the history of our country Masonry was distinguished by votaries from amongst the great, the learned, and patriotic. Alfred the Great promoted the Order, and the art much prospered. Venerable Bede says he was initiated at the College of Mayo, in Ireland, where he was educated, and which was then the seat of learning for Europe, especially in the Scriptures. William III., of glorious memory, as the asserter of civil and religious liberty, was initiated in 1690, I believe, during his campaigns in Ireland.

In our records are to be found the most illustrious names, Wolsey, Raleigh, Wren, Inigo Jones, Marlborough, Wellington, Hastings, Wellesley, the lamented Follett, Combermere, and a host of others like a milky way in the starry firmament of Masonry. "If, then, to borrow the

eloquent sentiments of an Irish brother, there be here present a single member of this Order, who doubts the usefulness of our grand old institution, I would say to that sceptic, that dreamer, look around, and behold this vast assembly of men of every class, party, and denomination, united through the influence of our system, and forming one great arch of peace, more beautiful, perhaps, from the variety of its colours. From our noble and beloved Prov. G.M., so ably and worthily represented here to-day by D. Prov. G.M. Shaw, Masonry descends with its genial influence to the humblest, who is unstained by dishonour, improving all it touches, and consecrating its professors to purposes of peace and good will to men, like the precious ointment poured on the head of Aaron, which went down even to the skirts of his garments, filling all our temple with the odour of the ointment, and proclaiming to all the sweetness of our system,

"So when a ship well freighted with the stores
The sun matures on India's spicy shores,
Has dropped her anchor, and her canvass furled,
In some safe haven of our western world,
'T were vain inquiry to what port she went,
The gale informs us, laden with the scent."

CERTAYNE QUESTYONS, with ANSWERES

to the same, concerning the MYSTERIES of
MACONRYE; writtene by the hande of

Kynge HENRYE, the sixthe of the name,

and faithfullye copyed by me, JOHAN

LEYLANDE, Antiquarius, by the

commande of his Highnesse;

they be as followethe:

QUEST. What mote ytt be?

ANSW. Ytt beeth the skylle of nature, the understoudynge of the myghte that ys hereynne, and ytts sondrye wreckynges; sonderlyche, the skylle of reckenyngs, of waightes and metynges, and the treu manere of faconnyng al thynges for mannes use; headlye, dwellinges, and buyldynges of alle kindes, and all odher thynges that make gudde to manne.

QUEST. Where dyd ytt begynne?

ANSW. Ytt dyd begynne with the ffyrste manne in the este, whych were before the ffyrste manne of the weste, and comynge westlye, ytt hathe broughte herwyth alle comforts to the wyld and comfortlesse.

QUEST. Who dyd brynge ytt westlye?

ANSW. The Venetians, who beyng grate mer-

chaundes, comed ffyrst ffromme the este yn Venetia, for the commoditye of marchaundyng beith este and weste bey the redde and myddlelonde sees.

QUEST. How comede ytt yn Engelonde?

ANSW. Peter Gower, a Grecian, journeyedde ffor kunnyng yn Egypte, and yn Syria, and yn everyche londe whereas the Venetians hadde plauntedde maçonrye, and wynnyng entraunce yn al lodges of maçonnes, he lerned muche, and retournedde, and woned yn Grecia Magna, wacksyng, and becommynge a myghtye wyse-acre, and; gratelyche renowned, and her he framed a grate lodge at Groton, and maked manye maçonnes, some whereoffe dyde journeye yn Fraunce, and maked manye maçonnes, wherefromme, yn processe of tyme, the arte passed yn Engelonde.

QUEST. Dothe maçonnes descouer here artes unto odhers?

ANSW. Peter Gower, whenne he journeyede to lerne, was ffyrste made, and anonne techedde; evenne soe shulde all odhers beyn recht. Natheless maçonnes haueth always yn everyche tyme, from tyme to tyme, communicatedde to mankynde soche of her secrettes as generallyche myghte be usefulle; they haueth keped backe soche allein as shuld be harmfulle yf they comed yn euylle haundes, oder soche as ne myghte be holpyng wythouten the techynges to be joynedde herwythe yn the lodge, oder soche as do bynde the freres more stronglyche togeder, bey the profyfte and commoditye commynge to the confrerie herfromme.

QUEST. Whatte artes haueth the maçonnes techedde mankynde?

ANSW. The artes, agricultura, architectura, astronomia, geometria, numeres, musica, poesie, kymistrye, governmente, and relygyonne.

QUEST. Howe commethe maçonnes more teachers than odher menne?

ANSW. The hemselfe haueth allein yn arte of ffyndyng neue artes, whoche arte the ffyrste maçonnes receaued from Godde; by the whyche they fyndethe what artes hem plesethe, and the treu way of techyng the same. Whatt odher menne dothe ffynde out ys onelyche bey chance, and herfore but lytel I tro.

QUEST. What dothe the maçonnes concele and hyde?

ANSW. They concelethe the art of ffyndyng neue artes, and thatt ys for here own profyfte, and

prise: They concelethe the arte of keypyng secrettes, that soe the worlde mayeth nothinge concele from them. They concelethe the arte of wunderwerckynge, and of foresayinge thynges to comme, that so the same artes may not be usedde of the wyckedde to an euylle ende. They also concelethe the arte of chaunges, the wey of wynnyng the facultye of Abrac, the skylle of becommynge gude and parfyghte wythouten the holpynges of fere and hope; and the universelle longage of maçonnes.

QUEST. Wylle he teche me the same artes?

ANSW. Ye shall be techedde yf ye be werthy and able to lerne.

QUEST. Dothe all maçonnes kunne more then odher menne?

ANSW. Not so. Thay onlyche haueth recht and occasyonne more than odher menne to kunne, butt manye dothe fale yn capacity, and manye more dothe want industrie, that ys pernecessarye for the gaynyng all kunnyng.

QUEST. Are maçonnes gudder men then odhers?

ANSW. Some maçonnes are not so virtuous as some odher menne; but, yn the moste parte, they be more gude then thay would be yf thay war not maçonnes.

QUEST. Dothe maçonnes love eidher odher myghtylye as beeth sayde?

ANSW. Yea verylyche, and yt may not odherwise be: for gude men and treu, kennynge eidher odher to be soche, dothe always love the more as they may be more gude.

[Here endethe the questyonnes and awnsweres.]

A GLOSSARY OF ANTIQUATED WORDS IN THE FOREGOING MANUSCRIPT.

<i>Allein</i> , only	<i>Confrerie</i> , fraternity?
<i>Always</i> , always	<i>Façonnyng</i> , forming
<i>Beithe</i> , both	<i>Odher</i> , other
<i>Foresayinge</i> , prophesying	<i>Onelyche</i> , only
<i>Freres</i> , brethren	<i>Pernecessarye</i> , absolutely necessary
<i>Headlye</i> , chiefly	<i>Preise</i> , honour
<i>Hem plesethe</i> , they please	<i>Recht</i> , right
<i>Hemselfe</i> , themselves	<i>Reckenyngs</i> , numbers
<i>Her</i> , there, their	<i>Sonderlyche</i> , particularly
<i>Hereynne</i> , therein	<i>Skylle</i> , knowledge
<i>Herwythe</i> , with it	<i>Wacksyng</i> , growing
<i>Holpyng</i> , beneficial	<i>Werck</i> , operation
<i>Kunne</i> , know	<i>Wey</i> , way
<i>Kunnyng</i> , knowledge	<i>Whereas</i> , where
<i>Make gudde</i> , are beneficial	<i>Woned</i> , dwelt
<i>Metynges</i> , measures	<i>Wunderwerkynge</i> , working miracles
<i>Mote</i> , may	<i>Wylde</i> , savage
<i>Myddlelonde</i> , Mediterranean	<i>Wyngynge</i> , gaining
<i>Myghte</i> , power	<i>Yn</i> , into
<i>Occasyonne</i> , opportunity	
<i>Commoditye</i> , conveniency	

THE SWORD OF THE KNIGHT
TEMPLAR.

By SIR KNT. REV. R. A. HOLLAND.

An Address delivered before the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky, on the Occasion of a Public Installation of Officers, June 14th, 1866.

Sir Knights,—Ours is symbolically a military institution. Established to protect from Saracen marauders the weary pilgrims who travelled from afar to Jerusalem, and fostered by the patronage of popes and princes until it grew to a puissant and wealthy Order renowned for deeds of valour and magnanimity, and embracing the great, the noble, the crowned in its ranks, it was finally proscribed by a bull of Clement V., and suppressed by the persecutions of Philip, King of France.

Plundered of their vast possessions, incarcerated in loathsome dungeons to extort a false avowal of infamy, menaced with the rack, the saw, the stake, the courteous Knights whose fame was co-extensive with Christendom, were driven to seek within the sacred precincts of Freemasonry that asylum they were denied alike in the State and the Church. Here they found seclusion and security. Here they renewed their vows of chastity and charity. Here they rehearsed with oft-repeated pleasure the stories of their penance and prowess, and rekindled the torches of their zeal at the shrine of a past but unforgotten glory. Here, faithful to their solemn covenants, though the armour of steel was hung up as a hallowed relic, and helmet, and cuirass, and battle-axe were laid aside as silent but eloquent eulogists of deceased honours, invested with an *interior* panoply of ethereal temper and cherubic sheen, they maintained their well-earned claim to the title of defenders of “innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian religion.”

This panoply has been bequeathed by them through successive generations to us—their legal descendants, and I trust we all worthily wear it. It is a panoply of the soul. It was wrought and polished by Jesus Christ, and consists in those virtues which he has inculcated upon all who would fight under his captaincy “against principalities, against powers, against the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Its chief aggressive weapon is the sword, to a description of which, and the duties it represents, I devote the remainder of my remarks.

“The sword of the Knight Templar,” we are

told, “is endowed with three most excellent qualities, viz.: its hilt with justice, its blade with fortitude, and its point with mercy; and it teaches us this important lesson, that, having faith in the justice of our cause, we must press forward with undaunted fortitude, ever remembering to extend the point of mercy to a fallen foe.”

In regard to the first of its lessons, I am happy to say that but few words of vindication or praise are necessary. The time was, when we were insultingly called upon to deny villainous charges, dissipate ungrounded prejudices, quiet opprobrious clamours; but that time, in America at least, is no longer. That there may be some who still cling to their erroneous conceptions of the nature and mission of our Order, like blind bats to a dead bough, I am constrained to acknowledge. But their number is insignificant. Like Christianity, it has been the fate of Masonry to be persecuted from her cradle, but like Christianity also, persecutions have only given *her* new strength and impetus, as the storms which cannot prostrate the oak serve only to make its roots take firmer hold on the soil, so that its branches can reach out to overhang larger multitudes seeking repose in their heads, and its defiant head to be lifted nearer than ever to the skies. And to-day, as I look abroad upon the land, I see it thickly dotted with Masonic Lodges. I count senators, divines, generals, judges, scholars, and the leaders of nearly every trade and profession in our swelling bands. With a fringe extending round from Grand Lake to Vancouver's Island, and from the Rio Grande to the Florida Reefs, our brotherhood is woven of many intersecting fibres of gold into a seamless texture, which not even the earthquake shock of the late civil conflict could tear asunder. It was during that conflict my attention was first attracted to the benign influences of your society. Too young at the time to be eligible to its rights, I was astonished at the fact that while churches (I speak it with regret) participated with conspicuous rancour in the hatred engendered by the strife, Masonic obligations were with rare exceptions kept intact, and the spirit of Masonry spanned the track of the war-tempest with rainbow hues that lent to desolation itself a beauty which seemed of heaven. I was astonished to see where cities and towns were burned, and colleges and sanctuaries laid in ashes, Masonic edifices standing erect, unscathed, as if they bore a charmed life and in their very loneliness gave persuasive evidence to

the inviolableness of those fraternal pledges which, like threefold cords, are not quickly broken. I was astonished to hear the discharged prisoner tell on his return home, of friends and benefactors in a hostile country, and could scarcely credit the unvarnished narrative of the soldier's wife, who, within the enemies' lines, had been kept from starvation by unfamiliar hands. I wondered what that could be that worked such miracles of kindness in the midst of wrath, and wonder begat desire to discover its secrets and share its benefits. Since then I have been initiated, my desire has been bountifully gratified, and like Sheba's queen—dazzled by the blaze of Solomon's court—I can without exaggeration declare "the half had not been told me."

Think not that I am trying to magnify Masonry by the disparagement of Christianity. That were contrary to the spirit of both. Christianity has no rival; she stands alone, above comparison, the eldest daughter of God, the immaculate bride of Christ. But Masonry is her handmaiden; delights to wait upon her and do her reverence, asking no richer reward than her smile of approbation, and no higher promotion than a seat on her footstool.

I have thus briefly referred to recent events in our national history, only to show that we are constantly producing fresh guarantees to the reasonableness we have never doubted, because to us self-evident, but which is nevertheless nourished and invigorated by its own fruits. Surely a cause that is founded on the gospels; that commemorates the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Saviour; that demands the practice of every cardinal virtue; that announces as its first, last, and supreme law, the sublime epitome of all laws—love, to God and man; that has, wherever it has gone, left gladness in its wake; that has arrested the uplifted arm of the murderer, subdued the ruthless ferocity of the invader; metamorphised in an instant, and as by magic, the stranger into a companion, the foe into a friend; thrown over the erring the mantle of charity, and between the defenceless and danger the broad shield of protection, and wreathed its brow with flowers of merit—plucked from hazardous heights of difficulty none but itself has scaled; surely such a cause needs no tumid encomiums, can find no louder trumpeters than its own good deeds, and like wisdom, is justified of its children; and like loveliness, when unadorned, adorned the most. Let

no veil of gaudy words be thrown over its exquisite features to obscure rather than add to their loveliness. Let no meretricious jewel of rhetoric be hung upon her lithe limbs to cumber rather than grace their movements.

Clenching our swords then by this, its proper hilt, "faith in the justice of our cause," we are, secondly, taught to wield its blade of fortitude unrestingly in the championship of rectitude against iniquity. By fortitude here is meant a generic virtue which includes patience to bear, courage to dare, and constancy to stand immovably at the post of duty, though beset with a thousand perils and in the very frown of death. He who engaged in the warfare for which our Order was inaugurated, bound himself by the holiest vows to be true to his trust under the direst calamities imaginable; and abstaining from enervating luxury and cankering idleness, spent his life in diligent quest of adventure. Encased in linked mail, mounted on steed whose martial prancings indicated its conscious sympathy with its rider's aspirations, and equipped with lance that ne'er would splinter in the onset, forth he went where likeliest to encounter a combatant, confiding in God, in the justice of his cause, and his own steady and stalwart arm for victory. If stunned, he did not despond; if wounded, he did not complain; if unhorsed, he did not plead for pity; if dying, he remembered his dignity, and met his fate with the air more of a conquerer than a captive. Fortitude was his constitution, his principle, his education—the motto equally of his unsullied escutcheon and his intrepid heart. Never in the record of our race was this lofty trait more heroically exhibited than at the siege of Acre. Three hundred Knights Templar, with the women who had taken refuge in the fort, were forced to shut themselves up in the last remaining tower. They saw their besiegers begin the work of undermining, and knew that defeat was inevitable. With that tenderness towards the weaker sex, inseparable from the noblest bravery, they surrendered in order that their women might be spared the horrors of what they foresaw would be the result of continued resistance, on the stipulated condition that the purity of those women should not be touched with a foul hand. The condition was disregarded. And when the vile Turks commenced their carnival of lust, the swords of the gallant Knights leaped, as by one impulse of indignation, from

their scabbards, and the fury-flash of their blades was quenched in the blood of the last perfidious victor who had entered the gates. The gates were then closed, and fearlessly, with silent resignation, they rested from their toils, and waited their entombment in the ruins of the structure which soon fell, and, with a thunderous crash, was at once their knell and burial.

True, those days are now gone. True, the castle of chivalry is an untenanted pile, whose walls are green with the moss of decay, and the ghostly echoes of whose corridors are woke only by the curious footfall of the poet, the novelist, and the antiquarian. True, the Knight who within its chambers found relaxation and refreshment after the fatigue of a many-miles' journey, has quaffed his last libation there—the libation of death—and departed, to return no more, on his way to that Jerusalem where he has ere this, if worthy, knelt at the feet of his Sovereign Master, and been dubbed and created a Knight of celestial station. True, the portal swings creakingly in the winds of years, and the warder rests from his arduous watches through the drear night of superstition, and no challenge of alarm is given in the noonday of present civilisation to disturb his peaceful slumbers. But the better spirit which animated that romantic era has survived the general wreck, and pervades the Order that perpetuates the name and memory of its most illustrious representatives. The exalted virtues of the Templars are cherished by us as precious heirlooms, and *should* be displayed in our conduct as distinguishing lodges.

Fortitude must be ours, as it was theirs. We, too, need it. We, too, must exercise it. As Masons, as citizens, as men in the vicissitudes of fortune; in the daily struggle with fraud, and baseness, and oppression; in the thronged thoroughfare, where gaunt poverty begs a meagre subsistence, and pampered vice struts disdainfully in the gay colours of a bird of paradise; in the low-roofed, dim-lighted, garret, where stitches her life out—instrained endeavour to sustain it—the pale girl, too spotless to purchase ease at the price of honour; and in the solitary cabin, where the widow moistens her hard crust with tears of bereavement, and divides it in scanty mouthfuls to the little ones who press eagerly around her: in all these situations we require fortitude; fortitude to enable us to rebuke despotism of circumstances; fortitude to keep the devil of our own selfishness behind us; fortitude to raise the downcast, to scorn the sneer of custom,

and to recognise humanity as one family, and every human being as our kinsman.

Fortitude must dwell with us at home, to cheer us in affliction and adversity. Fortitude must go with us abroad to nerve us against temptation and attack. Fortitude is, indeed, the blade of our sword of defence and duty, that which parries, which cleaves, and always gleams bright promise of triumph, even in the most uncertain hour of the fray.

This sword has a *point*—it is *mercy*—the divinest attribute of man, which likens him to Immanuel, who was its incarnative. We never render success so glorious, defeat so effectual, as when we stoop to lift up the foe we have stricken down, and spread the healing salve of forgiveness on the sores we ourselves have inflicted. It is the supreme charm of our blessed religion, that it is a religion of mercy. Nothing but the Victim of Calvary can melt a rebellious world into penitence. And the cross of self-sacrifice, painted upon the clouds in our van, is the emblem of our faith, and, as such, the only sign in which we may expect to conquer. A soft word turneth away wrath. A gentle look, like the first star that pierces the storm-cloud, reflects itself upon the tumultuous ocean of passion, and kisses its angry heavings into tranquillity.

More authoritative than the voice of rulers, more potent than the artillery of beleaguering hosts, more accurate than the red-hot shaft of Jove, more overwhelming than the *samiel* is mercy, which wins obedience without a command, which gains possession of the strongholds of affection without a bombardment, which annihilates every impediment to its absolute sway in the heart without a stroke or explosion, which sweeps away every vestige of former antipathy without bending or bruising a single frail plant of sensitiveness. Let it, Sir Knights, be the point of your swords ever extended to the fallen. Staunch in the maintainance of your own carefully-formed opinions, be liberal to those who differ from you, and who are as apt to be right as yourselves. Bigotry, vindictiveness, and malice are scarcely fit instincts for the hyena that sniffs and crunches among the bones of the dead, much less for a follower of Hugh de Payne and Godfrey Adelman. If you have enemies, personal or otherwise, do not forget your declaration of willingness to be reconciled to them whenever they manifest a corresponding disposition. It cannot be dishonourable to confess a fault. It is unquestionably godlike to forgive.

How sublimely does our Order shake hands across the gulf of the late intersectional war and call each

other "brother." How still more sublimely when that gulf was closed by the inleaping of nearly a quarter of a million of Curtii from either side, did they embrace and commune in love. Masonry was the first organisation to say to the downfallen, "Arise and let us be one again in the bonds of cordial affinity." Masonry exemplified in the higher degree, that quality which is not strained, which droppeth like the gentle rain from heaven. Masonry twined around the dripping sword, which others fain would still have used, the olive branch of a genuine peace, and lowered its point in mercy. Masonry like the Good Samaritan went to the sufferer—whom both the priest and the Levite saw, but passed by on the other side, without a word, or so much as a glance of sympathy—and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And whatever of concord there is where erewhile was only antagonism, whatever of quietude where was only turbulence, whatever of hope where was only gloom, whatever of amnesty, forgetfulness of injuries, and benevolent aid to the enfeebled and impoverished, where was only the clangor of battle, the overboilings of vengeance and the stern resolve never to succumb is indebted for its existence, if not mainly, at least largely, to the secret but none the less mighty influence of Masonry.

May she not pause in her beneficent exertions until those one in name shall be one in heart, until that temple, of which Solomon's was but a dim type, shall be completed, and the tribes of the earth, then become the tribes of the Lord, shall go up to worship therein, and uniting as children of a common stock, bow themselves in joyful awe before him who consumes the offerings of gratitude with fire sent from heaven, and fills the house with his visible glory. That temple is a renovated earth. That fire is the descent of our ascended Head, in whose sepulchre we have sat, and whose rising thence we have witnessed. That glory is his universal and eternal reign of righteousness. Verily, then, there will rise from hill and dale, and sea and shore, and saint and seraph, a hosannah, that I pray we too, Sir Knights, may swell; a hosannah that shall make immensity resonant with its glad pealings, and startle the farthest star that rolls quiet on the verge of space into rapt and wondering attention, "The Lord is good, for his mercy endureth for ever."

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

OUR LODGES—A QUESTION.

Brother . . . The United Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of England has deservedly the honour of being considered a most useful and munificent public

charity. Now, in this honour all our lodges participate; is it not therefore fitting that it should be known how far each lodge by its charitable acts entitles itself so to participate?—[See my communication entitled "A Suggestion," *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. XVI., page 426.—C. P. COOPER.

THE HIGH GRADES.

Dear Friend . . . In my communication to the *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. XV., page 369, it is stated that it was a mistake to suppose that, while Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Superintendent for Kent, I expressed any opinion respecting the high grades in Freemasonry; and yet, because in compliance with a brother's request, some disparaging words, taken from Caillot "*Annales Maçoniques*," are subjoined to the communication, you infer me to be adverse to the high grades. You are wrong, dear friend. It would be foolish and unjust, were I adverse to that respecting which I possess scraps only of information picked up I cannot tell where. With regard to the principal part of your letter—perhaps not reason—for there is no room for the exercise of reason where there is no knowledge of the subject, but a sort of instinct acquired by an experience of the world, much exceeding the "three score and ten," tells me that your proposal is most inefficient and injudicious, perhaps something worse.—C. P. COOPER.

THE HIGH GRADES.

Dear Friend . . . I have often heard it said in France, and I have occasionally heard it said in England, that there are very many most excellent brothers attracted into Masonry by the high grades, who, without them, would never have become members of our Institution.—C. P. COOPER.

UNIVERSALITY.

The term universality being taken according to its [correct] signification."—The omission of the word "correct" in my communication, "Christian, Jewish, Parsee, and Mahomedan Freemasonry," *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. XVI., page 426, has brought me a letter on the subject of the universality of Freemasonry. My correspondent should read my communication "Why Freemasonry is called Universal."—*Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. XVI., page 447, and reconsider what he has written.—C. P. COOPER.

MASONIC REPORTING.

It may be useful to remind a worthy brother whose letter, thus entitled, appeared not long ago in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, that there is an unrevoked resolution on the journals of the House of Commons, to the effect that it is a notorious breach of its privileges to publish the debates; and that it is in the power of any member who may call the Speaker's attention to the fact that "strangers are present," to exclude the public and reporters from the House. An encyclopædia into which I have just looked, states that "this power has been frequently exercised during living memory; but on such occasions some one or more members who have dissented from this course, have taken notes of the speeches and have avowedly sent them to the newspapers." These facts show that if Masonic reporting is at variance with our constitutions, parliamentary reporting is not less at variance with a resolution of the House of Commons.—C. P. COOPER.

LIFE.

A sceptic writes thus:—"The earth was in a state of fiery liquifaction; cooling began; there was a gradual solidification of the surface; at length life appeared," and he inquires where life came. The true Freemason says that life came from God, Great Architect of the Universe. What does a sceptic say?—C. P. COOPER.

THE PRIESTLY ORDER OF EUSEBIUS.

This grade is now given under the authority of the Grand Council of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, but a similar Order of Priesthood was formerly conferred in connection with the Knights Templar. This was remodelled by Sir Knt. Waller Rodwell Wright, who was Grand Master of both the Red Cross and Knights Templar, and by him attached, together with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, to the Red Cross Fraternity. The original Priesthood warrant, signed by Grand Master Wright, is still in existence, and the emblems of the Priestly Order—the Cross of the Sepulchre—and the I.H.S.U. of the Knights of Constantine are still visible on the seal. The ancient seal of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre is now in the possession of the G. Recorder of the Grand Council, and is highly prized by the members.—MELCHISEDEC.

THE SLOANE MS. AND BRO. J. G. FINDEL.

The accomplished Mason, Bro. Findel, in his "History of Freemasonry" (Svo., London, 1866), states that the Sloane MS. "originated at the end of the 17th century," and evidently considers the noted Dr. Plot to have been aware of its existence at the time of his writing the "Natural History of Staffordshire," wherein he attacked the Masonic Order, A.D. 1686. I shall esteem it a great favour to receive any information in elucidation of the matter, either as regards the probable date of the "MS." or a reference to it by Dr. Plot, for several important reasons. Bro. Findel is a good authority on the manuscripts of our Order, and has paid more attention to them than any other Masonic author I know, hence his opinion is worthy of consideration and of weight. At the same time, on a subject affecting the antiquity of one of the high degrees, we cannot be blamed for seeking more evidence than he gives to settle its appropriate date. I hope this query will receive the attention of the indefatigable Bro. Cooper, who, having cleared up one doubt for me, will surely help me in this.—W. J. HUGHAN.

RECOVERY OF A LODGE JEWEL.—At the time of the evacuation of Atlanta, Georgia, by Sherman's army, the Hall of Fulton Lodge, No. 216, was plundered by some vandals, who too often disgrace the flag they fight under. The bible, jewels, and clothing were abstracted, though the hall was not fired. About Christmas last, the bible was restored by the Grand Master of Minnesota, two of the jewels were returned from St. Louis, Mo., after being carried to Massachusetts, and the Altar Square was placed, unexpectedly, in the hands of R.W. Bro. W. W. Boyd, D.G.M. of Georgia, then on a visit to New York, by Bro. Kellinger, the son of the proprietor of the Monumental Hotel, who was with the army at Atlanta, and, finding it in the possession of a soldier not a Mason, took charge of it until he could find its owners. We trust the balance will soon be recovered.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

His Highness Halim Pasha, uncle of the Viceroy of Egypt, accompanied by Prince Ignace Zaguieff and Bro. Hyde Clarke, D.G.M. for Turkey, visited Freemasons' Hall on the 15th inst. The illustrious prince was received by the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.; Lord de Tabley, Prov. G.M. for Cheshire; and Bro. Gray Clarke, G. Sec., who conducted his Highness through the various rooms of the new building, with which the Pasha seemed greatly pleased.

We understand that his Highness Helim Pasha is about to be appointed District Grand Master for Egypt—a measure that will have a very excellent effect in consolidating Freemasonry in the East.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire has been fixed to be held at Southsea on Monday, the 29th inst.

THE LATE SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON, BART., D.C.L., LL.D.—The following are the regulations in connection with the Funeral Lodge to be held at Glasgow on the 25th inst., in memory of the late Provincial Grand Master:—1. Each lodge intending to send a deputation will be supplied with tickets, price one shilling each, on informing the Prov. G. Secretary, 213, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, of the number required; as the tickets are limited, application must be made before Tuesday, the 23rd inst. 2. The doors of the City Hall (Candleriggs-street entrance) will be opened at five o'clock p.m., and closed at a quarter to six o'clock. 3. The Master or other office-bearer heading the deputation will marshal those accompanying him in the passage, hand to the Prov. G. Tyler the card containing the name and number of lodge, number of deputation, &c., and vouch for them as being all Master Masons. 4. The admission tickets will be delivered up at the entrance-door to the hall, at head of stair, and the Prov. G. Stewards will show each deputation to their place in the hall. 5. The lodge will be opened at six o'clock p.m. Members of the Craft can only be admitted along with deputations. Each Brother present will receive a memorial card.

We have been requested to state that the consecration of the Victoria Chapter of Roso Croix will take place at the Masonic Hall, Brook-street, Ipswich, on Tuesday, the 23rd inst., at half-past four.

We have been requested to inform our readers that the publication of the new edition of the "Origin of the English Royal Arch Degree," by the late Bro. Dr. Oliver, is delayed through the introduction of a short biography *in memoriam*.

PROVINCIAL.

DURHAM.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—*Wear Valley Lodge* (No. 1,121).—The ordinary meeting of this young lodge was held on the 12th inst., under the presidency of Bro. Geo. Canney, M.D., the S.W., who rules the lodge in consequence of the death of the late W.M., Bro. Joseph Nicholson, P. Prov. J.G.D. There is no P.M., the lodge having only been formed a year since. Bro. John Proud officiated as S.W., and Bro. George Stillman as J.W. There was a large attendance of brethren. The preliminary business having been disposed of, Bros. Rev. E. Healey, B.A.; W. Edgar, and W. Standish having duly served their term of apprenticeship, underwent the usual examination, and having acquitted themselves very creditably, withdrew. The lodge was then opened

in the second degree, when they were severally re-admitted and passed to the degree of F.C. in the order named. Samuel Fielden, who had been balloted for, being in attendance, was next introduced and regularly initiated by the S.W., who also gave the charge and explained the working tools. P.M. Ward, a visitor, occupied the chair of K.S. during the ceremonies. Several candidates were proposed, after which the lodge was closed in form and with solemn prayer. The Wear Valley Lodge now numbers fifty-five members, and four more are candidates for admission, two of whom have been approved of. The lodge has had the misfortune to lose already three members by death, the late W.M. being one of the three. There being no Fast Masters living in the neighbourhood, unusual difficulties have been presented to the efficient working the lodge, but the untiring zeal of the S.W., Bro. Geo. Canney, the Sec., Bro. Stillman, and the other officers have overcome all obstacles, and the lodge now bids fair to become one of the most successful in the county.

ESSEX.

ROCHFORD.—*Lodge of True Friendship* (No. 160).—The annual celebration of the festival of St. John the Baptist took place on Monday the 24th ult. The following were present:—Bros. T. Bennett, Prov. J.G.W., W.M., in the chair; J. Bowles, G. F. Browning, and J. Wiseman, P.M.'s; W. Pissey, S.W.; A. Rodd, J.W.; G. Burgess, P.M., Sec.; W. Pavitt, S.D.; D. B. Grout, acting J.D.; J. Allen, I.G.; and many other brethren, amongst whom as visitors were Bros. Becker, W.M. elect, and — Quilter from the Angel Lodge, Colchester; J. G. Green, Prov. S.G.W., P.M., from St. Peter's Lodge, Maldon, and J. Harris, W.M., and his Wardens, — Rowley and W. S. Cox, from the Priory Lodge, Southend. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes read and confirmed. Several letters were read from brethren in reply to invitations, expressing their regret at not being able to attend. The lodge was opened in the second degree, when the retiring W.M. presented Bro. W. Pissey, the W.M. elect, to Bro. G. Burgess, who kindly undertook the duties of Installing Master, and the ceremony of installation followed. The W.M. appointed and invested the following officers:—Bros. T. Bennett, I.P.M.; W. Pavitt, S.W.; J. Allen, J.W.; H. Wood, P.M., Treas.; G. Burgess, P.M., Sec.; D. B. Grout, S.D.; C. C. Kendrick, J.D.; R. Grout, I.G.; and J. Topsfield, Tyler. The W.M. addressed the brethren, and alluded in feeling terms to the bereavement under which the Prov. G.M., Bro. R. J. Bagshaw, is suffering from the death of his wife, and which prevented his attendance at the annual meeting, and proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to him, expressing the sympathies of the lodge with him in his heavy affliction, which was carried unanimously. Bro. Bennett proposed a vote of thanks to the Installing Master, Bro. Burgess, for the very able manner in which he had discharged the duties of Installing Master, which was also carried unanimously. A gentleman residing in the neighbourhood, and well known to the brethren, was then proposed and seconded as a fit and proper person to be made a Mason. Bro. Bennett, in a few but appropriate words, addressed the lodge touching the recent death of Bro. Alfred Thomas Jones, late J.D. of the lodge, and proposed that a letter of condolence should be also sent to the widow of the deceased brother, conveying the heartfelt sympathies of the lodge with her in her deep affliction, which was also unanimously agreed to. After transacting the ordinary business, the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The brethren sat down at four o'clock to a sumptuous banquet provided by Mr. A. Denton, of the Old Ship, which comprised every delicacy of the season. The cloth having been withdrawn, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. The brethren separated about half-past ten, after having spent a most agreeable and harmonious evening.

SUFFOLK.

STOWMARKET.—*The Freeman Memorial*.—At the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk, held at Stowmarket last week, it was announced by the Prov. G.M., Bro. Col. Adair, that the memorial to the late Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. the Rev. Frederick William Freeman, M.A., had been completed, as ordered at the previous Provincial Grand Lodge. The first part of the memorial consisted in purchasing a Governorship in the Boys' Masonic School, to be called "The Freeman Governorship;" this was presented to the Phoenix Lodge,

516, and the votes conferred are vested in the W.M. The other part of the memorial has just been completed, and consists of a very handsome monument erected over the late brother's grave in the cemetery of Pullham Market, adjoining the churchyard. The work has been done by Mr. J. E. Simpson, Stowmarket, and reflects great credit on him. The monument is constructed of the best Portland stone, rising from the ground in the form of three steps, each 10in. high. On this is placed a perfect ashlar, measuring 2ft. 6in. each way. This again is surmounted by a cross 5ft. high, the transom being 32in., and the section 10in. On the four sides of the ashlar is handsomely carved the Knights Templar jewel, the D. Prov. G.M.'s jewel, the Royal Arch jewel, and the Provincial Grand Chaplain's jewel. The inscriptions are engraved on the edge of the top step, and are as follows:—"In memory of the Rev. Frederick William Freeman, M.A., first perpetual curate of this parish, who died 22nd March, 1863, aged 51 years. Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace"—Psalm xxxvii. ver. 37. Under the D. Prov. G.M.'s jewel—"Erected by the Freemasons of Suffolk to the memory of Bro. the Rev. F. W. Freeman, M.A., late D. Prov. G.M. of the province, in fraternal remembrance of his active services to the Craft, and of his personal worth." The monument, standing as it does just in the centre of the cemetery, presents a very imposing appearance.

SURREY.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, presided over by the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Alexander Dobie, on Friday, the 5th inst., under the auspices of the East Surrey Lodge of Concord (No. 463), when numerous brethren from the various lodges in the province attended.

The following business was placed on the paper to be brought before the Provincial Grand Lodge:—To receive the report of the Finance and Audit Committee; to elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer; the appointment of Provincial Grand Officers.

The following brethren occupied the respective offices at the opening of the Prov. G. Lodge:—Bros. Alexander Dobie, P.G. Reg., Prov. G. Master; George Harcourt, D. Prov. G. Master; R. Cartwright, Prov. S.G.W.; E. Drewett, Prov. J.G.W.; George Price, Prov. G. Treas.; C. Greenwood, Prov. G. Sec.; R. W. Price, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, supported by numerous other brethren.

The Prov. G. Lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes were read, and being put for approval, were confirmed, and signed by the Prov. G. Master.

The Treasurer's accounts were then presented, showing a balance in favour of the Prov. G. Lodge of £150 5s.

The following votes were then made, viz:—£30 to be paid to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, £5 5s. to the Boys' School, and £5 5s. to the Girls' School.

Bro. George Price was re-elected Treasurer.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master then made the following appointments:—

Bro. G. Harcourt, M.D., of Chertsey, was continued in his office of D. Prov. G. Master.

Bro. W. Frederick Harrison.....	Prov. S.G.W.
" C. H. Woodward, P.M. & Sec. 463	" J.G.W.
" Rev. L. H. P. Maurice	" G. Chap.
" Walter M. Wilkinson.....	" G. Reg.
" Charles Greenwood.....	" G. Sec.
" Thomas E. Crispe, W.M. 463... ..	" S.G. Deacon.
" T. Goodwin, P.M. 463	" J.G. Deacon.
" Henry Parsons	" G. Supt. of Works.
" W. N. Last	" G. Dir. of Cers.
" J. Churchill.....	" G. Org.
" J. Dundas Down.....	" G.S. Bearer.
" W. Purvis	" G. Purst.

Bros. Compton, Steed, Ohren, G. J. Cutbush, Pearce, Knight, and Durant, Prov. G. Stewards.

During the proceedings appropriate music was performed, and with the able assistance of Bros. Montem Smith, Fielding, Shoobridge, and Chaplin Henry, the whole was rendered very effective.

Upon the completion of the business the Prov. G. Lodge was closed according to ancient custom, and with prayers by the Prov. G. Chap., and musical service.

At five o'clock the brethren adjourned to the banquet, at which the R.W. Bro. Dobie presided, and was ably supported by

Bros. Dr. Harcourt, C. J. Smith, and other provincial brethren, and a numerous body of present and past officers, the East Surrey Lodge of Concord being represented by Bro. T. E. Crispe, the W.M.; the St. Andrew's Lodge by Bro. James Knight, jun.; the Frederick Lodge by Bro. Webb; the Grove Lodge by Bro. Henry Parsons; the Dobie Lodge by Bro. Cartwright; the Surrey Lodge by Bro. C. J. Smith, mayor of Reigate; the Dorking Lodge by Bro. J. D. Down; Royal Alfred Lodge by Bro. Drewitt.

The grace—

Deum laudate propter beneficia
Dominum in excelsis laudate.—Amen.

having been said, the first toast, that of "The Queen and the Craft," was proposed by the Prov. G.M., and thereupon the National Anthem was very effectively given by the musical brethren, the solos being sung by Bro. Montem Smith.

The next toast "The Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, the Most Worshipful Grand Master," was given, of whom Bro. Dobie spoke in terms of praise, from personal experience, and referred to the high esteem in which that nobleman was held by the whole of the Craft, which was evinced by the circumstance of his having been re-elected G.M. for the twenty-fourth year consecutively.

This was followed by a four part song, "Maying," (Muller) which was very charmingly rendered.

The toast of "The Right Honourable Earl de Grey and Ripon, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, past and present," was given by Bro. Smith, P.M. Surrey Lodge, and responded to by Bro. Farnfield, Prov. Assist. G. Sec. and Secretary to the Royal Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons, in an admirable speech, who reminded the brethren that this was the twenty-fifth year of the existence of this important institution and that under the auspices of the Prov. G. Master, who originally lent a very lively interest in the foundations of this Charity, and the co-operation of the men of Surrey. The institution had gone on year by year extending its usefulness until, he was proud to say, that the numbers have increased from thirteen at the first election, until it now numbers eighty-eight male pensioners and fifty-six widows, dispensing upwards of £3,700 annually in relief, and amongst the other interesting facts related by Bro. Farnfield, he mentioned that when the asylum was as fully tenanted as it now is, upwards of £900 was annually expended in and about Croydon. He had applied to their R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Dobie, and their valued and talented G. Sec., Bro. Greenwood, to aid him in attaining a complete and efficient set of Stewards from the province to represent the various lodges at the next festival, and he was delighted to have the opportunity of expressing to the brethren how much he was indebted to them for the noble response they had made to his call for assistance. He said that in the province there were but nine lodges, and in reference to the list then tendered to him, he was delighted to find there were the names of nine Stewards, so that each lodge would be represented on the occasion, and he looked forward to a very large subscription as a result of their united efforts. He believed that the circumstance of every lodge in the province sending a Steward to the Benevolent Institute's festival was unprecedented in so large a province as that of Surrey. Bro. Farnfield also announced that the Prov. G.M., Bro. Alex. Dobie, has consented (p.v.) to preside at the festival in January next. The names of the Stewards to the next festival are those we have previously given as representing the several lodges. Bro. Farnfield concluded a very able and telling address by referring in kindly terms to the other Masonic Charities, and appealing in their behalf to the brethren for a similar amount of support to that which he was connected with.

Bro. W. J. Fielding followed with the ballad, "Angels listen when she speaks."—Hinc.

The toast of "The Provincial Grand Master of Surrey," Bro. Alexander Dobie, Past Grand Registrar, was proposed by Bro. Dr. Harcourt in a highly eulogistic speech.

The toast was responded to with great enthusiasm by the brethren present, and was followed by Bishop's beautiful gleec—"Forester's sound the cheerful horn."

In returning thanks for the very enthusiastic manner in which his health had been responded to, Bro. Dobie expressed himself as always being happy to meet the brethren of his province, not only in Provincial Grand Lodge, but in private lodges and elsewhere, that, whilst he had the honour of presiding over this province, peace and harmony had prevailed amongst the members, which had been a source of pleasure to

him, and had made his task of rule easy and pleasant to him; but that, having reached that period of life when most men desire to retire from active occupation, he felt tempted, like the M.W.G.M., who was the same age as himself, to retire and make way for younger men; but whilst he had the active co-operation of so many zealous and worthy officers, and the confidence of the whole of the members of the province, he felt he could not be doing right to yield up a trust whilst he was still in the enjoyment of robust health and strength. Bro. Dobie then related some interesting circumstances connected with his Masonic career.

The next toast, "The Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Surrey," was warmly responded to, and was followed by a new descriptive song by Mr. Walker, and sung by Bro. Chaplin Henry.

Bro. Dr. Harcourt, D. Prov. G.M., responded to the toast in a short but able speech, referring to the Masonic success of Bro. Dobie, and the flourishing condition of the various lodges in the province.

"The Health of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, Bro. Price," was given and duly responded to.

"The Health of the Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. Greenwood, P.M.," was proposed by the Prov. G.M. in very complimentary terms, and responded to with enthusiasm by the brethren, and followed by the song "Never mind the rest," sung by Bro. Montem Smith with his usual vigour and good taste.

Bro. C. Greenwood thanked the Prov. G. Master and brethren in a short but admirable speech, full of point, and concluded by stating that, so long as this province continued in so harmonious a condition, and even pleased to appreciate the services he was able to render, he felt proud of the position he occupied, and was amply repaid for any trouble he might incur in connection with his duties as Secretary.

The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bro. W. Smith, C.E., and other brethren, and the remainder of the toasts—"The Worshipful Master of East Surrey Lodge of Concord," "The Provincial Grand Wardens and other Officers," and "The Press" were severally proposed and responded to. The following songs being interspersed, "Come, where my love lies dreaming," "The Vicar of Bray," "Hydeede," "Sleep, gentle lady." The Tyler's toast brought the meeting to a close, which the brethren in Surrey, especially the brethren of the East Surrey Lodge of Concord, will have cause to remember as an unequivocal success.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

MASONIC BANQUET.

A banquet, which will be long remembered among the Masons of Jersey, took place on Wednesday evening, the 10th inst., at the Masonic Temple. It was given to Bro. Dr. John Le Cronier, who, during the last year, had filled the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and it was intended as a demonstration of respect to that esteemed brother. About fifty brethren, including nearly two dozen Worshipful Masters and Past Masters of lodges, sat down at half-past six to an excellent dinner, provided by Bro. W. H. Long. The chair was taken by Bro. H. L. Manuel, who was supported by the Rev. Bro. Truman and Bro. Drayton on the right, and on the left by Bros. Colonel Maydwell and Dr. Kitchener. The vice-chair was filled by Bro. E. D. Le Coutour, supported by Bros. C. J. Hocquard and J. Durell. Amongst the brethren best known in the province, we noticed with much pleasure Bros. A. Schmitt, W. Adams, C. Le Sneur, C. Donaldson, P. W. Le Quesne, Philip Binot, J. T. Du Jardin, Pugsley, jun., Ed. J. Bellingham, C. J. Renouf, Oatley, Benham, Porrot, Jabonneau, R. Binot, &c.; and amongst the visitors Bros. Robin (of Naples), Draper, and others.

The first and second toasts were—"The Queen and Royal Family," and "The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, and the Grand Lodge of England." These toasts were received with all due honours. The next toast, which, under the circumstances, was only one of form, was—"The Provincial Grand Master of the Province of the Channel Islands." As might have been expected, under the circumstances which called together this demonstration, this toast was received with the greatest frigidity, only a very small portion of the brethren rising to it. The company then came to the real object of the evening, which was to manifest their sympathy for Bro. Dr. Le

Cronier, and to mark the sense they entertained of him. The chairman, in a warm speech, explained the circumstance which had led him, as a man of honour and a faithful Mason, to retire from the office. Our readers will perfectly understand that we are not at liberty to divulge any of the details into which the chairman entered. We may only mention that, amidst unanimous applause, he referred to the acclamation with which Dr. Le Cronier's nomination had been originally received; to the differences he had healed, the harmony he had restored, and the peace that had reigned in the Temple during his rule. And he expressed the hope, felt by all interested in the prosperity of Masonry in these islands, that that which had led to the resignation of the Doctor, and provoked this demonstration of approval of his conduct, and indignant regret at the treatment he had experienced from a quarter we are not permitted to name, the events which were taking place here would have such a *retentissement* in high quarters in England that two results might fairly be expected, namely, that care would henceforth be taken never to impose on this province a ruler against whom it protested, and that, ere long, Dr. Le Cronier would be hailed as the head, in this province, of the whole of the venerable Craft. The chairman, after several other remarks, which elicited great applause, but which it is not possible for us to publish to the outer world, concluded by a glowing eulogium on the Doctor, not only as a brother, but as a friend and a man, and, amid loud and continued applause, proposed the health of Bro. Dr. Le Cronier.

Bro. Eugene Jabonneau then rose and followed Bro. Manuel in a neat complimentary speech.

Bro. Dr. Le Cronier, in thanking the brethren, said that there were circumstances in life when a man, to express his feelings, required high, impassioned eloquence, and it happened, in most cases, that the tongue was less ready. At least, it was now his case; and he could not find expressions to sufficiently thank them for the honour they had done him, by meeting in such large numbers to give him a proof of their sympathy and esteem. He would not, therefore, attempt a long speech, but would merely thank them. To Bro. Manuel he tendered his especial thanks for the flattering terms in which he had proposed his health. He also saw brethren who seldom visited the lodges; to them, also, he tendered his thanks for what he could not but consider as a personal compliment. After briefly alluding to the circumstances under which, this time last year, he had accepted the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and those under which he had resigned that office, Bro. Dr. Le Cronier went on to say that there had been no quarrel between the Prov. G. Master and himself, but simply a misunderstanding as to the extent of the meaning to be attached to the term "absent." He had laid down his office with regret, for while he had filled it the most perfect harmony had never ceased to reign in the Craft. He might say a great deal more, but on an occasion like the present it was better not to introduce any disagreeable topic, and therefore he would simply once more tender them his sincere thanks.

Bro. E. D. Le Coutour, in a very able speech, proposed "The Craft," "The Visitors," "Bro. Drayton," and "The Chairman" were also given in the course of the evening.

The fête was much enlivened by the admirable singing of Bro. Drayton and other brethren, and the proceedings, which were characterised throughout by the greatest order and harmony, were not brought to a close until nearly midnight.

AMERICA.

REPORT OF BRO. A. G. GOODALL, OF NEW YORK, TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE, NORTHERN JURISDICTION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Most of the members of Grand Lodge of the Supreme Council, and members holding under the respective jurisdiction, will remember with pleasure the visits paid by Bro. Goodall to the various lodges, chapters, &c., in this country, in his official or semi-official capacity as representative of American Masonic bodies. Upon his return to New York, at the end of last year, he reported officially the result of his Masonic tour; and, as such report will doubtless be considered by a very fair number of our readers as possessing considerable interest, we have determined to republish Bro. Goodall's report *in extenso* :—

To the Supreme Council of Sov. Gr. Ins. Gen. of the 33rd and last degree of An. and Ac. Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

H. S. P.

Illustrious Sovereign Grand Commander,—After an absence of two years, journeying over a large portion of the globe, it is with feelings of no ordinary pleasure that I enjoy the privilege of again saluting you in the mystic circle, the ties of which are strengthened by time and absence.

In conformity with the established regulations of the Order, and, in obedience to the mandates of the Sup. Coun., I have the honour to inform you that on the 13th day of October, 1864, V. E., I left the city of New York with special powers of Dep. Gr. In. Gen. for the purpose of establishing fraternal relations with the legitimate Sup. Gr. Masonic bodies throughout South America, and to appoint near the same representatives for this Sup. Coun.

The numerous communications received from several of the Masonic bodies in that country for years past detailing causes of dissension, separation, expulsion and formation of rival bodies, made it highly important that more definite information should be obtained than had been communicated by, in many cases, partisan correspondence of the actual condition of Masonry in those distant localities, and, as far as possible, ascertain the claims for legitimacy of the contending parties.

For this purpose I accepted the laborious mission, being actuated solely by a desire to contribute my feeble efforts in the hope of aiding in the general advancement and benefit of the Order, in bringing our South American brethren into more frequent and fraternal intercourse with the Fraternity in this country, and thus bind closer and closer the mystic tie, and with our united efforts more firmly establish and perpetuate our sublime tenets of *ordo ab chaos*.

I am gratified to state that already the importance of the mission has resulted in the mutual interchange of official recognitions of several Grand bodies not before in communication with this Council, and negotiations are now in progress that will further result in additional recognitions for perpetuating the bond of fraternal union.

In my sincere efforts to faithfully accomplish the object of the mission as opportunities permitted, it became necessary in some instances, when there were contending parties for supremacy, to make decisions which did not meet the approval of those who, in my opinion, has disregarded truth and justice, and violated the laws, usages, and ancient landmarks of our Order for the purpose of advancing their selfish interest.

The details relative to all such decisions and all my official acts are herewith presented with the other documents for your investigation, and I will cheerfully abide by your decision.

I sincerely regret to inform you that there was neglect and dereliction of duty on the part of those having in charge the special interest of this Council during my absence, by not giving proper attention to the correspondence and necessary replies to my communications. In consequence of this neglect I was often placed in unenviable positions, and the interests of the Council seriously suffered; and, although explanations have been abundantly given, I cannot urge too strongly the importance of preventing this serious defect in future.

UNITED STATES OF PANAMA.

On my arrival at Panama I was informed that no lodge was then working in that ancient and historical city. The Grand Orient of New Granada, or United States of Columbia, is located at Cartagena, on the Atlantic side, but the civil wars which had for years past so seriously disturbed the peace and prosperity of that country, have had a corresponding injurious influence with the Order, and prevented its advancement.

In 1865 a lodge was established at Panama by dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, but the Grand Orient of New Granada making objections, and claiming Masonic jurisdiction over that locality, the lodge accepted a charter from that Grand Orient, with the privilege of working the symbolic degrees in the York Rite and English language.

In 1864 another Grand Orient and Supreme Council was organised at Bogota by Ill. Bro. Thomas C. De Mosquero, President of the Republic, and others, contrary to the laws and usages governing the Ancient and Accepted Rite. A 34th degree was also added to their ritual, said to be made for political purposes; and powers were assumed by Ill. Bro. Mosquero and his associates, arrogating to themselves the supreme right to establish this new Colombian Order, and to

incorporate so much as they deemed expedient with the regular Masonic degrees, over which they also claimed supreme control. A lengthy correspondence ensued with the regular and legitimate Grand Orient and Supreme Council, which was published in a periodical at Cartagena, and, from the statements of the respective parties, it is evident that the Grand body organised at Bogota by Mosquero and his associates is spurious and clandestine, and as such they have been declared, and Mosquero and others expelled from all the rights and privileges of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite by the Grand Orient and Supreme Council at Cartagena, and I recommend that their action relative to the said decision and expulsion be approved by this Supreme Council.

EQUADOR.

Masonry was introduced into this republic about 1857, the Supreme Council of Peru granting the charter for a symbolic lodge, Ancient and Accepted Rite, at Guayaquil. I was informed, while sojourning at that place, that the lodge was dedicated with imposing public ceremonies and procession, in consequence of which much opposition was at once made to the Order by the powerful influence of the Jesuits, and with the convulsions of civil war, anarchy, and despotism which has alternately ruled for years in that country, it was not possible for the lodge to prosper; and, after a lingering existence of about two years, closed its labours, and surrendered its charter. Since then no effort has been made to establish regular Masonic bodies in that sparsely settled country, whose native inhabitants are far from being sufficiently advanced in civilisation to comprehend and appreciate the sublime principles of our teachings.

PERU.

My stay of three months at Lima enabled me to form intimate social relations with many of the illustrious brethren at that capital, for whom I will ever cherish the most pleasing recollections and fraternal regard for the many courtesies extended to me during my sojourn in that land of the once powerful Incas.

The history of Masonry in Peru has truly been most chequered, and oftentimes discouraging to those whose commendable patience continued for years struggling against innumerable obstacles, in their efforts to establish and propagate the sublime truths, and peaceful mission of the fraternal bond, and teachings of goodwill to man.

There is no authentic history of the existence of the Order in that country prior to 1821. It is asserted that its first introduction dates from the time when the Spanish army entered Peru to oppose the war of independence. In several of the regiments were said to be travelling lodges, but those having the work under their control were very cautious in taking every means to prevent the spread of liberal ideas and the principles of Masonry, admitting none, especially Peruvians, without undoubted proof that they were loyal to Spain. Other impediments to the advance of the Order was further caused by the hatred and religious despotism of the Viceroy, who at that time viewed very Mason as a monster, and fit only for the severest punishment, and, when discovered among the Peruvians, the least punishment was transportation to Spain, divested for life of all position, and on their arrival were banished to the penal colonies.

After the independence of Chile, the ports of Peru were opened with more liberality to foreign commerce, and lodges organised by foreigners are said to have gradually propagated the principles of Masonry, and receiving into their midst distinguished Peruvians, who used their influence to encourage the permanent establishment of the Order. Such are the statements credited to the early efforts of the pioneer brethren, and, whether true or not in every particular, the facts of its persecutions, and slow but sure progress under such powerful opposition, makes a most interesting record, and fully illustrates its triumph for the advancement of those liberal arts and sciences which are such powerful auxiliaries to the advancement of a nation, and without which the people of the fatherland of the Peruvians are still held in the most abject bondage.

In 1825 a General Valero arrived in Lima, with plenary Masonic powers from a body claiming to be the Supreme Council of New Granada, and from whom provincial charters were obtained, and afterwards exchanged for regular warrants from the said Supreme Council of New Granada. The lodges in Peru continued to work under that authority till 1830.

On the 2nd day of November, 1830, V. E., ten illustrious brethren claiming to have the 33rd degree, and representing the various lodges and chapters in Peru assembled, constituted and formed the Sov. Gr. Ins. Gen. 33rd. of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, for the Republic of Peru, locating their Orient at Lima.

In regard to the legality of the Supreme Council in New Granada at the time they gave the warrants to the lodges in Peru, or whether those who formed the Supreme Council of Peru had received the 33rd degree in a lawful Masonic manner, are questions to which I failed after much investigation to obtain any reliable or satisfactory evidence, and from the peculiar and varied position of political events at that date in those countries, and their being comparatively isolated from frequent communication with the Fraternity in Europe and this country, it is probable that there were then many irregularities, caused more from unavoidable circumstances than design, and passed unnoticed, that would not be admitted by foreign bodies at the present time; and these remarks apply more or less to the rise and progress of the Order in nearly every country where it is now an established institution.

Soon after the formation of the Supreme Council the symbolic lodges then working obtained new warrants from it, and other lodges were gradually established in the large towns in the country. A consistory and chapter of Rose Croix and Council of Princes, &c., were also constituted.

This Supreme Council, recognised as the governing power of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, continued to exercise its functions till the close of the year 1831, when, owing to the political revolutions so prevalent in Peru and throughout South America, their meetings were suspended till the 20th of February, 1849. During these nineteen years of suspension of their Masonic labours, the minutes and records of many of the lodges were destroyed, and by this misfortune many important historical facts relating to the Order have been for ever lost. The long period in which the Order remained dormant was almost equivalent to its extinction, and new incentives were required to resuscitate and again bring it into active existence; and at the meeting of the Council in January, 1849, persons of ability, position, and energy were elected to fill the principal offices, but it was not till several years after that the Order gave evidence of again being in active operation.

At the session of the Supreme Council in June, 1857, four additional provisional articles were decreed to form an integral part of the General Statutes of the Order in Peru, until the new Statutes then being prepared were adopted. These articles were intended to prohibit serious abuses which had been introduced into the various bodies under its jurisdiction. These additional articles were obnoxious to many of the lodges, and serious difficulties at once arose; insubordination ensued, the most bitter feelings engendered, reason gave way to passion, sacred obligations violated, and resulting in a withdrawal of the majority of the lodges from their allegiance to the Supreme Council, and on the 9th of September, 1857, they formed the Grand Lodge of Peru, at Callao, the officers being installed by a Grand Inspector General, who, it is asserted, received the degree in a spurious Supreme Council, said to have been in existence in New York about that time. This Grand Lodge and all the lodges recognising its authority were by decree of the Supreme Council of December 9th, 1857, declared to be spurious and clandestine.

These spurious bodies were called the Dissidenters: and as the spirit of opposition, so natural to human nature, continued to predominate in violation of Masonic law, they for a few months were very active, and worked with an energy that was worthy of a better cause, and during the first year had control of the majority of the lodges throughout the country, but at the close of the second year they had nearly ceased to exist, when the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, unfortunately for the interests of the Craft, gave offence in an official communication to the remaining lodges under his jurisdiction, including those of the higher degrees, which resulted in another separation in the latter part of 1859, and these seceding bodies uniting with the remnant of the first Dissidenters resuscitated their Grand Body, thus giving them control of nearly all the lodges in the country, among the members of which were included several influential members holding high positions in the Government, who for political purposes attempted to make use of the Order to further their special interest. In January, 1860, they constituted a Supreme Council, 33rd degree. The original Supreme Council then

issued another decree declaring the new Council to be irregular and clandestine, and expelling all the members composing it. In a complimentary return, for which the new Council issued a decree in their usual flowery style, dated October 19th, 1862, declaring that they were the Simon Pure, and only legitimate Masonic authority for the Republic of Peru, and also enacted the farce of expelling those composing the original Council.

In tracing the history of that unnecessary, suicidal war among our Peruvian brethren, and while we can but deeply deplore the temporary injury it caused to the advancement of the Order in that jurisdiction, yet it is a most pleasing fact that, although the spurious and illegal body of Dissidenters started in their career of error, under the most favourable circumstances, in numbers, influence, and energy, they were permitted to continue in their illegal proceedings without countenance or support from any foreign Grand Body, except the Supreme Council of New Granada, which gave them recognition bearing date the 28th day of April, 1862, and, if statements be correct, the conditions under which it was obtained are far from being creditable to that Grand Body.

Such was the unfortunate condition of that portion of the Masonic family at the date of my sojourn at Lima; the offers made to reconcile and unite the two bodies were rejected by both parties, and there were then no prospects of a union. A general apathy seemed to prevail in Masonic affairs, and the power of the Dissidenters was fast on the decline. The old Supreme Council had been in session for nearly two years, and but one or two subordinate bodies under its jurisdiction continued their regular meetings. The Sovereign Grand Commander was confined to his residence by illness during my stay, and the Grand Secretary and several of the members were absent from the country; our Grand Representative had been suspended; a political revolution had commenced in consequence of the troubles with Spain, and the state of society was far from being in that quiet and peaceful condition to give the desired attention to any subject appertaining to the Order, and I thus deemed it inexpedient at that time to enter into any official negotiation relative to the special mission from this Council; but my social interviews with the Sovereign Grand Commander and other illustrious members of their Council were very gratifying, and the sincere hope was mutually expressed that their labours would soon be resumed, and the Council again enter into fraternal relations and intercourse with foreign Grand Bodies.

During the time that the clandestine lodges were in full operation, it became a matter of serious importance and difficulty in travelling brethren to know which to visit, and particularly for those not speaking the Spanish language. To meet this difficulty, Ill. Bro. Richard H. Hartley and other English and American brethren of Lima and Callao, obtained a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland to work in the Ancient York Rite and English language. The lodge was duly organised in 1863, under the name of Duke of Leinster Lodge (No. 151), and, at the date of my visit, they were in a very prosperous condition, and the fraternal courtesies and reception they extended to me, as your representative, I now take pleasure in officially acknowledging, and to return my due appreciation of the same, the recollection of which will ever be a pleasing memorial of my visit to Lima. A warrant has also been granted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland for a symbolic lodge in the York Rite, to be located at Callao; this charter was granted under protest from the Supreme Council of Peru.

The question of the right of jurisdiction was, at the time of my visit, agitated by some of the members of the Supreme Council, who seriously objected to lodges being established in another rite and under a foreign Grand Body. This important subject has been so thoroughly discussed by able writers on Masonic law and usage, that it is unnecessary for me to discuss the subject, but I deem it proper to state that, from my personal observation, it would greatly tend to the general interest of the Order, if the Supreme Bodies in South America would permit lodges to work in the Rite and language which is only understood by the large majority of our American and English brethren. The importance of this concession has been admitted by the Supreme Councils of New Granada, Argentine Republic, and Uruguay, and, I have no doubt, will also be recognised by the Supreme Council of Peru.

Time, that great arbiter and regulator of worldly affairs, has decided the contest of the Fraternity in Peru, and the Dissidenters, after a few years of unprofitable career to themselves or the Order, and with divisions and contentions among them,

rapidly declined, and have now ceased to exist, and the original Supreme Council, among whose members are the familiar names of Ill. Bros. Antonio de Souza Ferreira and Thos. R. Eldredge, two of its founders, and Ill. Bro. Francisco Xavier Mariategui, as Sov. G. Commander, and is now in undisputed authority of the Masonic jurisdiction in Peru; and we can but sincerely hope that the lessons of the past have given such experience as to justify the belief that fraternal union and prosperity will be the result for the future, and that the amicable relation, so long existing with this Council, will ever continue.

I am also gratified to inform you that, a few weeks since, I received an official decree of the Supreme Conclave of Peru that Ill. Bro. Richard H. Hartley, the former representative of this Council, had been honourably acquitted of the unjust charges against him, and was again restored to all his former rights and privileges of the Order.

(To be continued.)

ROYAL ARCH.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.

KENDAL.—*Kendal Castle Chapter* (No. 129).—An emergency convocation of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall on Friday, 12th inst., at four p.m. Present:—Comps. Edward Busher, M.E.Z.; John Bowes, H.; T. Wilson, E.; Lieut. Gawith, P.S.; J. Ottley Atkinson, Janitor; Rev. Thos. Simpson, Capt. Braithwaite, and T. R. Clapham. Visitor:—Comp. Younghusband, P.Z. 32 and 241. The chapter was opened by the Principals, the companions admitted, and the ballot taken for Bros. S. K. Thompson, Thos. H. Gawith, and W. E. Bagnall, which proved in favour in each case. Bros. Thompson and Gawith being present, were duly and impressively exalted by Comp. Younghusband, Lieut. Gawith discharging his duties as P.S. in an admirable manner. The lectures were given by Comps. Younghusband and Bowes. Several Grand Chapter certificates were delivered and duly signed. Letters of apology from Major Whitwell and other Comps. were read. There being no further business the chapter was solemnly closed.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Chapter of Elias Ashmole* (No. 148).—The regular convocation of this chapter was held at the Chapter Rooms, Sankey-street, on Monday, 8th inst., at six o'clock. Present:—Comps. H. B. White, Z.; John Bowes, H.; Horatio Syred, Scribe E.; Jos. Maxfield, N.; Jos. Robinson, Janitor; A. H. Beckett, W. Woods, Rev. J. Nixon Porter, W. Mossop, and Peter Ryland. Visitors:—J. H. Younghusband, P.Z. 32 and 241; and Robt. Wilson, P.S., 241. The chapter was duly opened by the Principals, when the remainder of the companions were admitted. The minutes were read and confirmed, and the ballot was taken for Bro. W. Richardson, which proved unanimous in his favour. Bro. Peter Rylands (who had been balloted for and approved at a previous convocation) being present, was duly exalted by Comps. Younghusband, Wilson, and Bones, acting P.S. The mystic, symbolic, and historic lectures were delivered by Comps. Younghusband and White. There being no further business the chapter was duly closed.

MARK MASONRY.

CHESHIRE.

STOCKPORT.—*Benevolent Lodge* (No. 67).—The ordinary quarterly meeting was held at the Warren Bulkeley Arms Hotel, on Thursday, 11th inst. The chair was taken at 7 p.m. by Bro. Cheetham, W.M., who was about to open the lodge, when, instead of doing so, he requested Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M. 74, who was present as a visitor, to take his place, and to perform the ceremony of advancement. This request having been acceded to, the lodge was opened at 7 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. There were several candidates for advancement, of whom only one, Bro. Ferns, presented himself. A ballot was taken for his admission, which proved unanimous in his favour. This brother was then introduced, properly prepared, and duly advanced to the rank of Mark Master by the acting W.M., who also gave the lecture in expla-

nation of the degree. Soon after the conclusion of the ceremony Bro. Prescott presented himself for advancement, and having satisfactorily explained the cause of his late arrival, after a unanimously favourable ballot, the acting W.M. went through all the essential parts of the ritual, deferring the remainder till the next meeting of the lodge. The chair was resumed by Bro. Cheetham. Several notices of motion were given and some matters of business arranged. Among them was the election of Mrs. Greaves, widow of a late brother, as a free member of the lodge; this refers to a burial fund in connection with it, to which she had contributed for a great number of years, her payments, as the wife of a member, making a total of far greater amount than to which, at her death, her representatives would become entitled. The lodge was closed at about nine o'clock, and the brethren adjourned to another room for refreshment.

CORNWALL.

TRURO.—*Fortitude Lodge* (No. 78).—On Thursday, the 4th inst., the members of this lodge celebrated their anniversary and the installation of the newly-elected Master, and the following is a short account of the interesting proceedings. The brethren first assembled at the lodge-rooms, Quay-street, Truro, when the W.M., Bro. Thomas Chirgwin, Grand Steward, the Installing Master, sounded the gavel at two p.m., to which a large number of the members gladly responded. The lodge having been duly opened, the minutes read and confrmed, the ballot taken for Bro. William Tweedy, S.W., as W.M., and Bro. T. Chirgwin, W.M., as Treas., and five candidates unanimously accepted for advancement, the W.M. proceeded to instruct the neophytes into the mysteries of Mark Masonry in an impressive manner, and Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.M., P.G. Overseer, &c., gave the full explanations of the various signs and words peculiar to that degree. The W.M. elect was then presented to the Installing Master, and all below the rank of a P.M. in the Craft having retired, a Board of Installed Masters was declared opened, consisting of Bro. T. Chirgwin, W.M. 78, G.S.; Reginald Rogers, W.M. 94, D. Prov. G.M. in the Craft; W. J. Hughan, P.M. 78, 87, 94, P.G.O., &c.; Frank Harvey, W.M. 87; and John R. H. Spry, P.M. 64, St. Aubyn Lodge, Devonport, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. for Devon, &c., whereupon Bro. W. Tweedy was efficiently intrusted and placed in the chair of A. by the Installing Master. The Board was then closed, and on the entrance of the members being followed were appointed as the officers for the year ensuing:—Bro. William James Johns, S.W.; Stephen Holloway, J.W.; John Ninness, M.O.; William M. Couch, S.O.; James T. Trull, J.O.; Rev. H. B. Bullocke, M.A., Chap.; William J. Hughan, P.M., &c., Reg.; Thomas Chirgwin, P.M., &c., Treas.; Richard John, Sec.; William Boase, Assist. Sec.; Thos. Mann, S.D.; Thomas Tregaskis, J.D.; Tobias E. Sawyer, Dir. of Cers.; Charles Truscott, jun., Assist. Dir. of Cers.; John Paul, Org.; Henry Bale, I.G.; Theophilus Dorrington and Samuel Wade, jun., Stewards; William Wyatt, Tyler; John Langdon, Assist. Tyler. The lodge having subsequently voted one guinea to aid a distressed brother out of his difficulties, and completed the regular business of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where a substantial banquet awaited them. The W.M. occupied the chair, and the S.W. the vice chair. After partaking of a sumptuous repast the toasts were entered upon, and severally received with right goodwill and enthusiasm, particularly when the brethren were called upon to drink to the health of their newly-appointed Prov. G. Master for Cornwall, Bro. Frederick Martin Williams, M.P. (advanced in the lodge by Bro. William J. Hughan, P.M.), who responded to the toast, owing to the unavoidable absence of the Prov. G.M., and stated how gladly the members of the lodges in the province had accepted the appointment of that distinguished brother as their Prov. G.M. by the Grand Master, the M.W. Bro. W. W. B. Beach. Bro. John R. H. Spry responded in a neat speech for the province of Devon, Bro. Frank Harvey, W.M., for the Cornubian Lodge, No. 87, Hayle, and 94, Falmouth, and the other toasts were also respectively warmly received and duly acknowledged. Altogether the meeting was a complete success in every respect, and we never remember enjoying ourselves more at any Masonic meeting.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

CORNWALL.

TYWARDREATH.—A new encampment, called the Restormel

Encampment, was opened with due solemnity at Tywardreath on the 9th inst., by Grand Officers Sir Knights R. Rodda and R. R. Rodd, P.E.C., when Sir Knight Prelate Rev. George Ross was duly installed E.C., who appointed as his officers:—Colonel Peard, 1st C.C.; C. Truscott, 2nd C.C.; J. Seccombe, Expert; W. P. Sobey, Reg.; N. Kendall, 1st C.L.; T. Lung and J. Kerswill, Standard Bearers; S. Seccombe, 1st Herald.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

METROPOLITAN.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 548).—The summer banquet of this numerous and prosperous lodge took place on Thursday, 11th inst., at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. George E. Gale. The brethren met together, in accordance with the usual custom, for recreation during the day, and vastly enjoyed the delightful grounds of the Palace and the numerous amusements there provided for visitors. The weather was magnificent, and the presence of the wives, sisters, and lady friends of the members of the lodge added very much to the happiness of the brethren who attended.

Shortly after five o'clock the dinner was announced in the large saloon of the South Wing Dining-room, when a goodly muster of the brethren, members of the lodge, and visitors (accompanied by the ladies) entered the room, and a very bountiful supply of the good things of this life was provided by the able contractors for the refreshments supplied within the Palace, Messrs. Bertram and Roberts, who catered on the occasion in their usual excellent style. Bro. E. J. B. Burnstead, the active and obliging Secretary of the lodge, materially added to comfort of the members and their friends by the excellence of the arrangements he had made in concert with the W.M. and officers of the lodge. The tables were laid for seventy, and sixty-four seats were occupied, and ample justice was done to the viands and wines provided for the occasion. The dinner was excellent, and the wines really good. After grace had been said the W.M. proposed the several toasts usually proposed on such occasions. "The Health of her Majesty the Queen," "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, the Grand Master of English Freemasons," "The Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers past and present," "The Visitors," "The Ladies," &c. Bro. Burnstead, Sec. and I.P.M., proposed the health of the W.M., Bro. Gale, in appropriate terms. He called attention to the flourishing state of the lodge, to the excellent working of the W.M. and the officers of the lodge, and to the presence of the ladies upon that occasion, as adding so materially to the many enjoyments of the day. The W.M., in responding to this toast, made an excellent speech, and in a truly Masonic spirit referred to the moot question of whether ladies should be allowed to be present on such occasions as then present, and concluded by expressing a hope that, if there had hitherto been any doubt about the matter, the success of the experiment must for ever settle the question. The toast of "The Officers of the Wellington Lodge" was then given, and duly responded to, and the formalities of the meeting being over, the W.M. requested those present to enjoy themselves in whatever way their tastes inclined. As the grounds were then thronged with visitors some might prefer a promenade, others might prefer to enjoy music and dancing in the great saloon adjoining the banqueting-room, for which preparations were then being made. After dinner and between each toast Mrs. Gale presided at the pianoforte, and, besides giving some admirable selections, accompanied many of the lady vocalists who so kindly favoured the company with sweet songs, which in every case were very nicely given, and in some instances the performances were really excellent. Miss Saegert, who sang several songs delightfully, was followed by Miss Ward and other ladies, and when the ball-room was prepared, many adjourned thereto, and enjoyed themselves heartily. In short, the meeting was one of the most agreeable description, and every member of the lodge present expressed himself as highly gratified, and hoped that next year the same treat would be repeated. The following were present: Bro. George E. Gale, W.M., and Mrs. Gale; West, J.W.; Welsford, P.M. and Treas., and lady; Saegert, S.D., and Mrs. and the Misses Saegert; Phillips, J.D., and Mrs. Phillips; Coomb, I.G., and Mrs. Coomb; Henderson, Dir. of Cers.; Loewenstark, P.M.; Owden, P.M., and Mrs. and Miss Owden; Bentley, P.M., and Mrs. Bentley; Bagshaw, P.M., and Mrs. and the Misses Bagshaw; Wakefield, and about forty others, besides

three visitors—Bros. J. H. Searle, P.M. 169, S.W. 1,155; W. Smith, P.G.S., P.M. 26, 33, 840, &c.; and Ellis, 147.

REVIEWS.

The Freemasons' Calendar for the Province of Oxfordshire, &c., for 1867-68. Edited by Bro. R. J. SPIERS, F.S.A., D. Prov. G.M. Oxon, P.G.S.B. of the Grand Lodge of England.

It is with pleasure we have again to welcome the appearance of this most useful and unique little Masonic calendar, which has now, we observe, attained its eleventh year of issue. We have so often had occasion to dwell upon the importance of every province having its own local calendar that we again embrace this opportunity of repeating our advice, and would say to those provinces who are as yet unrepresented by such a calendar, that we know not of a better ensampler than the concise and elegantly appointed little book we have before us, together with the supplementary sheet recently issued, the latter containing the lists of officers of the various Masonic bodies in the province appointed at the end of May last for the year ending May, 1868. The calendar portion of the book comprises, in addition to the usual necessary information for every gentleman's diary and pocket-book, the meetings of the various Masonic bodies of the province and of others connected with it, of the Grand Lodge, Grand festivals, &c., and of the University of Cambridge. The lists of officers, besides the information which they afford, incite young Masons to attend to their duties, and to work up to higher dignities; and, for old Oxford Masons who have left the province, a reference to the lists of officers must prove interesting, as showing the gradual promotions of brethren whom they have known as junior to themselves. The brethren of the province of Oxfordshire are fortunate in having as the editor of the calendar under notice so distinguished and zealous a Mason as Bro. J. Spiers, who, by the way, we may add, stands senior on the list of members of the province who have served as Stewards for our three great Masonic Charities.

THE VICARAGE OF UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY.—The Rev. R. J. Simpson, M.A., has been appointed to the vicarage of Upton-cum-Chalvey, Berks. The rev. gentleman was for some time senior curate of Windsor, and All Saints' Church in that town is a noble memorial of his zeal, the bulk of the subscriptions towards the erection of that sacred edifice having been collected by means of his personal and energetic canvass. About a twelvemonth since the Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair nominated Bro. Simpson to a senior curacy in the important parish of Kensington. On the recent promotion of the Rev. J. A. Cree, B.D., to the Vicarage of Great Marlow, in succession to the Rev. Dr. Milman, Bishop of Calcutta, the Rev. Bro. Simpson was appointed senior curate of Upton-cum-Chalvey, a position which Mr. Cree had held for some years. The vicar, the Rev. E. Champness, has resigned his benefice, and the Rev. Mr. Simpson has received the appointment, which has given much satisfaction in his future and former spheres of clerical labour. The district comprises Upton, Slough, and Chalvey, and there are in it three parochial churches. The late vicar was appointed twenty-six years ago, and for many years he has been non-resident. It is a matter for rejoicing that there will now be a resident vicar—a gentleman of distinguished erudition, who displays a remarkable degree of tact and continuous zeal in the discharge of his ministrations. The new vicar arrived at Slough by the 4.40 train on Thursday evening, the 4th inst., and on arrival he received quite an ovation. Foremost among those to welcome him as brother Masons were Bro. Frederick Charsley, Her Majesty's Coroner for Buckinghamshire, and Registrar of Eton College, and Bro. Joseph Devereux, J.P. for the borough of Windsor, and our Provincial Grand Secretary for Berks and Bucks. The bells were rung merrily, and, as the 5th Bucks Rifle Volunteers happened to be returning from rifle practice at Chalvey, they tendered their services, with their band, as a guard of honour. Bro. Simpson and his family were conveyed to their future residence in Upton Park in the carriages of Mrs. Beauchamp and Bro. Charsley, preceded by the Volunteer band and escorted by the corps. The children of the parochial schools heartily joined in the cordial demonstration. The welcome was most gratifying, and the circumstance of its being impromptu by no means detracted from its cordiality. It is

only right to mention that the happy suggestion of such a reception originated with Mrs. Charsley. On reaching Upton Park the brethren formed up right and left. Ascending the steps of his residence, amid enthusiastic cheers, the Rev. Bro. Simpson said he felt from his heart the reception which had been given him by his parishioners—a reception worthy of Engusamen and Christians, and upon which he looked not only as a compliment to an individual who had come to work among them, but as a compliment and high tribute of respect to the old Church of England, of which he was a very humble representative. He trusted that, with God's will, as their vicar he should long live with them, and that he should be their friend as well as their vicar; and he should feel to his latest day the very kind and hearty tribute they had been so good as to pay him on this occasion. He thanked particularly the Volunteers for their cheering accompaniment to the bells, and the children who had come around and added their glad voices—the happiest music in the world; and he need not say how much he felt deeply grateful to all his kind friends, poor and rich, who had assembled on this occasion to greet him as their new vicar. He should try to do his duty in every respect, and he trusted that he should find them ready to do theirs. He thanked them all for the kind and hearty reception they had given him, his wife, and family, who were equally gratified with himself for that reception, as kind as it had been unexpected. Bro. Simpson then bade his parishioners good night, and after a renewal of the enthusiastic applause the band performed the National Anthem. Bro. Charsley hospitably entertained the Volunteers and their band at Herschel House. [We need scarcely remind our brethren that the Rev. R. J. Simpson is the Grand Chaplain of England.—Ed. F.M.]

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, and Princess Beatrice, drove in the grounds on the 10th inst., and her Majesty, with their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, went out in the Home Park on the morning of the 11th inst. The Queen, accompanied by Prince Arthur and Princess Beatrice, went out in the grounds in the afternoon. Her Majesty, Princess Louise, and Princess Beatrice went out in the grounds on the morning of the 12th inst. His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by their Imperial Highnesses Youssouff Izzodin Effendi, Murad Effendi, and Hamid Effendi, visited her Majesty the Queen at Windsor Castle on the 13th inst. Her Majesty the Queen received the Sultan at the foot of the staircase at the Sovereign's entrance. Her Majesty the Queen and the royal family walked and drove out on the morning of the 15th inst. The Queen drove out in the afternoon, attended by the Duchess of Roxburgh. The Queen embarked on board the *Alberta*, at Trinity Pier, at a quarter before eleven o'clock on the morning of the 16th inst., and went out to the *Victoria and Albert* yacht, Captain Soreno Highness the Prince of Loiningon, in Cowes Roads, when the royal yacht steamed round to Osborne Bay, where she remained until the *Osborne* arrived with the Sultan on board. Her Majesty the Queen then invested his Imperial Majesty the Sultan with the Order of the Garter. The ceremony took place upon the quarter-dock of the royal yacht.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—The HOUSE OF LORDS was chiefly occupied on the 11th inst. with discussions on the Oaths Bill and the Transubstantiation, &c., Declaration Bill. Lord Leveden wished to include the Lord-Lieutenant in the provisions of the Oaths Bill, but after a debate the amendment was negatived by 69 votes to 55. Both bills were advanced a stage. The other business was of no special interest.—On the 12th inst. a good deal of business was got through. The second reading of the Meetings in Parks Bill was, after some discussion, postponed for a week. There was a long discussion on a motion by the Marquis

of Clanricarde for returns of the expenses of commissioners in Ireland. There was a short conversation in reference to the Book of Common Prayer; and, finally, there was some interesting debate in reference to the business in the Court of Chancery and the appellate business of the House of Lords.—On the 15th inst. the Royal assent was given by commission to several bills. Subsequently there were discussions in reference to the march of the troops from Hounslow the other day, and as to the troops in New Zealand. The Hounslow mismanagement has, it seems, been fixed on a commissariat officer, who has been removed from his post.—It seems that the Reform Bill is not to pass through the House of Lords without some opposition. It was read a first time on the 16th inst., and Lord Derby proposed to take the second reading on Monday next. If the debate on the second reading did not extend beyond Monday night, he should propose to take the committee on the following Friday. If the bill, however, should not be read a second time on the Monday, he should propose to take the committee on the Monday following. Earl Grey urged that the latter day should be fixed for the committee. He did not intend to oppose the second reading, but he did intend to ask the House to concur in a resolution that the bill as it stands is bad, and ought not to be passed into law without amendment. He added that he had reason to believe that he should receive considerable support for this amendment, and that there would be a good deal of discussion. Lord Derby, however, thought what he proposed would meet the requirements of the case. The other business in the House was unimportant.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on the 11th inst., Lord Stanley gave a very wise answer to a very foolish question. Sir L. Palk wished to know whether the Government intended to bring forward any motion on the subject of the execution of Maximilian. Lord Stanley replied that they did not. In the discussion of such a motion the much wider question of the Mexican expedition must come under consideration, and the circumstances connected with it might tend very materially to modify their opinion as to the execution of Maximilian. Mr. Otway wished to know if diplomatic relations with Mexico were to be broken off. Lord Stanley pointed out that the Secretary of Legation now in Mexico was accredited to the Empire. He had received instructions, in case of the overthrow of the Empire, not to recognise officially any other Government until directed to do so. His lordship added that it mattered nothing to the Mexicans whether we had a representative in Mexico; but it mattered a great deal to British subjects, seeing that the representative was continually employed in making claims on the Mexican Government on behalf of British subjects. To withdraw him, then, would be to punish British subjects, not the Mexican Government.—On the 12th inst., at the morning sitting, Mr. Charles Forster proposed to suspend the standing orders for the purpose of reading the London, Chatham, and Dover Arrangements Bill a third time. To this proposition Mr. T. Hughes objected, and moved that the bill be referred back to the committee, to insert a clause reserving the rights and priorities of certain holders of mortgages or bonds charged or secured on the undertaking. Mr. Basil Woodd must say, as chairman of the committee, that he considered the proposition of Mr. Hughes a most extraordinary one. Of course, under the circumstances, Mr. Hughes's proposal was negatived, and Mr. Forster's motion was agreed to.—Mr. J. S. Mill announced his intention to inquire of the Foreign Secretary whether the British naval officer engaged to reorganise the Turkish navy has retired from her Majesty's service; and if not, whether his employment for such a purpose is not inconsistent with the principle of non-intervention. This remark called forth loud and general cries of 'Hear, hear.'—Lord Stanley intimated, in reply to a question

from Mr. Sandford, that a communication had been made by her Majesty's Government to the Government of Portugal respecting the proposal of that Government to sell the South Eastern of Portugal Railway, but a decisive answer had not been received.—Lord R. Montagu announced that directions had been given by Government for the preparation of an order authorising the removal of accumulations of manure in the metropolis, under certain conditions.—Mr. Hardy, in reply to Mr. Samuelson, avowed that the members of the Trades' Union Commission had a right to exclude or admit any person they like to the place where they conduct their inquiry, and consequently they had full power to turn out Mr. Conolly for speaking disparagingly of so prominent a member of their body as Mr. Roebuck. That hon. gentleman then claimed to be heard, and avowed that he had been all his life "an honourable man;" that Mr. Conolly had cast an imputation upon his untarnished reputation, and therefore, he felt that it was impossible that he and Mr. Conolly should sit at the same time in the same apartment. To retain the presence amongst them of Mr. Roebuck, the commissioners had no alternative but to order Mr. Conolly to retire.—The House then proceeded to consider as amended the Bill for the Reform of the Representation of the People. Mr. H. Berkeley moved a clause providing that the voting should be by printed papers; in fact, in another shape, it was a renewal of the hon. gentleman's proposal for the introduction of vote by ballot. A brief discussion took place, which ended in the motion being rejected by 161 votes to 112. Various other amendments were proposed. Some were adopted, and the others either withdrawn or negatived. The consideration of the bill lasted until ten minutes to seven, and had not then finished. The Chancellor of the Exchequer therefore announced that he should ask leave to proceed with the bill at the evening sitting. At the evening sitting the consideration of the bill was resumed. Various amendments were agreed to, the most noteworthy being one moved by Mr. Lowther to strike out of the bill the words which had been introduced at the instance of Mr. Cardwell, to prevent residents in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge from voting at the election of members for the cities. This amendment was carried by 145 votes to 84. The whole of amendments were disposed of by half-past eleven.—On the 15th inst. there was a good deal of animation, owing to the first order of the day being the third reading of the Reform Bill. Before that could be taken, however, a large number of questions were asked, and notices of motion given. Mr. Fawcett gave notice of a question as to the proposed ball to the Sultan. Sir Stafford Northcote, in reply to Colonel Sykes, denied that there was any truth in the report that troops had been ordered from Bombay to Abyssinia. The Government were engaged in a correspondence which they hoped would bring about the release of the prisoners.—Colonel Knox made a complaint of the insufficient accommodation provided for those members of the House who wished to see the Naval Review on Wednesday. He was replied to by Mr. Corry, who, being pressed by Mr. B. Osborne, announced that provision had been made for luncheon for the members who might go to see the review.—On the motion for the third reading of the Reform Bill, Viscount Cranbourne said he had no intention of requiring a division on the bill. He denied that the bill, if it passed, would be a Conservative triumph. He complained that all the precautions and securities which the bill provided when originally introduced had been thrown aside at the bidding of Liberal members, and that almost the whole of the demands made by Mr. Gladstone on the second reading of the bill had been conceded. No minister of the Crown had given any reasonable explanation of the motives for the tremendous changes that had been made in the bill. At some

length he went on to predict the most doleful results from the passing of the measure. Mr. Lowe followed with a long wail over the departing glories of England. He had no hope for the future, but in our adopting closely the American system. Mr. Bright came next, and replied to some taunts which Mr. Lowe had thrown at him. He declared himself satisfied with the bill so far as the borough suffrage was concerned. Mr. Graves replied to Mr. Lowe. Mr. J. Goldsmid supported the bill. Mr. Gorst refused to join his party in congratulating themselves on a bill which was only the realisation of Mr. Bright's long-cherished opinions. Mr. Cowen pointed out that household suffrage measures had been supported by Pitt, Fox, Erskine, and others. Mr. B. Hope strongly condemned the bill. Mr. H. Seymour and various other members took part in the discussion, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer having replied, the bill was read a third time and passed, amid loud cheers.—On the 16th inst. Sir S. Northcote, in reply to Mr. Fawcett, gave some explanations as to the bill to the Sultan at the India House. The bill was not proposed by the Government, but by himself. He felt how important were the services the Sultan had rendered to this country, and having regard also to the fact that his Majesty was the head of the religion of a vast number of her Majesty's subjects in India, he thought it would be only a proper mark of respect for the Indian Government to give a ball in the Sultan's honour. He believed it would have a good effect in India.—Lord Stanley, replying to Mr. Mill, said the appointment of Sir W. Wiseman as head of the Turkish Naval Council, had been suspended for a time, seeing that the Cretan insurrection was not yet quelled.—Mr. O'Beirne moved a resolution, the object of which is to have a sum not more than a million sterling lent for the purpose of buying estates in the Landed Estates Court in Ireland, such estates to be subdivided and sold to the tenants with a view to encourage an independent proprietary of small freehold estates in Ireland. He supported the resolution in an able speech, pointing out that it was one important means of bringing about such a change in the tenure of land in Ireland as must be advantageous to the country. Lord Naas opposed the proposal, urging all the old stock arguments against it. Thus, he insisted that the condition of the agricultural population of Ireland was greatly improving, and that there was no need of such a measure as that proposed. He added, that if the hon. gentleman believed in the efficacy of the proposal, they might easily subscribe money themselves and buy land. After a few words from Mr. Pollard-Urquhart, the motion was withdrawn.—There was an interesting discussion on the Increase of the Episcopate Bill. Sir Roundell Palmer moved the second reading of the bill, which has passed the House of Lords. Mr. Gilpin opposed it strenuously, and argued that an increase of the episcopate was wholly unnecessary. He moved the rejection of the bill. Mr. Hadfield seconded the rejection. After some discussion the bill was read a second time by 45 votes to 34.—The other orders were being proceeded with when the House was counted out shortly after nine o'clock.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—George Edward Gurney, the expoliceman who was convicted at the last sessions of the Central Criminal Court of attempting to bribe a magistrate, was brought up on the 11th inst. for judgment. He was sentenced to four days' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of £20.—The persons charged with having been concerned in the great City robberies, in which Messrs. *Loaf and Co.*, of Old Change, and Messrs. *Easton and Co.* figured as victims, were, at the Central Criminal Court, sentenced to punishments varying from seven years' penal servitude to nine months' hard labour.—The Sultan has arrived, and is lodged in Buckingham Palace. He reached Dover on the 12th inst., and was greeted with salutes from the fleet and the

forts. The Prince of Wales met him, and the civic authorities turned out in state and presented an address to his Majesty. Having taken luncheon, the Sultan left Dover in a fast train, and arrived at the Charing-cross station at a quarter to three o'clock. The magnificent station was gaily decorated, and the privileged persons who were admitted to it cheered the Sultan lustily as he alighted. Outside the station cavalry kept the road to Buckingham Palace, where the Sultan was cheered greatly by immense crowds who were gathered to witness his arrival. The Belgians share with the Sultan the salutations of Londoners, and they got the larger share. On the 12th instant, apparently well rested after the fatigues of their voyage, they mustered in the quadrangle of Somerset House, and marched thence to Guildhall, where a splendid entertainment awaited them. From Somerset House to the Guildhall dense crowds of people lined the way, and cheered vociferously. Flags floated from most of the houses, and everywhere there were signs of welcome. At the Guildhall the Lord Mayor received the Belgians, and after the *déjeuner* some few speeches were delivered. In the afternoon a large number of the Belgians went to the Horticultural Gardens, but not a few of them strolled about the streets, meeting everywhere with a warm welcome.—The Sultan went, on the 13th instant, to Windsor, and had an audience of her Majesty. The reception was not of long duration, and after taking luncheon at the Castle his Majesty returned to London. The Queen left Windsor for Osborne in the afternoon.—The Viceroy went, on the 13th inst., to the Crystal Palace, and seems to have been a good deal amused by the revels consequent on the Dramatic College Fête. He gave £500 to the Dramatic College Fund, and £500 to the Crystal Palace Restoration Fund. It is stated, too, that he purchased from one of the fair saleswomen a scent-bottle, for which he gave her fifty pounds.—The Belgians went out to Wimbledon, where they sustained a very warm reception and a polting storm. Just when they had reached the camp and were being presented to the Prince of Wales a thunderstorm came on, and in a few minutes everybody was drenched. The Prince of Wales made to them a brief complimentary speech, and was replied to by Colonel Gregoire, who took the occasion to present to his Royal Highness a souvenir of the affair, which had been sent by the town of Antwerp. Various other courtesies were exchanged. The Lords and Commons shot a match in the course of the day, and the Commons were the victors.—The show of the Royal Agricultural Society at Bury St. Edmunds promises to be most successful. It was not held last year because of the prevalence of the cattle plague. This year the entries are very large. The Viceroy is to visit the show to-day. There was to have been a procession of boats on the river, on the 15th inst., in honour of the Belgians, but it did not take place, and the miserable weather which prevailed must have seriously interfered with the pleasure-seeking of our visitors. Wimbledon is in a sad condition. The rain which has fallen has converted the common into something like a bog. The weather seriously interfered with the shooting, and but little progress was made with the various competitions.—At the Clerkenwell Police-court James and Catherine Pado, man and wife, were brought up on remand, charged with stealing a travelling case containing a variety of jewellery amounting in value to £800, and a person named Isaac Simmonds with having received a portion of the stolen goods. After hearing some additional evidence in support of the charge, the three accused were committed for trial.—The Sultan went, on the 16th instant, to Woolwich Arsenal, and inspected not only the works there, but the troops in garrison also. Subsequently his Majesty went to the Crystal Palace, where a grand festival performance was

given in his honour. Unfortunately, the weather was very bad, and this militated greatly against the enjoyment of the affair.—The Belgian riflemen went to Windsor to see the Castle and Park. The weather in their case, too, seriously interfered with their pleasure. Ample provision had been made, by order of her Majesty, for their substantial entertainment.—The Viceroy of Egypt paid a visit to the House of Commons, and was present in the Ambassadors' Gallery during a portion of Mr. O'Beirne's speech on the subject of landed estates in Ireland. Mr. Gladstone visited the Viceroy while in the House, and pointed out to his Highness its various occupants. The appearance of the House of Commons on this occasion was anything but lively, the attendance of hon. members not being large. The Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and several members of the Court of Common Council waited upon the Viceroy, and presented to his Highness an address of congratulation on behalf of the Corporation. The Viceroy gave a very friendly reply to the address, and promised the Lord Mayor that if he or any of the members of the Corporation visited Egypt there should be a hearty reception given to them.—London was, figuratively speaking, deserted on the 17th inst. The House of Commons suspended its sittings, and the members went down almost to a man to Spithead. The Sultan, too, and the Viceroy, and the Prince of Wales also went thither, to take part in the Naval Review. That affair was somewhat marred by the heavy weather which prevailed. During Tuesday the wind, which had been blowing a gale from the S.S.W., somewhat moderated, and went round more to the northward. Still, there was something more than a capful of wind, and the ships were unable to leave their anchorage. The comfort of laudsmen who ventured out to sea was not on that account the less. Then, too, driving rain fell, and seriously marred the pleasure of the trip. However, the Queen was there, and the ships, though they would not manœuvre, expended a great deal of powder as her Majesty, and the Sultan, and Viceroy steamed through the fleet. That the vessels could not move was, of course, a great disappointment; but the reception of her Majesty, the farewell to the Sultan, and the various passages through the avenue, formed by the wooden and iron-clad ships, was very brilliant in a spectacular point of view.—The Belgians went to the Crystal Palace, where a series of amusements had been provided for them. They were evidently much delighted with their reception, and with all they saw.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The trial of Berezowski for the attempt to shoot the Czar took place in Paris on the 15th inst. The accused was defended by M. Emanuel Arago. The Act of Accusation is a lengthy document, and traces the whole history of Berezowski from the time when he joined the ranks of the Polish insurrection to his committal of the crime with which he is charged. The details of the manner in which he went about his work of attempting assassination are very minute and interesting. The jury found Berezowski guilty of an attempt at homicide with extenuating circumstances, and he was sentenced to transportation for life.—The Vistula has overflowed its banks, and done great damage to the adjacent country.—In the French Legislative Body M. Garnier-Pages advised a better understanding between France and Germany. The present unsatisfactory relations, he said, were preventing trade. If France should take any step against Germany it would arouse the patriotism of Germans and consolidate the Fatherland. The debate was continued by M. Jules Favre.—A curious case is occupying one of the Paris law courts. It is an action in which the son and daughter of Georges Sand sue their father, M. Dudovant, in respect to certain property which he wishes to sell. M. Dudovant was the illegitimate son of the Baron Dudovant. The Baroness Dudovant, having no children of her own, took a strong

liking to her husband's illegitimate son. In one will she divided her property into two portions, one of which she left to M. Dudovant, and the other to his two children, the son and daughter of himself and his wife Georges' Sand. When he and his wife separated the Baroness Dudovant, it is supposed to mark her disapproval of the children being left under the guardianship of their mother, altered her will, and left all the property to M. Dudovant. Practically, it is this will which is disputed by the children. The decision is postponed.—The Emperor Napoleon is well pleased with the defence of the Mexican policy made in the Legislativo Body by M. Rouher. The *France* asserts that the Emperor has written a letter to M. Rouher congratulating him upon his speech, and at the same time sending him the insignia of the Legion of Honour set in diamonds.—The Finance Minister of Austria brought in his Budget into the Lower House of the Reichsrath on the 13th inst. It was by no means of a favourable character; but the Minister made a speech in which he pointed out the necessity for reforms in every department of the State, and spoke of Hungary in a most complacent manner. It is clear that under the direction of Baron von Beust Austria is about to put her house in order, and take a higher position, constitutionally and commercially, than she has hitherto done.—The *Augsburg Gazette* had, the other day, an amusing squib. It printed what purported to be a circular despatch from Prince Gortschakoff, declaring that the condition of Ireland was a European question. The circular was a direct imitation of some of those which the British Government sent out some years ago as to Poland. Everybody of intelligence who read the circular in the *Augsburg Gazette* must have seen that it was a squib. The *Journal of St. Petersburg*, however, gravely declares that the despatch is a pure invention.—The debate on Luxemburg in the French Chambers elicited some satisfactory assurances from M. Rouher. He declared that the French Government saw without any alarm the unity of Germany being effected. Such a unification had for a long time been inevitable under either Prussia or Austria. It had been decided in favour of Prussia, and the Emperor saw nothing alarming in it. Replying to M. Thiers, M. Rouher once more controverted the ancient theories of that statesman as to the interest of France lying in the Powers about her being weak. As to the army reorganisation, he declared it was essentially a peace measure.—It is evident, from the debates in the Italian Chambers, that the Government will not be allowed to compromise with Rome. The action of the Ricasoli Ministry in appointing bishops and making other arrangements with the Papal Government has been the subject of a debate, and although the majority voted against the censure which was proposed, Signor Rattazzi was obliged to promise that there should be no cause of offence in this direction in future.—Kossuth's son, who was a candidate for a seat in the Hungarian Parliament, has been rejected by the constituency to whom he offered himself. Kossuth is a candidate at another place.—It is asserted that there is some degree of unfriendliness between France and Russia. Those who spread the report cannot give any reason for the alleged ill-feeling, and it is more than probable that the statement is wholly unfounded. Still, it must be observed that France is steadily increasing her armaments, and that a general distrust prevails.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * All communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.
 T.—Your query shall be answered next week.
 ROSE CROIX.—We will write to you.
 CONSTANT READER (Barnstaple).—We must ask you to allow your question to stand over until our next issue.