

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1867.

THE NEW FREEMASONS' TAVERN.

Since we noticed the opening of the new Hall, built in the rear of the old Freemasons' Tavern and Grand Lodge offices,* and described generally the progress of the building operations in course of completion, under the able direction of Bro. F. P. Cockerell, the architect who was entrusted by the Committee with the charge of professionally superintending the execution of the design adopted for the new Freemasons' Hall and Grand Lodge premises, the Tavern portion of the new premises has been slowly but uninterruptedly progressing towards completion.

Bro. Cockerell, as Grand Superintendent of works, had, during the rebuilding of Grand Lodge offices and lodge rooms, opportunities of acquiring a more exact and thorough knowledge of the requirements of the Tavern portion of the premises, the rebuilding of which had to be left until the new lodge rooms and the Secretary's and other offices connected with the Craft and the charitable institutions belonging thereto were completed, and the knowledge he must have so acquired has, as it appears to us, been most fully and advantageously utilised to the benefit of the Craft,—the advantage of the tenants of Grand Lodge,—the improvement of Grand Lodge property, and the advancement of his own professional reputation as a skilled architect.

The demolition of the "temple," and the taking in of additional space, formerly a backyard and workshops, has given Bro. Cockerell "elbow room," and a fair opportunity for the exercise of ingenuity in the planning and skill in providing the much-needed accommodation at a reasonable cost:—for a very limited outlay of capital, apparently, could be afforded as against the *very extensive* requirements of the Craft in connection with the necessities, not only for lodge meetings, but for the general demand for accommodation outside of Freemasonry, so as to enable the tenants of the Tavern portion of Grand Lodge property to realise a fair return for their capital, and for the increased rental required for the new tavern premises; and, we are not disappointed at the results obtained by the skill and ingenuity of

Bro. Cockerell, which are highly creditable to him, and disprovesome professional and non-professional objections to matters of detail, to which the executed works of every professional man must be open.

We can now congratulate not only the architect, but also our R.W. Bro. John Havers especially, and the members of the Building Committee on the real success obtained by them; and we may be pardoned if we here express a hope that nothing will be permitted to intrude upon the harmonious relations which have existed, and ought to continue to exist, between the members of the Building Committee, the architect, and the Craft in general to mar the results of the efforts of both the Committee and the architect, which have been exercised so beneficially for the Order, so that they may, when it is declared by Grand Lodge that their respective functions cease in connection with the building and completion of the entire new premises, receive the thanks of Grand Lodge (offered, as we trust they will be, in appropriate terms, and in a substantial manner), without one discordant element, and with unalloyed satisfaction.

The occasion of the first meeting since the vacation of the great engineering and scientific lodge, the Britannic (No. 33), in the new lodge and banqueting rooms of the new Freemasons' Tavern, at the lodge of instruction on Friday, the 1st inst., and afterwards on Friday, the 3th inst., at the regular lodge meeting, afforded us opportunities of inspecting portions of the premises under very favourable circumstances; as, on the first occasion in question, the Great Hall was being prepared for the "Dickens banquet," and the various other new rooms were being completed, whilst, on the second occasion, the rooms we had seen in an unfinished condition were carpeted and otherwise furnished, and brilliantly lighted, and the hall, staircase, and approaches were then available. Of the admirable banquet *à la Russe* furnished to the Britannic Lodge, although reflecting the highest credit upon the Freemasons' Tavern Company and their indefatigable manager, Bro. Gosden, it is unnecessary here to make further allusion, as we intend hereafter to refer more in detail to the general arrangements, internal economy, and resources of the Freemasons' Tavern as "an institution."

The new building which has taken the place of the old Freemasons' Tavern may now be said

* See the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, April 20th, 1867.

to have been completed. The number, size, and character of the rooms provided will afford an accommodation for the brethren and for the public in every way superior to that hitherto afforded by the old establishment, and which, it is hoped, will in some measure compensate for the long delay and inconvenience which has arisen from the necessity for carrying on the works in sections, so as to avoid the entire stoppage of the business of the Freemasons' Tavern Company during the rebuilding of the premises.

The new Tavern comprises the old "Sussex" and "Glee" rooms, so well known to the Craft, two new rooms answering to the old "Cambridge" and "Dining" rooms, now called the "Cambridge" and "Edinburgh," and an entirely new building occupying the site of the old offices of the Craft "temple" and a large block of workshops to the rear and adjoining the old hall. The entrance from Queen-street is by a handsome doorway, giving access to a lobby which communicates with the old entrance hall and staircase. On the left of the entrance is a spacious dining-room, 43ft. by 30ft., with an ante room, which would suffice as a separate room for a small party, or as a preparing room for Craft purposes. From the lobby a single wide flight of steps leads to the principal floor; this comprises the great hall, 25ft. 6in. long, by 43ft. 9in. wide, a spacious lobby forming a continuation of, and communicating with, that of the old hall, which will in future be used *only* as a Temple for the meetings of Grand Lodge and other purposes of the Craft. It is hardly necessary to observe that, on all but extraordinary occasions, the Temple and the Masonic buildings annexed therewith will be shut off and kept entirely separate from the tavern, but on the occasions of Masonic Grand or charity festivals the doors will be thrown open, and a handsome and worthy passage provided for the procession of the brethren from the lodge to the banquet. In addition to the lobby last described, there is a hall or ante room, 21ft. 6in. square, having a dome supported upon eight columns, and from it the main staircase leads to another dining room, some 6ft. above the level of the great hall, and to the upper dining room and ladies' gallery, which, with an open lobby, or ante room, at the head of the stairs, forms the second and last floor. The dining room upon this floor is of noble dimensions, being 47ft. by 43ft. It is adorned with attached columns and pilasters, and has a coved

ceiling with dome and skylight decorated with sags of fruit. It is expected that it will prove a very valuable feature in the accommodation of the house. In the case of a ball it will serve as a supper room, and, as there are windows commanding the staircase, the landing at the head of it, and the ladies' gallery of the great hall, the effect on such an occasion will be very brilliant. It will also handsomely replace the old glee room at Grand Festivals. It was in this room that the Britannic Lodge met on the 8th inst.

The new hall having been used for the last grand festival banquet, is known to the principal members of the Craft, and, as before stated, it has been described in our pages, it therefore needs no fresh description here. The effect, however, of the entire suite comprising the hall, the lobby, the domed ante-room, the staircase, and the ante-room and dining-room will be new to the brethren.

The basement accommodation is said to be very ample. The kitchen, with the sculleries, bake-house, &c., occupy the whole of the space under the banqueting-hall and lobby, and the lifts and service staircases offer great facilities for quick and effectual service; the two principal dining-rooms and ante-rooms have also separate lifts. There is also ample accommodation for permanent and occasional servants. The front portion of the basement is occupied by a room 43ft. by 30ft. for meetings where more expensive accommodation is not required. It is approached directly from the front area, while the entrance to the kitchen and cellars, and for the general service, is at the back in Middle-yard. The main lines of the front correspond with those of the Masonic portion; but, in order to give greater importance to the latter, and also to avoid the great expense of a stone front, the architecture was much simplified and a different material (red brick with stone dressings) adopted. All Masonic ornaments have been avoided, as it has been thought desirable to avoid indicating any special connection with the Craft, which has its own important building adjoining the tavern.

Want of space alone prevents us from giving further details upon the present occasion; but we hope to complete this notice at some very early opportunity.

CONVERSATION.—He who sedulously attends, pointedly asks, calmly speaks, coolly answers, and ceases when he has no more to say, is in possession of some of the best requisites of man.—*Lavater.*

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

*(Continued from page 386.)*CHAPTER VIII.—*(Continued.)*

In the year 1185 occurs one of those blots upon the escutcheon of the Order, which drew down upon the Templars the anger and hatred of the Christians. It was a rare thing for a Templar to renounce his faith, abandon the white mantle and ruddy cross of the Order, and under the banners of the Moslem, to take up arms against his Christian brethren. Various reasons conspired to prevent him; the holiness of the cause in which he fought, and which from his earliest days he had been trained to regard as the most pleasing in the sight of God, and in fact a direct passport to the joys of heaven: a sense of the honour conferred upon him by the Order receiving him into his ranks, and a feeling of pride that made him view the Mussulmen as an inferior race, to be trampled upon and slain, but never to be made companions of. Robert de Saint Albans, a brother of the Order of the Temple, an Englishman by birth, and who had been received in the preceptory at London, enraged at some punishment which had been inflicted on him, as well as being disappointed in obtaining a certain office in the Order, flung off the dress of the Templars, denied the faith of his baptism, turned Mahometan, and joined the Saracens under Saladin. He promised the Sultan to deliver up to him the city of Jerusalem, or failing that, to lay it in ashes. Saladin was delighted with his new ally, and gave him his niece in marriage, and a considerable body of troops. He soon after put the renegade in command of his army, and made him his general. Robert, upon this appointment, went forth with his army to the plains of Saint George, and dividing it into three divisions, sent two to lay the adjacent territory waste. His instructions were strictly obeyed, and the Saracens ravaged the whole country from Mont Royal to Naplous, and destroyed Jericho, Sebaste, and other important cities, besides putting every one to the sword who resisted, and reduced the survivors to slavery. Robert, at the head of the third division, marched against the city of Jerusalem, on which the Templars, wroth at the treachery of their former brother, assembled the few inhabitants and marched forth against the renegade. The wood

of the Holy Cross was carried before the little army as a standard, and encouraged by its presence in their ranks the Christians boldly attacked the Infidel and put them to flight. Robert escaped with great difficulty from the defenders of that standard under whose folds, in former times, he had proved himself a valiant champion of the Cross, from those who had once called him "brother," but who were now the bitterest of his foes. So enraged were the Templars at the dastardly conduct of St. Albans, that they dashed furiously at the spot where he commanded, and the recreant only escaped by the sacrifice of his soldiers, who threw themselves between him and the Knights. Had they succeeded in capturing him, his death would have been one of signal justice. We have been unable to discover the fate of the recreant, but likely he fell in some of the subsequent battles. This treachery on the part of St. Albans brought much discredit upon the Order to which he belonged, and caused great repining and sorrow among the Christians.

De Vertot mentions another instance of Melier, an apostate Templar, who was made king of Armenia, and joined his forces with Saladin's, but in an engagement with the Christians was forced to retire to the mountains, where he was murdered by his own grandees. There are only two other instances recorded of Templars becoming Mahometans, one at the siege of Damietta, and the other at the capture of Safet, to which we will refer in their proper places. We must remember that the Templars were not the only ones who give instances of apostacy. Among the other religious orders and the general body of Christians, there were many renegades, and, as we will show in a future chapter, Raymond, Count of Tripoli, the regent of the kingdom, was openly accused of having become a convert to Mahometanism. The only wonder is that there are not more instances of apostacy among the Templars, and it disproves, in a signal manner, the iniquitous aspersion that has often been flung upon the Order by their writers, of their being secretly in alliance with the Infidels. Moreover, the case of Robert de St. Albans, is the only well authenticated one. The others are given by authorities whose statements we must treat with great caution, as one was the bitterest enemy of the Order, another the eulogist of the Hospitallers, the Templars' rivals, and the third an Arabian historian.

CHAPTER IX.

GRAND MASTER—GERARD DE RIDEFORT.

Deaths of the Kings Baldwin IV. and V.—Disputes as to the Sovereignty—Crowning of Guy Lusignan and Sybilla—Revolt of the Count of Tripoli and the Barons—Battle of the Brook Kedron—Slaughter of the Knights Templars and Hospitallers—Heroism of Jacques de Maillie—Reconciliation of Guy and the Count of Tripoli—A.D. 1187.

For nearly eighty years had the Christians maintained their supremacy in the Holy Land, and sustained the furious attacks of the Infidel, led on by some of their bravest and most experienced generals. But the time has now arrived when we must tell how defeat awaited upon the followers of the Cross, and how the worship of Mahomet once more superseded the service of Christ. In our last chapter we left the Christians imploring aid from the Kings of Europe, which was denied them till it was too late, to make head against Saladin, who, after reducing his rebellious subjects, concentrated his forces for the purpose, when the truce should cease, of following up his victories over the Christians. We come now to treat of the wars with Saladin, to relate how, after slaughtering the bravest champions of Christendom, the invincible Sultan succeeded in wresting from the Christians the Holy City, the terrible prelude to that series of disasters which, a hundred years after, resulted in the extinction of the Christian power for ever in the Holy Land. We shall now have occasion to refer to the Third Crusade, which, although unable to bear comparison with the First, still, from the nobility and courage of the combatants, their many and bloody battles, and the contemptible finish of a war unequalled for its splendour and its bloodthirstiness, is still worthy of our best attention.

Upon the death of Arnold de Turrirubra, the choice of the Templars fell upon Gerard de Ridefort. This Grand Master's name is spelt variously in different manuscripts, and often differently in the same chronicle. In some he is called Biddeford, Riddeford, and Reddiford; in others, Tiddeford and Bedford. He was raised to the command of the Order in 1187. He was cool and sagacious, brave and skilful, and conducted the affairs of the Order, through great dangers, with considerable success. Had his counsels been followed by the Christian leaders, or had he been appointed commander-in-chief of the Holy Land, as several of his successors were, there can be little doubt that an effectual bar would have been placed upon the

successful advance of Saladin. But the envy and ambition of the Barons, the treachery of the Count of Tripoli, the vacillating character of the King, and even the obstinacy and boorish pride of Richard of England, who, with a magnitude of thews and sinews, possessed a small modicum of brains, stultified all the efforts of De Ridefort, and even paralysed the daring bravery of the Templars. De Ridefort, distracted by the constant successes of Saladin, and the repeated defeats of the Christians, had little time to pay attention to the internal economy of the Order, or to investigate the conduct of the European brethren, who accordingly began to display a luxuriousness in their lives totally at variance with their vows and the character of the founders of the Order. The dangerous times, the continual battles, and his own captivity, prevented him even paying that attention to his duties which the Order required of him. He was like a skilful captain who, finding his vessel amid the breakers, and in hourly peril of going to pieces upon the rocks, pays more attention to his gearing, and the capability of his men to manage so as successfully to ride past the danger, than to the minor details of discipline, trusting when in harbour to right these abuses, which by reason of the exigencies of the occasion has crept in among his crew. Such a time of peace was never permitted to De Ridefort; and the European brethren, without check, abandoned themselves to a course of luxury which called down upon them the contempt of the people, while the Knights in the Holy Land, by their abnegation and devotion, kept still proudly unsullied the banner of the Beauseant. We have already said that we are not advocating the perfect purity of the Order. The brethren of Europe were neither better nor worse than the other religious orders of the time; but what we do advocate is, that the Templars in the East were pure in their morals, and acted up to their vows in the strictest manner. We must not, therefore, condemn the whole Order for the errors of those who were not under the immediate surveillance of the Master and his great officers, any more than we would blame a father for the excesses of his sons, of which he is ignorant, and which, were he aware of, he would punish.

From the day of his election to the hour of his death, the reign of Gerard de Ridefort was a troubled one. The affairs of the Christians were utterly ruined, the Holy City was taken, and the wood of the Holy Cross became the spoil of the

Infidel. Despite of deeds of bravery performed by the Templars and other Christians, unparalleled in any history, the pages of the chronicles of the time are but epitomes of defeat, bloodshed, and death. Occasionally a partial gleam of success came to cheer the fainting hearts of the Christians, but it was soon followed by a cloud of defeat, and our only wonder is how, in the face of the constant victories of the Saracens, they had the courage to persevere in defending a country which was slipping mile by mile from their grasp. Had it not been for the determined valour of the Templars and the other warlike monks, who, when taken prisoner by the Saracens, preferred to suffer all the tortures of fiendish hate rather than to abandon the Holy Land, or the sacred cause in which they fought, Saladin would have driven the Christians from Palestine long before the ascent of Gerard de Ridefort to the throne of the Grand Master.

Nor upon his ascension was the horizon clear, or of such a character as to augur a successful resistance to the attacks of the Infidels. Guy de Lusignan was still in revolt; the ex-King Baldwin was dying; the new king but a mere infant. Saladin was preparing a large force to resume the war, while Europe, from whence so much was expected, had not sent a single ship to the aid of the Christians. To add to the difficulties of the occasion, there existed a deadly hatred between the regent, Raymond, Count of Tripoli, and Gerard de Ridefort. Instead of co-operating in a friendly spirit to concert measures for a defence, they met only to quarrel. We can discover no satisfactory reason for this among the chronicles. Martene states that it arose from a dispute between them regarding a lady, which has some show of probability, considering the licentious and lawless character of the count, who respected neither man in his hate, nor woman in his lust. However, perhaps the real cause was the suspicions entertained by De Ridefort regarding the Count of Tripoli aspiring to the throne of Jerusalem. That the count was intriguing for this there is ample evidence, and even sought the assistance of Saladin to aid him in seizing upon the supreme power. Furthermore, jealousy had crept in between the Templars and the Hospitallers, and the latter were the staunch supporters of all the regent's measures. The Hospitallers had at this time become formidable rivals to the Templars. Bold, unscrupulous in their measures, their policy was dangerous in the last degree to the welfare of the Christians,

if indeed it was not altogether criminal. They leagued with any one powerful enough to advance the interests of their Order, schemed acts of treachery to benefit themselves, as in the attack upon Egypt, and desired not the defeat of the Musselmen so much for the benefit of the Holy Land as for their own aggrandisement. The Templars, on the other hand, were actuated only by the purest motives. They desired to drive the Infidel from the Holy Land for the benefit of the pilgrims. For this purpose they freely sacrificed their lives, and poured forth the treasures of their Order in defence of the sacred places.

Shortly after Gerard de Ridefort ascended the throne of the Grand Master, the Count of Tripoli and he came to an open rupture. Baldwin IV., after the coronation of his nephew, lost possession of all his bodily and mental faculties, and death at length put an end to his torments. He was buried in the Church of Resurrection, by the side of Godfrey de Bouillon and the other Christian kings. Seven months thereafter the infant King Baldwin also died. New difficulties arose, and the grief of the people was disturbed by the intrigues for a kingdom which was rapidly passing away from the Christians, and for a diadem which proved but a crown of thorns to the wearer. The Count of Tripoli refused to surrender the reins of government, and insisted upon still retaining the regency. On the other hand, Sybilla, the undoubted heiress to the throne, desired the government to be bestowed upon her husband, Guy. The count not only refused to resign the regency, but charged Sybilla with the horrible crime of poisoning her child, Baldwin V., to which she was prompted by her desire of opening up the succession to the throne for herself and her husband. This charge received ready credence with the populace, and the story of her guilt was current among the inhabitants of Palestine, although it is impossible to believe in its truth.

Finding most of the barons and Knights unfavourable to her wishes of raising Guy to the throne—for, as we have already shown, he had when regent proved himself a wavering ruler, a spiritless leader, and unworthy of any serious trust, and so had forfeited the good opinion of the Eastern Christians—Sybilla resorted to artifice to gain her ends. For this purpose she stated her desire to be at once divorced from De Lusignan; whereupon Gerard de Ridefort invited her to repair to Jerusalem, and caused the necessary preparations

to be proceeded with for her coronation. The Count of Tripoli, with many of the most powerful of the barons, thereupon assembled at Naplous, determined to oppose her election. The arrangement for the coronation being complete, De Ridefort sent letters in the queen's name to the count and to the barons, who were then encamped at Naplous, commending them to repair on a certain day to Jerusalem, to do homage to Sybilla, and to take the usual oaths of allegiance. To this message the barons returned for answer that they purposed remaining where they were. Dreading, however, the consequences of a war with the Templars and the barons who had adopted the cause of Sybilla, and moved by the advice of the Count of Tripoli, who hoped, upon the divorce of Guy de Lusignan, to obtain the hand of the queen himself, they despatched two abbots of the Cistercian Order to Gerard and Heraclius, the Patriarch, beseeching them, for the love of God and of His holy Apostles, not to proceed with the coronation of Sybilla until she was separated from Guy de Lusignan. They furthermore referred to the well-tryed incapacity of Guy for commanding either in field or council; that, with the dangers which then threatened the kingdom, they required, to establish peace and drive back the Infidel, a nobleman as sovereign who was an able and approved leader; and they concluded by demanding the immediate divorce of Sybilla and Guy, and that the queen should make choice of some nobleman in whom the Christians had implicit trust, as one who could govern the country with judgment and prudence, and defend it with valour and skill.

(To be continued.)

SCOTCH MASONIC LECTURES.

(Continued from page 369.)

In accordance with our promise we give a further selection from "Scotch Masonic Lectures." In apologising for so frequently referring to Masonic ceremonials, Bro. Cowie writes, "Brethren elsewhere who are thoroughly posted up in the ceremonies will probably conclude that we are occupying too much time and space with this particular subject. Stranger brethren, who may have visited Scotch lodges will most likely think otherwise, for these complain that in the majority, not only are the ceremonies badly performed but their true purpose is totally misunderstood, and instead of

their just use being impressed upon visitors and initiates, that practices of a debasing kind are indulged in. Duty to our obligation prevents the use of such language as might best describe what has been so frequently and so justly complained against. I may, however, repeat a conversation I heard between a sea captain, recently initiated, and a Scotch brother. "You are a brother Mason, captain?" "Yes." "Have you been passed and raised yet?" "Oh yes, I was raised with a vengeance; however, I have been speaking about the matter to several English, French, and German Masons, and these say that they don't *elevate* their candidates after the Scotch fashion." This conversation was but an echo of many others I had heard to the self-same tune and words. Numbers of Scotch brethren now say, if we have so misunderstood the most sacred portions of our ceremonies, the lesser ones have little chance of having been retained in their original purity, so they have set themselves heartily to cleanse our venerable landmarks from these stains which have so long obscured them, and it is to forward a purpose so good that lectures and rehearsals have been instituted in many Scotch lodges. These lectures are not confined to the explanation of ceremony only, but include astronomical and geological discoveries, the utility of the fine arts, readings from the best authors, &c." From the Masonic subjects we select portions of a lecture recently delivered by Bro. Cowie, in the Lodge Forfar and Kincardine, Dundee (No. 225), Scotland. The lecture is entitled

MASONIC CEREMONY.

"Of what use is your Freemasonry?" is a question frequently asked by the outside world. The common answer is, "come and see." Of course this answer is to those the brother may think would be a desirable acquisition, either for their worth in mind or matter. To those that age, sex, or social position, bars from entrance within our circles, the answers are more evasive. This may in some measure arise from the duty of the brethren to keep inviolate the secrets of the Order, and to preserve our landmarks from the public gaze; but surely many good reasons might be given for the faith which should be in us, without trenching upon the limits by which our secrets are bounded. In the olden time the grand works in art and architecture produced by the Craft, gave evidence of the noblest kind that the brethren were custodiers of much that could refine and

elevate; and widely as our material knowledge has extended, enormous in power as our mechanical appliances have become, centuries ago there were principals in art and architecture which produced effects of elegance and grandeur which seem to be unknown in the modern world. For those educated in art know well that the best imitations are restorations of *an ancient art*, lack the intellectual element as much as does the wax image lack the soul of life. True the Craft in olden time was custodian of much that the press has now made patent to the outward world; but a vast amount of the intellectual element eludes the vulgar grasp, and though the future may have a millenium, for mind, in store it is not yet; it is for the students in philosophy to band themselves together to preserve what is true and just of the past, to search for what is good in the present, and to garner with care that which is *just and holy for those of the future*. And what has all this to do with Freemasonry? Much! For the work we have pointed out, her moral code and ceremonies are invaluable, for in them you will find the elements of the most perfect form of government, "Order and regularity." Such, indeed, has been the charm of her ceremonies that though only a means to an end, they have in so many instances taken the place of both means and end, that the end has become ignored and nothing but the repetition of ceremony remained. This in itself might not have been a result to be so much deplored had the ceremonies been retained in their original purity, but the ceremonies without their sequence was like the tube of a telescope which had lost its eye-pieces and object glass. Their true purpose was lost or overlooked; the purpose was a great one, and, having lost the element which gave them dignity, the ceremonies degenerated into burlesque; but there was too much intrinsic worth in the old institution to remain long a mere handmaid to buffoonery and excess. Society still recognises the necessity of guarantees of worth, for though the means of diffusing knowledge have so enormously increased, it has not followed that moral practice is necessarily enforced. The tremendous engines for the diffusion of good, *or evil*, renders unity for good more a necessity than ever. Transmission of intelligence is now almost as rapid as thought, but a lie does not become a truth by any rapidity in the process of transmission; nor does a mean or weak sentence become a moral maxim by any multiplicity of

stereotyping. Let it not be said, then, that the functions of our Order are effete and worn out. Her powers of selection and order are higher than those of any other secular community. Turn those elements to proper account; demand from those within your circles, and from those who seek their *entrée*, that standard of worth and intelligence inculcated in your Masonic decalogue, and it will scarcely require powers of prophecy to foretell that your circles will be sought for by the true philosopher, and that the name of Freemason will become a guarantee for sincerity and truth. As the higher uses of our Order develop, the dignity and beauty of the ceremonies becomes more apparent, and the impression deepens that those who framed and perfected them understood human nature well and wisely; they knew that to maintain order and a proper understanding between temperaments of the most opposite kinds ceremony was necessary, and they framed a code which—properly worked and rightly understood—accomplishes this purpose to perfection. For several years past there has been a growing wish amongst us for a thorough understanding of the ancient purposes and modern uses of our Order, and, as the first step to an end so desirable—that the ceremonies should be properly explained and their true purpose pointed out in order that a uniform system, so far as local customs might permit, should be adopted—rehearsals of the various offices can, and have been, practised amongst the office-bearers themselves; but the duties and purpose of each office should be known to every brother in order that, on the one hand, the brother holding office may efficiently execute its duties, and, on the other, that the brethren may pay that due respect, demanded from them, towards the functions of each office. With the permission of the R.W.M. we will endeavour to explain the nature and duties of each office, reversing our usual order, we will begin with the office of the Master. Bro. Cowie then explained the duties of the R.W.M., the jewels and symbols dedicated to the office and the high qualifications necessary to fill with dignity the *Master's seat*. In concluding his remarks on this office, he said, "The Master would require such graces and accomplishments as I have pointed out because he is invested with powers of the most despotic kind. Within his lodge he has no peers, and therefore his decisions are important; should a Master forget the respect due to the Order by violating or infringing Ma-

sonic duty, the brethren can only appeal for redress by petition to the Grand Lodge. I need scarcely remind you then how careful the brethren should be in their selection for an office demanding such qualifications as those necessary to honourably fill the Master's seat. Next in importance to the Master's office are those of the Wardens." Bro. Cowie here explained the jewels and symbols dedicated to the Wardens, and stated that in the ancient form no lodge could be opened in the absence of both Master and Wardens. With the Junior Warden and not less than seven brethren present a lodge might be opened in the first; with the presence of the Senior Warden could be opened in the second; but in the absence of the Master no lodge could be opened in the third. In modern lodges a lodge can be opened in the third if there is present a Past Master or a depute holding the Master's written authority; the charter being indispensable in all cases. In the olden time every tenth man was a Warden. Two Wardens with the Master were twenty-one, and a third of that is still considered necessary to constitute a lodge. In addition to a thorough knowledge of Masonic ceremonies in speculative Masonry the Wardens should be capable of giving information on scientific topics. The Senior giving instructions in such subjects as might improve the intellect; the Junior on that which may forward the cause of morality. The habits of our predecessors had raised the office of Junior Warden to such importance that it is presumed, in self defence, the Master had to take a share of the duties; this is an understanding which modern taste is rapidly removing, for every well-informed brother knows that it was not merely to rule over convivial enjoyment that this office was instituted, it was a moral trust, an office instituted to guard against excess so that harmless engagement should not exceed the bounds of propriety.

Most of the other offices are of modern date, invented to meet the exigencies of Grand Lodges and the growing wants of speculative Masonry. many of these offices are highly useful.

The Depute Master fills the chair in the absence of a Past or Substitute Master; many lodges turn this office to good account by making it a probation for the Master's seat, giving the candidate an opportunity of practising the Master's office, and the brethren an opportunity of judging

whether the candidate is capable of fulfilling the Master's duties.

Bro. Cowie then proceeded to explain the duties of the Deacons, their jewels and working of their office, stating that the Deacons require a thorough knowledge of Masonic ceremony, with temper and tact to assist the timid and restrain the forward; in the working of a lodge and during initiation the Deacons' services are of the utmost importance.

In ordinary lodges the Sword Bearer may be said to supply the place of the Master of the Ceremonies, and it is of great service during initiations and receptions. Bro. Cowie then said "What office is not important, even the Inside Tyler's office well or ill fulfilled may go far to help or mar the proper working of a lodge. The duties of each office may be further illustrated in a lecture on the symbols of each office, for which I am preparing drawings, but before concluding, I would crave a few remarks upon the office Outside Tyler. Many of our predecessors, and some of our contemporaries, seemed and seem to think it well to cultivate the public notion, that Masonry was something very absurd and ridiculous, else why these absurd exhibitions of their Tylers disguised as Turks, Tartars, or non-descripts, in every variety of guise. In a large Masonic procession, of which I was a spectator, some few years ago, one might have imagined there was a rivalry amongst the country lodges who should turn out the most extravagantly arrayed outside guard. As each passed in succession the mob shouted and laughed, taming down their ridicule as the more decently attired brethren passed onward, to be renewed again as another Tyler came in view, and culminating in a griu as the G.L. came onward, headed by their Tyler costumed as a running footman, but even his well-trimmed attire could not redeem the ridicule of the ragged absurdities which went before. Modern taste is gradually improving all this, for it is found that the more respectability in manners and appearance we can attach to all which may have to appear without our circles, the more readily will the world believe we have gentlemen within. In conclusion, I would say, that though increased appreciation of the beauty of our ceremonies will grow with knowledge and practice in their use, and I trust that your practice will be such that our general meetings will see nothing but perfect

work. Still when you have perfected that work and finished your ceremonial temple in its most delicate details, it is only a means to an end; as I have already said, those who invented our ceremonies understood human nature well; they knew that in moral practice, in the pursuit of knowledge, and in the study of that which which may fit for a higher and a holier state, mental constitutions were so different that to give a chance of unity in purpose, rules of conduct were absolutely necessary, rules which on the one hand demand regard for the feelings of others, whilst retaining our own self respect. These united in the pursuits of moral practice, knowledge, and piety, form the true end of Masonic ceremony."

(To be continued.)

EIGHTH DECADE OF MASONIC PRECEPTS.

(From Bro. PURTON COOPER'S *Manuscript Collections*.)

LXXI.—COMMENCEMENT OF LIFE.

Brother, at thy commencement of life ascertain two things. First, what are the particular qualities or talents which the Great Architect of the Universe has implanted in thee; next, in what way thou caus't make such qualities or talents useful and beneficial to thy fellow-creatures.

LXXII.—FAMILY OF THEISTS.

Brother, in a family of Theists, the Father and Master supplies the place of the clergyman.*

LXXIII.—THREE PROBLEMS.

Brother, thou art a Theist. Thou should'st meditate these three problems. First, what are the things which thy faculties permit thee to know? Next, what are the duties which thy reason and conscience enjoin thee to perform? Thirdly, what hopes may'st thou venture to entertain of a world to come?

LXXIV.—LIFE. DEATH.

Brother, if thy life be not virtuous, expect not that thy death will be tranquil.

LXXV.—THE VIRTUOUS. THE USEFUL.

Brother, if thou chooseth that which is useful before that which is virtuous, thou doest wrong,

LXXVI.—YOUTH. OLD AGE.

Brother, in youth actions; in old age, reflections.

LXXVII.—CONJECTURE.

Brother, from what thou seest form thy conjecture of what thou seest not, and thou wilt seldom be wrong.

* See the communication, "The Pious Freemason," *FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE*, No. 429, page 230. In that communication for "Professor Jules' sermons," read "Professor Jules Simon's."

LXXVIII.—THY WIFE.

Brother, be most "kind to thy wife's virtues, and be somewhat blind to her faults."

LXXIX.—RELIGION. SCIENCE.

Brother, religion is the sanctification of science;

LXXX.—TRUE NOBILITY.

Brother, find true nobility in a family, since the days of Edward the Confessor, owners and cultivators of a farm in the county of ——. All the men have been honest, and all the women virtuous.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

A MODEL LODGE.

In answer to one of the inquiries of a correspondent, I say that the lodge which I have called "A Model Lodge" (see my communication, page 210 of the present volume) has, first, a fund for the education of girls; next, a fund for the education of boys; thirdly, a fund for indigent and decayed Freemasons; fourthly, a fund for the widows of indigent and decayed Freemasons. The words "building up *your* funds" in the 14th line of the communication should read "building up *our* funds." My correspondent's remarks upon some expressions of the letter addressed to me by my model lodge; for instance, the expression "launched on a sure basis," as applied to a library, are, in the circumstances, extremely paltry and mean, and cannot come from one who is a true Freemason. My correspondent makes other inquiries respecting my model lodge, besides that touching the four funds. Such other inquiries I decline to answer.—C. P. COOPER.

MASONIC LIBERTY.

I noticed lately in a publication that Austria is the only great country in Europe in which Masonry is not authorised by law. This is a very great mistake, for in Russia it is not allowed. There are, indeed, few countries of Europe in which Masonry is authorised by law. In France it is simply tolerated by the police, and the Supreme Council has been in danger of extinction from the same jurisdiction. The statement, strangely enough, comes from a most distinguished Mason, signing himself "W. W.," and dating from Malta. It is gratifying to find that he is resuming his literary activity.—PEREGRINUS.

AN UNWORTHY FREEMASON.

My good friend, our wretched Bro. — is, you say, an unworthy Freemason, and you make it a rule not to bestow your charity on an unworthy Freemason. Nevertheless, you not unseldom, as I know, bestow your charity on an unworthy man. Call, then, our wretched brother an unworthy man, and not an unworthy Freemason, and bestow your charity, and there will be no violation of your rule.—C. P. COOPER.

FREEMASONS.—FREEMASONRY.

Thanks, Bro. —, for the account of your recent visits to certain foreign lodges. You have now learnt that, as there are Christians where there is no pure Christianity, so there are Freemasons where there is no true Freemasonry.—C. P. COOPER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I, as an Irish Mason, consider the remarks of "R." on fees apply to Ireland as much as to Scotland, and I believe if they were raised, as suggested by "H. H.," "18°," and others, that a large proportion of the few lodges (238) in that country would cease to exist. What is required there, as elsewhere, is more care in the selection of candidates. If less was thought of numbers, and justice, uprightness, and morality were the recommendations, instead of singing a good song and being a "good fellow," our glorious old Order would not so often be brought into disgrace.

I agree with the remarks of Bro. Brooke, P.M. Lodge 374, Montreal, Canada, as reported in your number of the 2nd inst., "that to see the lodges under the English, Irish, and Scotch Constitutions work the same is a consummation devoutly to be wished for." Might not a committee be appointed with advantage by the three Grand Lodges to consider the matter? There is a Grand Lodge of Instruction held in the Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, on the second Thursday in each month, from November to May inclusive, which, I presume, is the standard of work. I trust we shall soon see similar meetings held under the Provincial Grand Lodges. I hope, also, the term of office may soon be altered from six to twelve months. I wish some of your Irish subscribers would oftener let us know what is going on in their Masonic world. I presume an exception is made to rule 33 (Irish Constitutions) in favour of your valuable paper.

Yours fraternally,

SPHINX.

A SYSTEM OF MASONIC CO-OPERATION AND RELIEF AS CARRIED OUT IN DUNDEE.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—A letter in your issue of the 2nd inst., signed "18°," refers to a pest that for a long time caused great annoyance to the heads of lodges in this town. Perhaps you will allow me a corner in your excellent publication to explain how we have improved our position in that respect, in the hope that it may be useful to others similarly situated.

It may be well to say that there are seven lodges in this town, and one in the immediate neighbourhood (Lochee). Some years ago it was agreed, after several meetings and matured consideration of the subject, that a central and local Board of inter-communication would be of service to the Craft in this district, and ultimately such was established under the title of the "Board of Masters and Wsrdens." Each of the Masters of the eight lodges acts as chairman alternately. Each lodge pays a guinea annually to the fund for its support, but the convener can ask for a special subscription if necessary. By this union of the lodges much good has been

the result. A Life Governorship of the Royal Infirmary has been purchased for the convener of the Board, and its funds are intended to give temporary relief to the distressed, whether local or travelling brethren.

But to our tale. I think the great benefit to our Order here has been the manner in which tramps are relieved. The Masters of lodges do not give privately to such characters, but send all applicants to the chairman of the Board, who, if satisfied of the propriety of the demand, gives a line to the Treasurer (Bro. David Dickson), who, if he also is satisfied, gives the tramp a temporary help.

Some might think that charity gets cold as it comes north, and some warm-hearted English brother may say, on reading this, "Just like Scottie!" but I assure them that too much caution cannot be used in the case of the *bona fide* tramp.

I will here give one instance of a travelling brother who presented his diploma to all who helped him during his peregrinations, and had the pittance recorded on the back, with the number of the lodge, or the name of the person who bestowed the charity, till the parchment got filled up, first on the back, and latterly round all the margin. This "poor brother" had the audacity to go to the Grand Lodge Committee, and ask for a fresh diploma, so that he might "turn over a new leaf" in this profession of "poor brother in distress." Many such instances can be given where our charity has been extended to a very undeserving person.

In every town where such unity can be got among the lodges, a similar plan would be found of great advantage.

Yours fraternally,

P.M.

A WAR INCIDENT.—"A Staff Officer," in the Masonic columns of the New York *Dispatch*, furnishes the following:—"I give the following incident falling under my own observation, as an instance where the Masonic tie of brotherhood proved stronger than the fear of death, and more lasting than the hatred of mortal foes. At the second battle of Cold Harbor the repulse of the Federals left the ground in front of the Confederate works strewn with their dead and wounded—these, lying more than a day under the hot July sun, dying with thirst, begged piteously for help, but in vain, as the Federal lines were so close that none could leave the protection of the breast work without being made a target for their bullets. Some dragged themselves to the ditch and were hoisted over by means of waist belts buckled together and let down to them. At this time, when to cross the works seemed certain death, two men came to head-quarters and asked permission to bring in a wounded Federal lying in their front. They were referred to the order prohibiting such reckless exposure, and the danger of the attempt pointed out. They answered that the man had shown the *Masonic signal of distress*, and that as Masons they felt bound to attempt to relieve him at any cost. The General (R. F. Hoke) could not refuse his consent, and at nightfall the two went upon the field, and though exposed to the greatest danger, succeeded in bringing the man safely off. He proved to be a Lieutenant Colonel badly shot in the head; he was carried to a private hospital, carefully attended by Masons, and eventually recovered from his wounds at first considered mortal. As General Grant sent in no flag of truce, but continued his fire upon the Confederate ambulance corps, his wounded lay where they fell, and nearly all died without help in sight of two armies, but the Masonic signal, feebly raised, had found a response in hostile breasts, and added one more to the many victories of Love over Death."

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.—The election of office-bearers nominated at the last quarterly communication, on the 4th instant, will be held on Monday, the 2nd proximo, at the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh. The banquet in celebration of the festival of St. Andrew will be held in the same place at six p.m. of the same day. The chair will be occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, *K.T., G.C.B.*, M.W. Grand Master Mason, Scotland, and Past Deputy Grand Master, England; supported by the Grand Wardens, Bros. the Duke of Athole and the Earl of Dunmore.

SCOTLAND.—The centenary festival of St. Marnock Lodge (No. 109), Kilmarnock, was appointed to be held, at the George Assembly Rooms, Kilmarnock, on the 21st inst., under the presidency of R.W. Bros. R. Wylie, Prov. G.M. Ayrshire; Col. Campbell, of Blythwood, Prov. G.M. Renfrewshire East; and a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The report of the proceedings will be given in our next.

On Wednesday, the 13th inst., Bro. John Fawcett, the Prov. Grand Superintendent of Durham, assisted by his Prov. G. Officers, with the usual ceremonies, dedicated, consecrated, and constituted a chapter annexed to the St. John's Lodge, 80, in the lodge-room, Queen's Hotel, Fawcett-street, Sunderland. The Prov. G. Superintendent afterwards held a Provincial Grand Chapter, when he appointed the officers for the year, and the usual business was transacted.

THE Right Hon. the Lord Kenlis, Prov. G. Master for Cumberland and Westmoreland, will preside at the anniversary of the Girls' School, on Wednesday, May 13th, 1868.

METROPOLITAN.

PANMURE LODGE (No. 720).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 18th inst., at the Balham Hotel, when three brethren were raised and one candidate initiated. In order to give due effect to the ceremony, the W.M. decided upon conferring the third degree in each case separately. After labour the brethren adjourned to a banquet, provided in Bro. Lilley's usual style of excellence. Bro. Hodges, P. Prov. G. Sec., presided, the S.W.'s chair being occupied *pro tem.* by Bro. W. P. Moore, Sec. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the health of the newly-initiated brother was proposed, and Bro. Mortimer Lloyd Jones responded very appropriately. The Health of the W.M. was proposed in complimentary terms by the S.W., who spoke of the services rendered to the Craft by Bro. Hodges, who had that day, at considerable inconvenience, travelled some distance to be at his post. The W.M. responded, and proposed the remainder of the toasts, viz., "Bro. Thomas and the Past Masters," "The Secretary," "The Officers," to which Bro. Gwilt replied; "The Visitors, Bros. Stevens, P.M., and Shaw," the former of whom responded. After a most harmonious meeting and some excellent singing, the brethren separated in brotherly love.

THE BELGRAVE LODGE (No. 749).

The installation meeting of this well-known lodge was held at Auderton's Hotel, on Wednesday, the 13th inst. There were present:—Bros. Potter, W.M.; Slade, S.W.; Bourne, J.W.; Pierce, S.D. Watkinson, J.D.; Pym, I.G.; Garrod, P.M. and Sec.; Froud, P.M. and Treas.; Runtig, P.M.; Temple, P.M.; Nash, P.M.; Ough, P.M. and Assist. G. Purst.; and about 50 more of the brethren. The lodge was honoured with the presence of the following visitors:—Bro. Binckes, P.M., P.G.S.,

Sec. of the Boys' School; H. Muggeridge, P.M. 192; J. Conter, W.M. 27; W. Bartlett, W.M. 186; J. Boyd, P.M. 527; P. Moffatt, 11; H. Johnson, P.M. 134; W. Johnson, 134; J. A. Berger, 72; J. Brown, 145; G. W. Pitt, 145; G. Fell, 160; J. H. P. Staples, 186; J. Bean, 201; R. J. Brain, 193; S. Fitzjohn, 192; R. Avery, 720; W. Littlewood, 780.

The lodge was opened in the first degree, and Messrs. Chadwick and Rayner were balloted for and unanimously approved as candidates for the rite of initiation and were afterwards introduced and initiated into our ancient and honourable Order; the charge being given by the W.M. in a most solemn and impressive manner. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Ough, presented Bro. Slade, W.M., and he was duly installed in the chair K.S., by Bro. Potter, in a most able and effective manner. The brethren having saluted the W.M. in the three degrees, he then proceeded to appoint the officers as follows:—Bros. W. Bourne, S.W.; Pierce, J.W.; Froud, P.M., Treas.; Garrod, P.M. Sec.; Watkinson, S.D.; G. Pym, J.D.; Hester, I.G.; Parsons, Steward; Daly, Tyler. The lodge was then closed in ancient form with solemn prayer.

During the evening an excellent banquet was served by Bro. Clemow, of which the brethren partook. The cloth being removed and thanks returned, the W.M. then rose and proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, viz., "The Queen and the Craft," "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, the M.W.G.M. of England," and "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, the D.G.M. of England, and the rest of the Grand Officers," coupling with the last toast the names of Bro. Ough, P.M., Assist. G. Treas. To which Bro. Ough responded in a few appropriate and feeling remarks.

The next toast was "The Health of our Brother Initiates." The W. Master said it afforded him the greatest pleasure on taking the chair for the first time to have to propose this toast, and he assured the initiates that the more they understood of the Order into which they had that evening been admitted, the more they would be able to appreciate and admire its beauties, and he felt confident that they would never regret the step they had taken, but that in after years they would be able to reflect with pleasure and delight upon their admission to the Order.

Bro. Chadwick replied for himself and Bro. Rayner. He thanked them for the very kind manner in which they had been received that evening. They had entered the Order in a state of darkness, and even now had only received, as it were, one ray of light, but the little they had received they were grateful for, and he trusted they should prove that they were fully able to appreciate it. They had as yet scarcely passed the portals, but they sincerely hoped that as they advanced in their knowledge of Freemasonry, they should receive the blessing of the full light in all its excellence.

The W. Master then rose and proposed "The Health of our Brother Visitors." He said: Brethren, we are honoured this evening by the presence of some of the most distinguished brethren connected with our Order, foremost amongst whom are Bros. Binckes and Muggeridge. It would be almost superfluous for me to mention the great efforts which have been made by these two brothers in the cause of our Masonic Charities, and I shall therefore simply ask you to give them and the rest of our brother visitors, a hearty and cordial welcome.

Bro. Binckes, in replying, said: Worshipful Master and Brethren,—In the first place I must, on the part of myself and my brother visitors, thank you for the very warm manner in which you have responded to the toast of our health. For myself, I must tell you that it is the first time I have ever had the pleasure of attending your lodge, and it has been to me, I assure you, a real pleasure; and I sincerely hope I shall visit you often for the future. Your lodge has for a long time past been well known to me, from the distinguished and honourable position it occupies in the Craft, and for the munificent support it has accorded to our Masonic charities. I cannot help, in the next place, expressing the gratification I felt on hearing the last portion of the ceremony of installation performed by your I.P.M. I have never, in the whole of my Masonic experience, heard it more admirably rendered, and I am sure the brethren must feel exceedingly proud in having the office of I.P.M. filled by so able a brother. You were also pleased, Worshipful Sir, to mention the efforts made by me in the cause of our Masonic charities. Well, I must admit that that cause is nearest my heart at all times; indeed, I think that you will agree with me that the cause of Charity is the first duty of

every true Mason, and that every true Mason always places it first and foremost amongst his Masonic duties; that, in fact, nothing gives him greater or more unfeigned delight than to have it in his power to assist in every good work connected with our Order. And I would especially desire to impress this upon our brother initiates. They are very young Masons yet, and it is well they should always remember that amongst Masons Charity was first; and, Worshipful Sir, Charity, as interpreted by Masons, has a very different signification to that which generally attaches to it outside the Order. Charity in our acceptance of the term really means this, that every brother who has it in his power to give, gives, and gives cheerfully, so that if any misfortune should overtake him, as it does sometimes overtake those who least expect it, brethren whose position in the world seems warranted and secure, they may have the right, and they have the right, to turn and say, "Brethren, assist us;" and that request never has, and never will be preferred in vain. Being connected with the Boys' School in an official capacity, I can speak from actual experience. I have known many cases where applications have been made for admissions of boys into our schools whose parents only a short time before were in affluent, nay, opulent circumstances, some of them actually in receipt of incomes amounting to as much as £5,000 a year; but whilst in possession of this great wealth the Great Architect of the Universe has suddenly called them away, and their families have been left in absolute want. In this strait the children have been brought to us, and we have received them. I sincerely hope that all our Masonic Charities will increase and prosper. One thing I know—they can always depend on the entire and hearty support of the Belgrave Lodge. In conclusion, I beg again, on behalf of myself and my brother visitors, to return you our best thanks.

Bro. Muggeridge followed in a long and interesting speech, in which he endorsed all that had been said by Bro. Binckes, and also strongly advocated the cause of the Girls' School.

Bro. Potter then rose and proposed "The Health of the W.M." He said: Brethren, I rise with great pleasure, and I feel proud in having the honour to propose the health of our W.M. I beg to congratulate you on having elected a brother who is so highly qualified to discharge the duties of your W.M. His well-matured mind, keen discrimination, quick perception, and sound judgment, will enable him at all times, I am sure, to maintain and establish the position of our lodge, and to defend its honour and reputation.

The W.M. then rose and said: Worshipful Sir and Brethren,—I beg most sincerely to thank you for the kind manner in which you have been pleased to respond to the toast of my health this evening. Bro. Potter has spoken of me in very flattering terms to you—I may say, too flattering—but I can assure you, brethren, that I have looked forward for many years for the time when I should occupy the proud position in which you have done me the honour to place me this evening. It will be my earnest endeavour during my year of office to maintain the honour and dignity of the Belgrave Lodge as transmitted to me. I can rely, I know, upon the able assistance of the P.M.'s at all times should I require it, and I trust when I leave the chair the lodge will not have lost any of the prestige which now attaches to it, but that, if I may so express myself, it will be surrounded with additional lustre.

The W.M. then rose and proposed "The Health of the I.P.M." He said: Brethren, I feel more than ordinary pleasure in proposing the next toast, which is the health of our I.P.M. Bro. Potter. The manner in which he has performed his duties during the past year is so well-known to you all that it would be presumptuous on my part to say another word on the subject. Worshipful Sir, I am deeply gratified in proposing your health, and, at the same time, presenting you on the part of the brethren with this P.M.'s jewel as a token of the high esteem in which you are held by us all, and trust you will live many years to wear it with pride yourself, honour to the Lodge, and satisfaction to the brethren.

Bro. Potter said: Worshipful Master and brethren, I feel very much the honour you have conferred upon me this evening in presenting me with this jewel. Believe me, I shall always keep it as a memento of your great kindness and value it very highly. During my year of office, I have always been treated with the most invariable kindness by the brethren, and received from my brother officers very able assistance. I shall, I assure you, treasure up in my memory the occurrences of the past year, and more especially the occurrence of this evening, as amongst the most pleasant of my life.

The W. Master then rose and proposed "The Health of the Past Masters." He said: Brethren, no toast of the evening has afforded me more pleasure than the one I have now to propose, viz., the health of the P.M.'s of this lodge. They are well known to you all, but they are not so well known to you all as they deserve to be, nor as I am anxious they should be, and this observation more especially applies to our younger brethren. I should particularly mention the brethren whose names appear upon the warrant of our lodge, viz., Bros. Woodstock, Froud, Kunting, Grogan, and Evenden, and to whom, in fact, the lodge itself owes its very existence, for it is to their exertions, both past and present, that the lodge now occupies the proud position amongst lodges that it does. I must also not omit to mention the honour conferred upon the lodge in the person of Bro. Ough, by his being elected to fill the office of Assist. G. Purst. in Grand Lodge; nor overlook the continued and indefatigable exertions of Bro. Garrod, P.M., Sec.

Bro. Froud rose to reply, and said: Worshipful sir and brethren, I have never upon any occasion, since I have been connected with this lodge, risen to reply to a toast with so much pleasure. You have been pleased to refer to the exertions made by me and the other P.M.'s particularly mentioned by you, for the welfare of this lodge, and it occurred to me that our feelings, on hearing those expressions fall from your lips, were in some degree similar to those experienced by the proprietors of England's leading journal, on an occasion which will be precious to the minds of many present, when for rendering the public a great service, they were offered a magnificent testimonial in return, which they declined in these terms, pointing to the broadsheet which lay before them, "We are content, our great reward is to be able to offer you this," and we say, "We are content, we are satisfied with the result which appears before you this night; we are amply rewarded for everything that we have done by seeing the lodge prosperous and happy. Worshipful Sir, I cannot help referring to our brother visitors and to the honour conferred upon us by their presence here this evening, and I would especially mention Bro. Binckes, whose efforts on behalf of our Boys' School have been great indeed. I believe I am correct in saying that last year alone he collected for the school nearly £10,000. He did this by visiting many lodges in the kingdom, and pleading the cause with that persuasive eloquence and deep feeling which he manifested this evening in speaking of this his favourite theme. He is, I may say, amongst Masons—

The smooth-tongued chief, from whose persuasive lips Sweeter than honey flowed the stream of speech.

There is also Bro. Muggeridge, to whom the Girls' School is greatly indebted, and who is always ready when any good work of charity is to be performed. In conclusion, allow me to remind those brethren present, who were present at the consecration of the lodge ten years since, that the words I then uttered in a spirit of prophecy with respect to our future prosperity have been more than accomplished; and, if there still continues the same feeling of harmony amongst our Past Masters and members which has hitherto existed, the lodge will continue to flourish after we, its founders, have long passed away.

The W.M. proposed "The Health of our Brother Officers." to which Bro. Bourne, S.W., responded.

The Tyler's toast closed a most delightful and successful evening.

We must not omit to mention that some excellent singing by Bros. Parsons, Hester, Pymm, &c., served to enliven the meeting.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (No. 862).—The installation meeting of this prosperous lodge was held at the Masonic Union Club, 14, Beland-row, on Monday, the 18th inst. The lodge was opened by Bros. W. F. N. Quilty, P.M., as W.M.; T. J. Nix, S.W.; D. J. Davis, J.W.; J. Brett, P.M.; Rev. J. W. Langhlin, P.M. and Chap.; W. Hurlstone, P.M.; J. G. Thompson, P.M. and Treas.; Bro. Little, P.M. and Sec.; J. Weaver, S.D.; S. S. Davis, J.D.; J. Salisbury, I.G.; Halsey, Tunks, Jones, Masters, Carl, Kingston, Walker, W. F. Smith, Newhams, Stone, Frickenhams, Allman, Morton, Seely, and Perkins. Visitors:—Bros. Sir Patrick Mac C. Colquhoun, *Knt.*, D.C.L., 105; H. Tanner, W.M. 686; J. F. Toole, P.M. 565, P.S.G.W. Essex; C. Hurst, 179; J. Dee, 298; C. Jackson, 569; and A. Neuhaus of a German lodge. After the confirmation of the minutes and other preliminary business, Bro. Kingston and Morton were raised to

the sublime degree of Master Masons, and on the lodge being resumed in the second degree, Bro. J. Brett took the chair for the purpose of installing Bro. T. J. Nix, as W.M. for the ensuing year—a ceremony which he performed in the masterly style which is a characteristic of this highly respected brother. The officers for the year were then invested as follow:—Bros. D. J. Davis, S.W.; J. Weaver, J.W.; J. G. Thompson, P.M., Treas.; R. W. Little, Sec.; Rev. J. M. Langlin, Chap.; J. Brett, P.M., Wine Steward; S. S. Davis, S.D.; J. Salsbury, J.D.; L. Carle, I.G.; W. J. H. Jones, Dir. of Cers. A vote of five guineas to make up a sum of twenty-five guineas recently granted by the lodge was then awarded to the Masonic School for Female Children; after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was of the most *richeché* description, and a very pleasant evening was spent under the presidency of Bro. Nix, the new Master; enlivened by the flow of wit and song, and the musical talents of Bro. Jas. Weaver, Toole, and other brethren.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

PLYMOUTH.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 70).—At the regular meeting of this lodge, held on the 5th inst., in accordance with its summons, the following business was gone through, viz., to initiate, upon approved ballot, two candidates, who were well recommended, and as well received, for the ballot in both cases proved unanimous; also to nominate the new Master for the year 1868. Upon the announcement of the presence of the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M., and J.G.D. of England, Bro. L. P. Metham, the crowded lodge rose to pay him the honours of reception due to his exalted rank, after which the gavel of control was tendered to him, and the chair left open by Bro. Nicholls, the W.M., when Bro. Metham was pleased to acknowledge the compliment, but declined the occupation of the chair, taking his place at the right of the W.M. during the evening. The initiation was confined to one gentleman, the other, from circumstances, not finding it convenient to attend. The duties devolved upon Bro. Nicholls, W.M., assisted by past and present officers, and upon this occasion there were Bros. W. B. Gower, P.M., P. Prov. Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Williams, S.W.; and Downe, J.W.; while the charge was reserved for Bro. Metham, D. Prov. G.M., J.G.D. of England, who delivered it to the candidate in his usual distinct and impressive manner, which could not fail of reaching the heart of an intelligent candidate, nor of riveting the attention of the many brethren present, members as well as visitors, and their number upon this occasion was above forty. Of the latter we noticed Bros. Metham, D. Prov. G.M., J.G.D. of England; Witheridge, W.M. 223; Murch, 202, P. Prov. G.O.; Potesta, Lodge Union of Malta (No. 588); W. D. Thomas, &c. Amongst the members we noticed a goodly array of Past Masters and Provincial and other officers, viz., Bros. G. Nicholls, W.M., P.G.S.; Jenkin Thomas, P.M., P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; W. B. Gower, P.M., P. Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; J. I. Hambly, P.M.; James Ferris, P.M.; J. B. W. Williams, S.W.; G. Downe, J.W.; James Richards, S.D.; W. May, J.D.; L. D. Westcott, I.G.; Smith, Tyler; and J. Rowe Brewer, P.M. and Sec. The nomination of the new W.M. was the next business entertained. The W.M., as privileged, thought proper to name Bro. Williams as his successor, leaving it open to any member present to propose another brother eligible, and two so stood in the persons of the acting J.W. and the Past J.W., but no wish having been expressed, nor voice raised, in opposition to the W.M.'s nomination, Bro. Williams stood open for election by ballot in December next, as the W.M. for the year 1868. In this choice by the lodge the W.M. remarked that there could be but one opinion. Bro. Williams' past regular attendance, although residing at a great distance from the lodge premises, manifested his zeal as a brother, while the great care he had always taken in the recommendation of fit and proper persons, and they were many, who sought admission into the Order, gave proof of the benefit he had rendered the lodge as a member. These combined considerations were the best assurances the lodge could possibly receive of the excellence of its choice, and of the hopefulness and happiness also of the exemplary brother's career. Bro. Williams, in reply, expressed great pleasure at his unanimous reception and nomination to the office of W.M. in St. John's Lodge. It was one that he must consider as

pleasant to his feelings, as it was honourable to his friendship, since it was without even a hint or desire of opposition; and it arose the much more acceptably to him having witnessed throughout his Wardenship the highest possible fraternal harmony, which had been from time to time corroborated by the many highly-respectable persons whom he was now delighted to hail by the endearing name of brethren. The work of the lodge having so far proceeded, Bro. Nicholls, W.M., read a note which he had received from the D. Prov. G.M. It referred to an office which the right worshipful brother had accepted, as one of the Stewards at the forthcoming annual festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows; and he remarked that, upon the strength of this note, he had deemed it his duty to forward to the D. Prov. G.M. a lodge summons, and invite his attendance. This invitation having been fraternally met by the R.W. Bro.'s presence, he would leave any further explanation to the D. Prov. G.M.'s own pleasure. Bro. Metham, D. Prov. G.M., then rose, and entered into the business of his visit. He was understood to say that, from the honour of his recent appointment by the M.W. the Grand Master, and from his connection with the Provincial Grand Lodge of this province as the D. Prov. G.M., he could not but accept the office of Steward at the next festival, which would take place in January, 1868. The office was one that required at his hands some pecuniary offering, and from his advocacy as much support as he could possibly obtain, as well from the lodges in his own more immediate locality as from those of the province at large, in aid of the funds of this deserving institution. He had received from his own lodge the sum of five pounds, with which he commenced his mission, and had the promise of many individual subscriptions amongst its members; and he earnestly hoped, wherever his appeal reached, a return would follow, so as to enable him to go before the Board with a sum significant. He would notice that the limit of the subscription was five shillings, a sum probably within the reach of many, if not all; while the subscriptions of the lodges would be controlled by their circumstances. The R.W. Bro. then gave a statement of the amount of benefit his own province had received from this Charity, making the recipients of fraternal benevolence one-tenth of the whole number now enjoying the annuity, and noticed that, upon the last election, after more than ordinary exertion on behalf of an aged and deserving brother, ten votes only below the next higher number made that brother's third application successful. He knew not how far he might be supported, but he was confident, from limited anticipation, that he should not reach the festival with a sum short of fifty pounds. If, remarked the exalted brother, so few votes had done so much good in the scale of number, what might not a similar small number do upon any other occasion; while it might be stated that there were other candidates in the province having strong claims upon their united efforts. The Prov. G.M. having resumed his seat, it was the pleasure of Bro. Nicholls, W.M., to move that a sum not exceeding five pounds be handed over by the Treasurer, in aid of the funds of the institution. This motion having been seconded by Bro. Hambly, P.M., and put to the lodge, it was carried unanimously. Bro. Gower, P.M., then moved that a committee of the whole lodge be formed, for mutual consultation in aid of individual donations for the same cause. This motion was put to the lodge, after having been seconded by Bro. Thomas, P.M., and carried unanimously. The W.M. having invited all brethren present, members as well as visitors, to join him below, and partake of some slight refreshment, the lodge was closed with prayer about ten o'clock p.m. There were few of the brethren present on this interesting evening who omitted to accept the W.M.'s invitation. The toasts of the Grand and Provincial Grand Officers having passed, the D. Prov. G.M. rose, and proposed the health of Bro. G. Nicholls, W.M. of St. John's Lodge, accompanying it with an assurance of the great pleasure all the proceedings of the evening had given him, and noticing, also, other recollections of the courtesy of the lodge; and he sincerely hoped that the good feeling so generally characteristic of all the members of it would be steadily maintained to its increased prosperity. The R.W. Bro. concluded his former fraternal notices with regret that his knowledge of the W.M. had not been of earlier date, so praiseworthy had been all that he had witnessed upon the present as well as former visit to St. John's Lodge, and at other meetings presided over by its W.M. After refreshment, which was in strict accordance with the recommendation of the R.W. Bro. when he visited the lodge

to support the letter addressed by the Grand Master to the R.W. Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, A.M., Prov. G.M., and P.G. Chap., on the necessity of caution in the admission into the Order of persons not worthy, the said letter bearing date the 26th of June, 1866, the brethren separated, highly gratified with the evening's proceedings.

DURHAM.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Lodge de Lorraine* (No. 541).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Friday evening, the 15th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Blakett-street, Bro. B. Small, W.M., in the east, when there was a full attendance of officers and brethren of the lodge, together with a few visitors, including Bros. Fendelow, P.M. St. Peter's Lodge (No. 419), Wolverhampton; Foulsham, P.M., S.W. 24; &c. Mr. P. O. Smith was balloted for and approved, but, being ill, was not in attendance, and the other brethren for passing and raising were also absent. The business of the evening was, therefore, confined to the election of W.M., and the choice of the brethren fell unanimously upon Bro. Stokoe, S.W. Bro. Thos. Anderson, P.M., was elected Treasurer, to succeed the W.M. elect, and Bro. J. S. Trotter was elected Tyler. The Committee of Finance was also elected, and, in accordance with the by-laws, Bro. T. B. Winter, P.M., proposed, and Bro. Stokoe, S.W., seconded, that the installation and festival should take place on the 20th proximo, which was unanimously agreed to. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to refreshment. The healths of the W.M., Bro. B. Smiles, the officers of the year, and the W.M. elect were severally proposed, enthusiastically received, and responded to, and the brethren then separated to their several homes, with the remembrance of one more pleasant meeting of the Deloraine Lodge, in addition to the many gone before.

ESSEX.

COLCHESTER.—*United Lodge* (No. 697).—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting on the 13th inst., at the George Hotel, Present:—Bro. Sutherland, P.M., W.M. *pro tem*; Carnegie, I.P.M.; Wolverson, S.W.; Newman, J.W.; Palmer, S.D.; Ray, J.D.; Calthorpe, I.G.; Rix, Eustace, Jenkinson, King, Middleton, Lewis, Smith, and Shaw. Visitors:—Bros. Donnelly, 308; Coppin and Bland, P.M.'s 51. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. *pro tem*. informed the brethren of the death of the W.M., Capt. Sheringham, 16th Regiment, which melancholy event occurred at Barbadoes on the 8th ult., of yellow fever. He stated that as a mark of respect to his memory the lodge was then draped in mourning, and would continue so till the installation of the next W.M. He also called the attention of the Master Masons present to the fact that our lamented W.M. met his death when in the execution of his duty, faithfully following the exemplar referred to in the sublime degree, and pointed out the necessity of being prepared to meet the Most High, when it shall please Him to summon us to the Grand Lodge above. A report from the Board of General Purposes was read and confirmed. It recommended the lodge to receive, as a candidate for initiation, E. Tarleton, Lieutenant 16th Regiment. Mr. Tarleton was then balloted for, and unanimously received as a candidate. He was then initiated by the W.M. *pro tem*., and signed and received a copy of the by-laws of the lodge. The resignation of Bro. Froom, Enniskillen Dragoons, was accepted by the lodge. Colour-Sergeant W. Crick, 16th Regiment, was proposed as a candidate for initiation. The lodge was then closed in peace, harmony, and brotherly love.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

HINCKLEY.—*Knights of Malta Lodge* (No. 50).—A meeting for the installation of the W.M. of this, the most ancient lodge in the province, was held at the Plough Inn, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at which the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, attended to perform the ceremony. Amongst the members of the lodge present were, Bros. S. Davis, W.M.; W. H. Griffiths, S.W. and W.M. elect; J. Atkins, J. M. Goude, and T. W. Clarke, P.M.'s; E. Houlston, J.W.; Clarke, I.G.; and others. Visitors, Bros. Pettifor, P.M., and Weare, P.M. 279, Leicester; G. B. Atkins and F. J. Baines, 523, Leicester; W. Darlaston, W.M. and Treas. 432, Nuneaton. The lodge having been opened in the first degree by Bro. Davis, W.M., and the minutes of the election of W.M. for the ensuing year having been read and confirmed,

the chair was taken by the D. Prov. G.M., and the lodge having been opened in the second degree, the retiring W.M. presented Bro. W. Hughes Griffiths to receive the benefit of installation, who having given his assent to the ancient charges and to the C. B. as regards the government of the lodge, was afterwards duly installed in a Board of Past Masters, eight of whom were present. He was afterwards duly proclaimed and saluted, and received from the Installing P.M. the charges, &c., in the several degrees. The officers for the ensuing year were then appointed, and those who were present invested. The D. Prov. G.M. conveyed to the brethren a message from the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Lord Howe, in acknowledgment of a resolution passed at the previous meeting. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, under the presidency of the newly-installed W.M., and spent two or three hours very pleasantly.

NORFOLK.

WYMONDHAM.—*Doric Lodge* (No. 1,193).—The consecration of this lodge having been appointed by the Prov. G.M., Bro. B. B. Cabbell, F.R.S., to be holden on Wednesday, the 2nd ult., for constituting and consecrating the important ceremony was conducted in ancient form by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. the Right Hon. F. Walpole, who was assisted by Bros. G. E. Simpson, P. Prov. G. J. W., and A. M. F. Morgan, Prov. G. Sec., in the presence of a numerous body of the Craft. The brethren assembled at three o'clock in the lodge-room, at the King's Head Hotel. The brethren being properly clothed and the lodge opened in due form and solemn prayer by Bro. G. Simpson, who acted as W.M. on that occasion, the D. Prov. G.M., who was attended by his Provincial Grand Officers, then entered the lodge-room, and was received in the customary manner. Bro. the Rev. Chas. Howes, Prov. G. Chap., discharged his duty in the most solemn and impressive manner. The lodge being duly formed and veiled during the ceremony it was then consecrated, constituted, and dedicated which ceremony was ably performed by the D. Prov. G.M. and the presiding W.M. owing to the absence of Bro. Henry John Mason, the first Master appointed by the warrant of constitution. The ceremony of installation and investment of officers was not performed. Ten candidates for Masonry were then proposed, after which the lodge was closed in solemn prayer by the Acting W.M., Bro. G. E. Simpson, who rendered great assistance throughout the ceremony. After which the brethren retired to the banquet-room and partook of a collation provided by the worthy host, and spent a truly Masonic evening. The first meeting of this lodge after its consecration, was held on Monday, the 4th inst., at the King's Head Hotel, for the purpose of installing the first appointed W.M., Bro. Henry John Mason, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. A. M. F. Morgan, Prov. G. Sec., in his usual impressive manner. The newly-installed W.M. then invested as his officers Bros. G. W. F. Loftus, S.W.; James P. Deacon, J.W.; J. Dunsford, S.D.; G. Harcourt, J.D.; and T. Campling, I.G. The installation over, the ballot was taken for ten candidates, which proved unanimous. The newly-installed W.M. then installed the first five in the list, namely, Edward Beeston, William Standley, George Plumstead, Aaron Mobbs, and Jesse White. The lodge being closed in due form, the brethren retired to refreshment. The cloth being removed, Bro. A. M. F. Morgan (after the loyal and patriotic toasts had been given from the chair), proposed "The Health of the Newly Installed Worshipful Master," congratulating the lodge on the appointment of such an efficient and persevering brother of the Craft. He was sure that Bro. H. J. Mason, the newly-installed W.M. would carry out the duties of the office in his usual efficient and zealous manner, which was received with unbounded applause. Bro. H. J. Mason, W.M., then rose and thanked the Installing Master for the great compliment he had paid him, he likewise thanked the brethren who had attended the lodge that evening, for the honour they had conferred upon him in coming so many miles to witness his installation. He had great pleasure in stating that this was the fourth new lodge formed in the province, all of which he had been the founder and first W.M., and are in a prosperous condition. It must be pleasing to the lodge on this its first meeting to have to enroll on its books ten candidates for Masonry, who are well respected in their several stations of life. He advised them to be very careful in their proposition as to candidates for the Order, taking care at all times not to propose any one that would not be an honour to the Craft. He promised them faithfully (and he hoped they would do the same), that he would be punctual

in attendance as to the time and meeting of the lodge. He had again only to thank them for their kind attendance. A by-meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 7th inst., to initiate the five candidates. The lodge was opened by Bro. H. J. Mason, the W.M., in due form, after which the W.M. initiated the following candidates who had been balloted for at the previous meeting: Messrs. J. Standley, J. Woodbine, W. Cooper Poll, T. Green Colman, and W. Kemp. The initiations over, the lodge was closed in due form, and a joyous evening spent by the brethren present. There are now three candidates for Masonry, making in all thirteen which have been proposed since the consecration of the lodge.

NORTH WALES AND SHROPSHIRE.

SPECIAL GRAND LODGE AND CONSECRATION OF THE ROYAL DENBIGH LODGE (No. 1,113).

In our numbers of the 9th and 16th inst. we gave an account of the opening of the Masonic Hall at Llandudno—this week we have the pleasure to record the constitution of a new lodge in the picturesque county town of Denbigh, making the fourth new lodge consecrated in this province in the short space of twelve months, and one which, judging from the status, experience, energy, and zeal of its promoters, promises to take a very prominent position in the province, and in the Craft generally. We are not surprised that Masonry should make such marked progress in a province presided over by a nobleman whose widely-spread name is, as for many centuries past has been, a household word of profound respect and national pride in the breast of every Welshman from one end of the principality to the other, and whose good example in personally and invariably attending on these occasions, as well as in visiting the private lodges of his province, does so much to promote the best interests and progress of our ancient Order, especially among a people possessing in no ordinary degree, great religious fervour, kindly sympathies, and proverbially warm hospitality to strangers, as well as to kindred, in speaking of whom recently the W. Bro. Herbert Lloyd, P.G. Deacon of England, emphatically observed: "I have always found the Welsh to be God-fearing and hard-working men, and men of warm hearts"—apt qualifications, it must be admitted, for the development and extension of an institution founded upon the purest principles of piety and virtue, and inculcating the divine precepts, "Brotherly Love and Truth." Within a century ago two lodges only existed in North Wales—one at Holyhead, the other at Dolgelly, and which latter lapsed many years ago. During the time that Sir Watkin Williams Wynn has presided as Provincial Grand Master their number has increased from seven to thirteen, and we understand that application is about to be made for warrants for two others. In the last century a lodge of the same name was formed, but soon lapsed, owing to the death and removal of its originators. Part of the furniture having been carefully preserved, was transferred to this lodge by Bro. Richard Williams, the town clerk of Denbigh. The honour of re-establishing the Royal Denbigh Lodge is principally due to the V.W. Bros. John Preece, of the National Provincial Bank, and Bro. P. Prov. S.G.W. of North Wales and Shropshire, and Bro. Copner Wynne Edwards, the S.W. Designate, co-operating with whom, as promoters, were Bros. Robert Vaughan Williams, W.M. Designate (judge of the county court, Denbigh); Rev. Robert Jones Roberts, S.W. Designate; J. H. Roberts, Francis Wynne, John Ormiston, R. Lloyd Williams, and Martin Underwood.

The lodge was arranged in the large room of the Town Hall. A short time before the arrival of the R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Goldsbro', Prov. S.G.W., took the chair, and appointing as Wardens (*pro tem.*) Bros. T. C. Roden, P. Prov. S.G.W., Warwick, and J. Coles Fourdrinier, P. Prov. J.G.W., and W.M. 1,113, opened the lodge in the three degrees, shortly after which the Provincial Grand Lodge entered in procession, the members opening out and facing inwards, for the advance of the Provincial Grand Master, who was received with the most hearty plaudits of the brethren, Bro. H. W. Thomas, organist of St. Ann's Church and of the Bangor Lodge, playing a grand march until Sir Watkin had taken his seat on the dais.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master immediately opened a special Grand Lodge, after which he delivered an address to the brethren upon the nature of the meeting, and expressed the great gratification he felt in being called upon for the fourth time in twelve months for the special purpose of consecrating a

new lodge. Having requested Bro. Goldsbro' to assist him in the ceremonies, the Prov. G. Master called upon the Rev. Bro. Jellicose, Prov. G. Chap., to offer up prayer, which being given, he requested Bro. Wigan, the Prov. G. Sec., to read the petition and the warrant. The 133rd Psalm was then sung with good effect by Bros. Haswell, Graham, and Hughes, the whole of the brethren joining in the Psalmody, Bro. Thomas playing the harmonium. The Prov. G. Sec. now presented Bro. Robert Vaughan Williams, as W.M. Designate, to the Prov. Grand Master, who placed him on the left. The brethren being arranged in order, the dedicatory prayer (first portion) was given by the Prov. G. Chap. "So mote it be," followed by the Sauctus, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord, Most High," were chaunted. Bro. Goldsbro' gave "The Invocation." The lodge was uncovered, and Bros. Preece, Dutton, Swanborough, and J. Nixon, as P.M.'s, carried the elements of consecration round the lodge, solemn music playing during their progress. Bro. F. Smith, W.M. 998, acting as Deacon, presented the censor, which was carried by the Prov. G. Chap., solemn music playing during the perambulation, "Glory to God on High," &c. The second prayer was then given, and the Prov. G. Master declared the Royal Denbigh Lodge duly consecrated and dedicated to Masonry.

The Prov. G. Master then requested Bro. Goldsbro' to take the chair and install the Master Designate.

The usual preliminary address, charges, &c., having been duly given, a board of I.M.'s was formed and Bro. Robert Vaughan Williams was duly installed W.M. of the Royal Denbigh Lodge in ancient form, and was proclaimed and saluted by the brethren in the several degrees.

The undermentioned brethren were invested as officers:—

- Bro. J. Copner Wynne Edwards ... S.W. Designate.
- " Rev. R. J. Roberts J.W.
- " Rev. J. Roberts Chaplain.
- " Francis Wynne Secretary.
- " John Ormiston..... S.D.
- " R. Lloyd Williams J.D.
- " Martin Underwood I.G.
- " W. Oliphant..... Tyler.

Bro. Goldsbro' then gave the customary addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren of the lodge. The Prov. G.M. resumed the chair and closed the Provincial Grand Lodge. The W.M. having in a suitable manner expressed his acknowledgments, closed his Craft lodge, and the brethren, among whom were the following, withdrew to the Assembly Rooms to partake of a banquet prepared under the directions of Bro. H. C. Murlless, of the Crown Hotel, Denbigh:—Bros. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., M.P., Prov. G.M.; E. H. Dymock, D. Prov. G.M.; Herbert Lloyd, P.G.D. of Eng.; T. W. J. Goldsbro', Prov. G.S.W.; Wm. Balkeley Hughes, M.P., Prov. G. Reg.; W. J. Clement, M.P., P. Prov. S.G.W.; John Preece, P. Prov. G.S.W.; Rev. W. Jellicose, Prov. G. Chap.; J. C. Fourdrinier, P. Prov. J.G.W.; T. C. Roden, P. Prov. S.G.W. Warwickshire; Charles Wigan, Prov. G. Sec.; R. Jasper More, M.P., 262; Charles Dutton, P. Prov. G.D. Cheshire; B. H. B. Owen, Prov. G.D.; W. Swanborough, P. Prov. G.D., P.M. 384; R. Vaughan Williams, W.M. 1,113; T. R. Williams, W.M. 1,147; Francis Smith, W.M. 998 and 201; Rev. J. R. Morgan, 755; James Nixon, P.M. 384; Alfred D. Graham, P.M. 216; Conway, J.W. 1,147; W. Collender and John Jonas, 998, and other brethren to the number of sixty.

After the banquet grace, "Non nobis Domine," was sung by Bros. Haswell, Graham, and Hughes.

The Prov. G. Master proposed "The Health of the Queen," and said: Brethren, this, the first toast always drunk at every convivial meeting in this country, is one peculiarly suited to Masons. One of the first obligations we heard impressed upon the Master to-day was to do all in his power to promote the laws of the country in which he may reside. When you look at the whole of the countries where there are Masons you find that in some the sovereigns are popular, in others unpopular. It is peculiarly our duty here, where we have for so many years been blessed with a sovereign who has endeared herself to her subjects, to drink this toast. I therefore propose "The Health of the Queen and the Craft." The Queen's predecessors—her father and her uncles were all Masons.

"The National Anthem."

Prov. G. Master: The next toast I propose is the Prince and Princess of Wales. I much regret to say that—though the grandfather of the Prince of Wales was a very good Mason, and

though there is no country where Masonry is better kept up and where the lodges are better ordered than in Denmark—the Prince of Wales is not one of our Craft. We are all very glad to see the princess come back from Germany in better health, and I propose “The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales.”

Song—“God bless the Prince of Wales.”

Prov. G. Master: So far we have drunk the healths of those who rule over this country: the next toast I have to present to you is “Those who rule over the Craft.” Much do I regret that we have not been able to see them at any of our meetings. Lord Zetland has presided over us many years, but he is now getting an old man, and is not quite so fond of running about, but I have some hopes that Lord Grey will come down. As far as our brethren are concerned it is almost presumptuous to give them any eulogium. Lord Zetland has presided so many years over the Craft, giving such universal satisfaction, that really it would be hardly fit to say a word; it would be wasting words. I therefore propose that toast, and as there is a member of the Grand Lodge present, a Welshman—I believe the family came almost out of this or the adjoining parish—who is a Past Grand Deacon of England, I couple with the toast his name, Bro. Herbert Lloyd.

Glee—“In the merry old times.”

Bro. Herbert Lloyd replied: Right Worshipful Grand Master and brethren, on behalf of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, I return very sincere thanks. Forty-eight hours ago I had not any idea of meeting this Provincial Grand Lodge, but my nephew wrote me such an impressive letter, that I could not refrain from coming. I have had great satisfaction in observing the progress which Masonry has made in this province. I can say, from the time when I joined it, I have found it steadily on the increase. When I first entered our lodges were very few, and the working was bad, and there were dissensions and disputes with the Grand Master; there was always some dissensions. Numbering now more than a thousand lodges (yours is No. 1,143), there are added some ten thousand Masons a-year to our number. The progress of Masonry in this country is beyond that of every other country in the world. I never saw such harmony as there is here. Here it is flourishing, and it will flourish under your excellent Provincial Grand Master, and I hope it will continue to do so till time shall be no more.

Bro. Robert V. Williams, W.M., said: Brethren, I hope your respective columns are well charged, for I shall not propose this toast unless they are. It falls to my lot, and right glad I am, to propose the next toast, not so much as a duty as it is a pleasure. It is “The Health of our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Sir Watkin William Wynn.” It is a name that comes like a household word, not only to every Welshman, but to every Mason in the United Kingdom. I have had the honour and pleasure of knowing him to some degree for many years, and have always known him to perform the duties of the country gentleman, the magistrate, the member of Parliament, the master of the hounds, and the Mason in such a way as left nothing to be desired. The kind manner in which he consented to the day for the consecration of the “Royal Denbigh” Lodge makes him fully deserving of the gratitude of this lodge. Kindness is that quality which is ingrained in him. Let those who have ever met him, and had the advantage of partaking of his hospitality, bear testimony. I can say I admire Sir Watkin no less as a Mason than as a private individual. May he long live to lend the valuable assistance of his great name to Masonry in the province of North Wales and Shropshire; may he long continue the representative of a long and noble line of ancestors, and to be an ornament and assistance to Masons in general. I think we all as Masons are bound to honour him; it is not every one who will, at this season of the year—and especially the season of hunting—come a long way from horses, kennel, and hounds to give assistance as he has done to us to-day, and will do to “Saint Tudno’s” Lodge to-morrow. Brethren, honour to whom honour is due. I will not further trespass upon your time, but now take your time from me.

Chorus—“Prosper the Art.”

Glee—“Hurrah! the merry, merry horn.”

The Prov. G. Master replied: I beg to return thanks to Bro. Vaughan Williams for the kind way he proposed, and to you, brethren, for the kind way you have received my health. I am very happy to see Masonry progressing as it is, and I should be very far wanting in performing my duties if, when I was wanted, I did not come to these openings of new lodges. As to the

benefits and duties of Masonry, many of you are older Mason than I am and have had more to do in Masonry than myself. All I can say is, if you look to the sacred obligations of Masonry, and if you carry out its tenets, you will be good citizens and good neighbours. There are those here with whom I and my family have been connected politically and otherwise many years. Looking at this town and at this hall—the first place in which I had the honour of addressing you—I am excessively glad (though I don’t think I have seen very stormy meetings here) to be here when there is nothing but brotherly kindness. I don’t think we want any reform in this.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master: Brethren, no one has a higher respect for the Deputy Provincial Grand Master than I have, but I had hoped that the honourable member for Shropshire, who was my first Senior Grand Warden, would have given you this toast; but though he has a very good head, our friend Bro. Clement has not a very good voice; therefore I beg now to offer to you “The Health of our old friend Bro. Dymock.” I will not speak of him to you as a neighbour and friend, but in his capacity as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and say, what I have often said before, that he first induced me to come to Shrewsbury, and he was one of those who got you to offer me the high honour of presiding over you, and I propose his health.

Chorus—“Prosper the Art.”

Bro. E. H. Dymock, D. Prov. G.M., replied: Right Worshipful Grand Master, and brethren all,—I feel most obliged to our most excellent Grand Master, Sir Watkin, for the way he proposed my health to you, and can say the best thing I ever did in my life was prevailing on him to accept the office he has now held, and which I hope he may hold, for many years. I have here a little old book, in which only two lodges are mentioned as existing in North Wales—one at Dolgelly, the other at Holyhead. Their increase in numbers in this province is entirely owing to his excellent management and to his great popularity. I can only say, may we often meet him here, and on many similar occasions. I thank you for the kind way in which you have drunk my health.

R.W. Prov. G. Master: The next toast, brethren, is “The Health of your Worshipful Master,” and I am very glad to congratulate you in having such a one. I have known him many years, as he has been on this circuit, and I have known him in other ways. I think you are excessively lucky in having a gentleman of such intelligence to preside over you, and to start you with those whom you are anxious to have amongst you. He is also the county court judge, which is a proof of how he has raised himself in his profession. I propose the health of the Worshipful Master of the Royal Denbigh Lodge, No. 1,143.

Chorus—“Prosper the Art.”

Bro. Robert Vaughan Williams, W.M., replied: Right Worshipful Grand Master and brethren—Believe me, it is with no feigned emotion that I rise to thank the Provincial Grand Master for that kindness which he has displayed towards me in proposing my health, and you brethren for the hearty manner in which you have received it. He has been pleased to congratulate the Royal Denbigh Lodge; on selecting me as the first Master, I should be congratulated as being so selected. I know no honour to be more desired than that of being elected to honour amongst Masons. No influence can control, no money can purchase the free and spontaneous goodwill or the votes of Masons; then, I say, I am greatly honoured. Brethren, I have the advantage of standing between two clergymen, and they, I doubt not, can recollect a book called “Ece Homo,” in which enthusiasm in the cause of humanity is held up as the highest quality of the Christian; it is the quality of Masons which we as Masons are bound to carry out. For many years I have been a Mason, but amidst the cares and struggles of the “battle of life” I have not had so much time as I could wish to devote to the study of Masonry. Henceforth, I hope to be more deeply imbued with the learning of it. Brethren, I believe it is now eighteen years since I was initiated in the Cestrian Lodge. As a member of that lodge I remember that I received hospitality at the hands of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn. Brotherly love, from one man to another, should be our ruling sentiment and if I can help the brethren in this part of North Wales, it shall be my delight to do so. We shall have a number of members, already we hear of applicants, and if those who have kindly visited us to-day, will come again and visit the lodge at Denbigh, I hope we shall have an abundant number of members to welcome them.

Bro. William Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., Prov. G. Reg., rose amidst great cheering from the brethren, and said: Brethren, I thank you for the reception you have given me. I am not going to attempt any display of oratorical powers, but am going to give you the true sense of our warm feelings of regard towards a lady, one who is highly respected and revered amongst us. I am called upon to propose this toast, and I do so with that cordiality of feeling which, as a Welshman, I think the toast is deserving, and which I think will be received at the hands of all Welshmen with that reciprocity of feeling which it becomes those of the male sex to do. I need not say that I am proud in having the opportunity of giving the health of the one lady only (our most gracious sovereign excepted) mentioned at Masonic festivals of this kind. Respect is paid by all to her noble husband, a man whom we love, revere, and look up to; and were I not repaid in any other way in coming here to-day, I should feel amply so by having the opportunity afforded me of giving you "The Health of Lady Wynn." I came here with some personal inconvenience, but I shall be most amply repaid if you receive the toast with that unanimity and cordiality which, I know, is always accorded to it. It has been well and faithfully said that our excellent Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master is well known, respected, revered, and looked up to in every hole and corner of the principality. We are indebted to him on many occasions, and I am aware we are no less so to-day than we shall be to-morrow, when I trust every member and brother now here will attend at Llandudno, at the opening of our Freemasons' Hall, which is the only one at present in North Wales. I hope you will all attend if you can. Pardon, I pray, this digression. I would say more, but my powers are not equal to it this evening. I give you, with all the affectionate feeling of a brother, the health of Lady Wynn.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynn: My friend, Bro. Bulkeley Hughes, has kindly given my wife's health; I beg to return my heartfelt thanks. Her father was a very good Mason, and all her relations were Masons, and she has as much love and respect for Masonry as a woman can have, and when we have any local Masonic Charities I hope she will be able to work for them. For the health of the ladies generally, the honourable member for South Shropshire will respond, and I hope soon he will be a benedict.

Bro. R. Jasper More, M.P., in a highly humorous speech, returned thanks on behalf the ladies, and concluded it by quoting the lines familiar to every Mason—

"No mortal can more
The ladies adore,
Than a Free and Accepted Mason."

Bro. Dymock, D. Prov. G. Master: I have the honour to propose the next toast, and I do so with much pleasure; it is "The Health of our Brother, the Grand Senior Warden, Bro. Goldsbro'," to whose abilities the progress of Masonry in Wales and Shropshire is much indebted. (We have also the kind attendance of Bro. Bulkeley Hughes, Bro. Wigau, and Bro. Bulkeley Owen), but we feel doubly and trebly obliged to our excellent brother here, to whom we all feel most grateful, and to whom we all feel obliged, and the best thing we can do in an imperfect way, is to drink his health in a bumper toast.

Chorus—"Prosper the Art."

Bro. Goldsbro', Prov. S.G.W., expressed the very high sense he entertained of the exceedingly kind and very complimentary terms in which the R.W. the D. Prov. G. Master had been pleased to mention his name in connection with the toast of the Provincial Grand Officers, and on their behalf as well as upon his own, he begged to return their united grateful and heartfelt thanks.

Bro. R. Vaughan Williams: It is my duty, as the Master of the Royal Denbigh Lodge, to propose "The Health of the Visitors." The visitors necessarily predominate in numbers over the members of a new lodge. Among the visitors here to-day are many excellent and good Masons. They can confer no greater benefit than by visiting other lodges—it enables us to benefit each other. We have visitors here from London, Manchester, Liverpool, Anglesey, Bangor, Llandudno, Welchpool, and other lodges. Time will not allow me to say more, for the train starts at nine o'clock, and it is now half-past eight; so I call upon you to drink the health of the Visitors.

Bro. J. Cotes Fourdrinier, P. Prov. G.W., and W.M. of the

Anglesey Lodge, returned thanks, and said: This day is the anniversary of the consecration of the Anglesey Lodge, of which I am the Master. It was this day twelvemonths ago that some of the brethren here did us the pleasure and the favour to attend upon Sir Watkin at Llangefu, and I can say with perfect truth that day comes back again to me with the same freshness and the same impressiveness which must ever come home to the mind of man on occasions like the present. It is a great pleasure to us to attend at the consecration of the Royal Denbigh Lodge, but it is not the only new lodge in the province, though it is the last consecrated. It is following in the wake of those who carry out the true principles, and who do their duty as men and as members of the Craft. I hope that—echoing the words of Bro. Bulkeley Hughes—all who have attended here to-day will also attend at the dedication of the Masonic Hall at Llandudno to-morrow. All the brethren will be delighted. Right Worshipful Grand Master, on behalf of the Visitors, I return you our grateful thanks.

Bro. John Preece, P. Prov. S.G.W.: I have very great pleasure in proposing the toast of the working officers of the lodge. We have, Right Worshipful Grand Master, expressed our thanks for the assistance of yourself and Bro. Goldsbro'. We have elected a W.M. who will do justice to the high position in which he has been installed, and I assure you that the officers appointed will do justice to theirs, as I can vouch for their zeal and energy. I therefore propose "The Health of the Wardens and Officers of the Royal Denbigh Lodge."

Bro. the Rev. Robert Jones Roberts, J.W., in reply, said: I cannot do better than simply thank you for your kindness in drinking our healths. I feel that, with the support that our Master has promised to give us in this year, you will always bear of the lodge with pleasure on account of its success. I thank you on behalf of myself and my brother officers.

Bro. Herbert Lloyd: By the permission of the Provincial Grand Master I have a toast to propose, it is that of the Masonic Charities. There is nothing so bright in Masonry as its beautiful charities—viz., the Boys' School, the Girls' School, and the Asylum for the Aged Freemasons and their Widows. This is a toast which should never be forgotten. When I first entered Freemasonry, we gloried when the subscriptions amounted to a thousand pounds; this year we received five thousand pounds for the Girls' School alone. Nothing in Masonry is so beautiful as our charities; they are always open; our girls are well attended to, and every officer does his duty. I propose the toast of "The Masonic Charities."

Bro. Goldsbro' returned thanks on behalf of the charities, and said that during the time he had had the honour of being (Masonically speaking) connected with the province, he had served the office of Steward to each of the charities spoken of by Bro. Herbert Lloyd, and that on the last occasion he represented the Province of North Wales and Shropshire at the festival in aid of the Boys' School, on which occasion, he was pleased to say, his list was not only augmented by an additional vote from the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge, but also by a very handsome donation from the R.W. Grand Master and the R.W. Deputy Grand Master.

The R.W.P.G. Master proposed "Prosperity to the Royal Denbigh Lodge," which having been duly honoured, the final toast was given, and the proceedings of the inaugural day of this new lodge were brought to a most happy and satisfactory conclusion.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—Fletcher Lodge (No. 1,031).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at six p.m. The usual preliminaries having been gone through, and the candidates for the three degrees not making their appearance, the election of the W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler was proceeded with. The ballot was declared unanimously in favour of Bros. Benjamin Purnell as W.M., A. Simpson, Treas.; and J. Coates, Tyler. Auditors were then appointed, and a proposition moved by Bro. West, P.M., seconded by the W.M. elect, that a sum of ten guineas be voted from the funds of the lodge in aid of a brother requiring assistance. Nothing further offering, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The installation will take place on the 11th of December.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

GLASGOW.—*St. Mungo Lodge* (No. 27).—This lodge held its annual meeting for the election of office-bearers and other business on Friday evening, the 15th inst., Bro. M'Taggart, *M.A.*, the R.W.M. presiding, supported by Bros. M'Roberts, R.W.M. 73; Livingston, R.W.M. 219; W. Smith and Wallace, P.M.'s 360; and Hope, Mount Pleasant Lodge, No. 8, of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, United States. There was a large attendance of office-bearers and members of the lodge. The lodge having been opened in due and ancient form, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Thereafter, five candidates whose applications were regularly received and unanimously sustained, were made Entered Apprentices, the R.W.M., assisted by Bros. Shiels, Balfour, and M'Pherson, officiating. The R.W.M. in a few appropriate remarks referred to the election of Bro. Captain Spiers, *M.P.*, to the office of Provincial Grand Master, and, in conclusion, expressed an earnest hope that the brethren would give him a hearty welcome and strengthen his hands by extending to him their best and united support. It was announced that the festival of St. Andrew's Day would be celebrated by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh on Monday, December 2nd, and that the Grand Secretary had sent an invitation to the office-bearers and members to be present on the occasion. After the disposal of some routine business, the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, when the following brethren were unanimously approved by the lodge:—Bros. M'Taggart, *M.A.*, R.W.M.; Shiels, D.M.; M'Pherson, S.M.; Lewis, S.W.; Smith, J.W.; Pringle, *L.L.B.*, Secretary; Sinclair, Treasurer; Allan, S.D.; Keith, J.D.; Caldwell, I.G.; Buchanan, Dir. of Cers.; Rev. A. Leck, Chaplain; A. R. Wilson, Vice-Chaplain; and King being still the acting Past Master of the lodge. An interesting part of the evening's proceedings was the honorary affiliation of Bro. Fred Hope, whose Masonic designation is given above. In proposing his affiliation the R.W.M. remarked that, during a protracted visit to this country, Bro. Hope had taken a great interest in the Craft, and that he had diligently inquired into the history and position of Freemasonry in Scotland. From his intimate knowledge of Bro. Hope he could assure the brethren that he was an upright man and Mason, and, from his Masonic knowledge and the practice of the Masonic virtues, he was worthy to be connected with this ancient and honourable lodge. Bro. Hope had during the week been made a companion of the Commercial Chapter (No. 79), holding of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, and had otherwise approved his interest in the Order. Bro. Hope's affiliation would be for the benefit of the lodge, as it would thereby be enabled to keep up a correspondence with him on all Masonic events of importance occurring here or in the New World. The motion of the R.W.M. was seconded by the S.W., and carried with acclamation. The affiliation obligation was then administered to Bro. Hope, after which he received the right hand of fellowship from the office-bearers amidst the applause of the brethren. The newly-elected office-bearers were then summoned to the altar by the R.W.M., when they were duly installed and invested with the clothing and jewels appertaining to their respective offices. The lodge was then closed.

LODGE COMMERCIAL (No. 360).—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 14th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Croy-place, for the installation, as office-bearers for the ensuing year, of the following brethren who had been nominated for election at the previous meeting—viz., Bros. T. M'Indoe, R.W.M.; W. B. Paterson, S.W.; A. Gray, J.W.; Marshall, Secretary; George M'Pherson, S.M.; J. Shearer, D.M.; — M'Donald, Treas. The ceremony of installation was very impressively performed by Bros. James Wallace, P.M., G.S., &c. Bro. William Smith is the I.P.M.

ROYAL ARCH.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

LEICESTERSHIRE.—*Chapter of Fortitude* (No. 279).—A quarterly convocation of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Friday, the 15th inst., when the following companions were present:—Major Brewin, M.E.Z.; Weare, H.; Rev. John Spittal, J.; W. Kelly, P.Z. and P.G.H.; Pettifor,

P.Z.; Elephan, P.Z.; L. A. Clarke, P.S.; J. E. Hodges, E.; Manning, N.; Ride, A.S.; Siretton, Gosling, Rev. W. Langley, W. Moore, A.S.; and others. The chapter having been opened in ancient form, a ballot was taken for three members of the John of Gaunt Lodge, viz., Bros. W. Barfoot, S.W.; George Toller, J.W.; and J. E. Clarke, S.D., who were declared to be unanimously elected, and who were exalted in admirable style by the M.E.Z., ably assisted by Comp. the Rev. John Spittal, as P.S. The M.E.Z. afterwards gave the historical and the mystical lectures, and Comp. Kelly the symbolical lecture. Nine candidates were then proposed for exaltation, and, after some business of a private nature, the chapter was closed, and the companions adjourned to refreshment.

LEITRIM.

MANOR HAMILTON.—*Consecration of Chapter No. 187*.—On Tuesday, the 22nd ult., the interesting ceremony of opening a new Royal Arch chapter was performed at Manor Hamilton, Leitrim, Ireland. The number of the new warrant is 187, being in connection with the Lodge of Energy (No. 187). There was a large attendance of the brethren, including several visitors, amongst whom were Comp. Joseph L. Froods, St. Andrew's Chapter (No. 55 R.S.), who acted as instructor, and Comp. Balfour Ferguson, Mount Moriah Chapter (No. 104 R.S.), who acted as H.P. The following companions were elected to office for the ensuing term, viz., Captain R. W. W. Jenkins, M.E.K., 18°; Hugh Lyons Montgomery, H.F.; Thomas Davis, C.S.; John Evans Cullen, Reg.; the minor offices also being filled. After the chapter was closed, the companions partook of a splendid dinner laid out in the hall of the Court House. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given, and duly honoured, a very pleasant evening was spent, which was enlivened by some excellent songs.

MARK MASONRY.


NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Northumberland and Berwick Lodge of Mark Masters*.—On Wednesday evening, the 13th inst., an emergency meeting of this lodge was held for the purpose of advancing eligible brethren, when Bro. Potts, of Lodge No. 218, and Bro. Howard, of 53L, were in attendance, and advanced by Bro. Jens Jensen, W.M., in his usual happy manner. This was the last meeting at which the worthy W.M. would preside before the installation of his successor, Bro. Foulsham, S.W., who, it is hoped, will be as fortunate as his predecessor has been in the numbers of brethren who have been advanced, and in the general good attendance and assiduity of his officers.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

IRELAND.

OMAGH.—A council of Knights of the Sword, Knights of the East, and Knights of the East and West was opened at three o'clock p.m., on the 14th inst., in the Masonic Room, White Hart Hotel, when the following Sir Knights were present:—Captain R. W. Jenkins, M.E.K.; Charles Eccles, 1st. General; Richard Dawson, 2nd General; M. Delany, Condr.; T. Henry, Sentinel; C. Scott, Recorder; Wm. Wilson, Wm. S. Love, Wm. Beatty, and John Hamilton, Guards. R.A. Comps. A. C. Adair, J. R. Dickson, R. S. Hamilton, Edward Atthill, and Corry Coulson were unanimously elected, and instructed in the mysteries of the above degrees; seven R.A. Companions were proposed for next meeting, and the council was closed at half-past six.

The encampment was then opened at seven o'clock, when the E.C. Sir John Marcus Stewart, *Bart.*, P.G.R. , assisted by the proper officers, opened the encampment with the usual ceremonies of this Christian Order. Sixteen Sir Knights answered the roll call. Several apologies were laid before the E.C. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The report of the Committee on Qualification of Candidates was received. The ballot was then taken, which proved unanimous. The following Royal Arch Masons, who had previously received the degrees of Knight of the Sword,

Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West, having made the usual declaration of faith, were installed, and proclaimed Knights Templars, and saluted according to ancient custom—Arthur Charles Adair, Chapter 13; John Reynolds Dickson, Chapter 854; Edward Atthill, Chapter 473; Robert Saunderson Hamilton, Chapter 332; and Corry Coulson, Chapter 332. This being the occasion for nominating the officers for the ensuing year, Sir John Marcus Stewart, E.C., said it gave him very great pleasure to nominate as his successor Sir Kut. Eccles, who was so deservedly popular amongst his Masonic brethren. Sir Kut. Eccles having agreed to accept the office, the following Sir Knts. were chosen:—Charles Eccles, Commander; Wm. F. Black, Captain-General; Henry Thompson, Knight Marshal; Wm. S. Love, Treas.; Charles Scott, P.G.R. & Recorder; Francis John West, Prelate; Richard Dawson, Std. Bearer; W. O. Orr, Sword Bearer; Daniel Wilson, Senior Aide-de-Camp; Marcus Gage, Junior Aide-de-Camp; and Wm. Beatty, Janitor. The Recorder laid a statement before the encampment, showing that nearly all the accounts were settled, and that ample funds existed to clear all off. It was then agreed that part of the surplus funds at the next meeting should be appropriated to the Masonic Orphan School. A vote of thanks was passed to Sir Kut. R. W. Jenkins for coming sixty miles to assist in the ceremonies. He was then unanimously elected an honorary Frater of the Tyrone Encampment. Alms were collected, and the encampment closed with prayer at half-past nine. The Sir Knights then adjourned to a splendid supper, at which Sir Kut. Black presided, Sir John M. Stewart having been called away on business. After the viands were satisfactorily discussed, the chairman in his usual felicitous style proposed the loyal and Masonic toasts, which were received with Masonic honours. The health of Sir John Stewart was very enthusiastically received, and ably repounded to by Sir Kut. C. Eccles, and great regret was felt for his absence from the social board. Sir Knts. West, Thompson, and Dixon sang some capital songs. The healths of the newly-installed Sir Knights Companions were drunk, and responded to individually. They all expressed themselves gratified with the ceremonies through which they had passed, and were proud of their new position in Freemasonry. Bro. Mullin, the worthy host of the White Hart Hotel, was complimented for the repast provided for the Sir Knights.

Obituary.

BRO. JOSEPH PLOWMAN.

The brethren of the Apollo University Lodge, and of the other Masonic bodies in Oxford, as well as the great number of brethren who, during the last twenty years, have been accustomed to attend the Masonic gatherings and festivities at that place, will doubtless recollect with pleasure the constant presence of Bro. Joseph Plowman, P. Prov. G.S.B., who was accustomed to enliven the after-dinner enjoyment of the meetings. His cheerful habits and excellent voice contributed at all times much to the social festivities, and his well-known songs of "The pleasures of being Mayor," "Old Adam was a gentleman," "It's a poor heart that never rejoiceth," and "Freedom of opinion," some of which were originally composed by him, will long be remembered with pleasure by those who knew him. He died suddenly at his house in St. Aldate-street, Oxford, on the morning of Saturday, the 2nd inst., at the age of fifty-six. The following particulars we give from a local journal:—

"We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Joseph Plowman, which took place suddenly at his residence, 1, St. Aldate-street. The deceased was in the enjoyment of his usual robust health until within a few days before his death, when he complained of being unwell, but there was nothing in the symptoms which were calculated to cause uneasiness in the minds of his friends. On the day preceding his death he was confined to his room, and was attended by Mr. Hussey, surgeon. He retired to rest at the usual hour, and about three o'clock on the following morning he complained of feeling faint, and died before medical assistance could be obtained."

The deceased was long and honourably connected with the local press, and for many years he took an active part in public affairs. He was a native of Oxford, where his family has long resided, and attained his fifty-sixth year on the 14th March last.

For upwards of thirty years he was connected as a reporter with the *Oxford Journal*, but he relinquished his situation about four or five years ago, and established the *Oxford Times*, of which he was joint proprietor and editor until some month since, when he relinquished all connection with that journal. In 1846 he was instrumental in starting the City Public Lectures and Concerts, and officiated as secretary until 1854, when they changed hands. In 1849 he was associated with the late Mr. Thomson, of Culham, the distinguished agriculturist, in originating the Oxford Farmers' Club, and continued to act as secretary and treasurer to that useful society until its dissolution a few weeks ago. By his spirited and indefatigable exertions he succeeded in establishing the Oxford Corn Exchange Company, by means of which the farmers and dealers of the county were provided with a suitable place in which to carry on their important transaction. He also rendered valuable services to the agriculturalists of the county in the establishment of a fortnightly instead of a monthly cattle market, and for many years was secretary of the Oxfordshire Agricultural Society. He was joint local secretary with Ald. Spiers for the Great Exhibition of 1851, and he filled a similar office in 1858, when the county testimonial was presented to the Right Hon. J. W. Henley, M.P. At the time of his death he was secretary to the Oxford Race Committee, having filled that office since the revival of the races in 1859, and was one of the originators of, as well as the secretary of the Clarendon Club, which was established in 1863. For several years he acted as a guardian of the poor of the parish of St. Michael, and at a subsequent period he represented the parish of St. Martin, in which he resided, at the Board of Lighting and Paving Commissioners. On the adoption of the Local Government Act he was elected as the representative of that parish at the Local Board, in the proceedings of which he took a lively interest, and was present at the last meeting of the Board which was held on the Tuesday preceeding his death. He was the author of an essay "On the Benefits resulting to the Public in general, and to the Agriculturalists in particular from Farmers' Clubs and other Agricultural Associations," for which the first prize offered by the Oxford Farmers' Club was adjudged by Dr. Daubeny.

He was a prominent member of the Masonic lodge, and also a Druid, besides other public bodies, and was one of the first to enrol himself in the City Rifle Corps, of which he was Quartermaster-Sergeant at the time of his death. All these multifarious and onerous duties he discharged with considerable ability and success, and those who had the pleasure of being associated with him had reason to admire the practical sagacity and good sense which he brought to bear upon them.

The interment of Bro. Plowman took place on Wednesday last, in Holywell Cemetery, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. He was accompanied to his last resting-place by the officers and non-commissioned officers of the City Rifle Corps, by several members of the Corporation and private friends, by many of his Masonic friends, including Bro. Alderman Spiers, D. Prov. G.M.; Bros. Alderman Randall, J. Wyatt, G. Wyatt, and E. G. Bruton, P. Prov. G. Wardens; Eugille, Prov. G. Org., and many others, as well as by his *compères* of the local press with which he was so long associated. The funeral service was read in an impressive manner by the Rev. S. J. Hulme, rector of Carfax Church. The expression of regret at his sudden decease is deep and general; and all who knew him feel that they have lost a kind and genial friend, and the public a useful and indefatigable servant.

He was initiated into Freemasonry in the Alfred Lodge (No. 340), at an early age, in the year 1832, held various offices in that lodge, and in the Churchill Lodge (No. 478), and was appointed Prov. G. Sword Bearer of Oxfordshire in 1855.

BRO. RICHARD JAMES.

We record with regret the sudden and premature death of Bro. Richard James of Kirkby Lonsdale, which occurred on the 9th inst. The funeral took place on Wednesday, the 13th inst. The body was carried to its last resting-place by members of the Kirkby Lonsdale Cricket Club, of which the deceased was an active and useful member for many years. The procession was joined by several brethren of the Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale lodges, the deceased brother having been a member of the same. The service was most impressively read

by Bro. the Rev. Henry Ware, M.A., vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale, Prov. G. Chap. Amongst the brethren who followed the remains of the deceased brother to the grave were Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Kenlis, Prov. G.M. Cumberland and Westmoreland, and several other distinguished brethren.

BRO. CAPTAIN C. T. SHERINGHAM.

We are sorry to announce the death, at Barbadoes, of Bro. Captain C. T. Sheringham, 16th Regiment, W.M. United Pilgrims Lodge (No. 679), Colchester, which melancholy event took place on the 8th of last October of yellow fever. The late Bro. Sheringham was much respected by the brethren at Colchester for his amiability and zealous conduct in carrying out the principles of Freemasonry.

CHESHIRE EDUCATIONAL MASONIC INSTITUTION.

The Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution, which has now been in existence for upwards of four years, and which has been so frequently noticed in our pages, must be well known amongst our readers, both Masonic and those who are not so fortunate in being members of the Masonic body. It owes its birth, we believe, to the energy of Bro. John P. Platt, a distinguished P.M. of the Zetland Lodge, Birkenhead, who has been ably assisted by several P.M.'s of that lodge, including Bros. W. Bulley, H. Bulley, J. B. Hignett, E. G. Willoughby, C. P. Nosworthy, and others. From a small beginning it has now become a vigorous plant, and such is the rapidity of its growth, that in a few years we may fully expect to see it a sturdy oak, affording under its branches shelter and protection to all who may need it.

In order to assist its funds it has been customary during the past three years, to have an amateur performance at the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, which on this occasion took place on Monday evening, the 11th inst., when an overflowing and fashionable audience greeted the efforts of the Masonic brethren and their friends, who displayed their histrionic talents in support of the Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution, for the third time. On such occasions criticism is supposed to be indulgent, but in truth the sternest censor could not have found much fault with the entertainment of last evening. The amateurs were commendably well up in their parts, the professional ladies who assisted them were of course perfect, and the audience were "in the vein" to be amused, and paid the closest attention to the action on the stage, except now and then when the pent-up enthusiasm which the efforts of the actors created found vent in the heartiest applause. When the curtain rose, the audience gave a warm reception to the lessee, who, in true Masonic spirit, had generously placed the house at the disposal of the committee. "Brother" Thorne spoke, with point and eloquence, a prologue written by himself, in which the theme was the advantages and beneficence of the Masonic Institution. Next followed Douglas Jerrold's stirring drama of "The Rent Day."

The concluding piece was Morton's farce of "Done on Both Sides," and the audience marked their appreciation of it by remaining to the last.

The following brethren ably officiated as stewards—viz., H. W. Barclay, Thomas Platt, Richard Ackerley, E. Harbord, R. Meacock, Henry Shaw, J. Wilson, G. G. Davies, R. Davies, W. Sewell, and Captain John Jones.

The Institution, for the benefit of which the performance was given, was established in 1863, its object being the education and advancement in life of the children of distressed and deceased Freemasons belonging to the province of Cheshire. It has since gone on most prosperously. At the close of the last financial year the treasurer had a balance in hand of £473 3s. 11d., which has since been increased to £665 7s. 4d. There were eight children at the beginning of the year receiving the benefit of the charity, one of which has since died, and there are now five applicants, all of whom the committee feel justified in placing on the funds if, upon inquiry, they are found eligible. We may add that of the various charities connected with public bodies, none can surely be of more importance than those which care for the training of the young, and, having this object in view, none can be found more ancient than those which have been originated and fostered by Freemasons; indeed, Masonry itself is a system of instruction, for in every step in the Craft something must be learned to fit the brother for higher rank, and it is only by his proficiency that he can hope for promotion, no matter what may

be his social position. The schools connected with the Grand Lodge of England are not only of ancient date, but have always been of the greatest benefit to the orphan. They are founded on the most liberal principles and have been supported most liberally, all the children being educated in the religious principles professed by their parents. It is too, an interesting fact, that of the hundreds who have been started in life by these schools, such is the care manifested for their welfare, that their progress in life has been carefully watched, and not a single instance is on record of the instruction afforded having been turned to an immoral or bad account.

It may be added that the theatre was crowded to excess by the leading personages of the neighbourhood, including the family of the hon. member for the borough, Mr. J. Laird, M.P. Only a week ago an amateur concert was given by the members of the Combermere Lodge, at Seacombe, under the auspices of Bro. John Anbery, W.M., which was also a success, and we are given to understand that the produce of the two are likely to add to the funds of the Institution something like £70 at least. Our brethren connected with the other lodges in the province will, doubtless, excuse us for saying the above is an example worthy of their imitation.

MEETINGS OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 30TH, 1867.

TUESDAY, 26th.—Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, 27th.—Society of Arts, at 8.

METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, etc., FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 30TH, 1867.

MONDAY, November 25th.—Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, 4, Freemasons' Hall. Castle Lodge of Harmony, 26, Willis' Rooms, King-street, St. James's. Old King's Arms Lodge, 28, Freemasons' Hall. Pythagorean Lodge, Lecture Hall, Royal-hill, Greenwich. Lodge of Unity, 183, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. British Oak Lodge, 831, Bank of Friendship Tavern, Bancroft-place, Mile End. Tower Hamlets Engineers Lodge, 902, George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

TUESDAY, November 26th.—1 uscan Lodge, 14, Freemasons' Hall. Moira Lodge, 92, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Lodge of Faith, 141, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Lodge of Prudent Brethren, 145, Freemasons' Hall. Lodge of Industry, 186, Freemasons' Hall. Lodge of Israel, 205, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Prince of Wales's Lodge, 259, Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's. St. James's Union Chapter, 180, Freemasons' Hall.

WEDNESDAY, November 27th.—Grand Stewards Lodge, public night. Lodge of Antiquity, 2, Freemasons' Hall. Mount Moriah Lodge, 34, Freemasons' Hall. Lodge of United Pilgrims, 507, Horns Tavern, Kennington-park. High Cross Lodge, 754, Railway Hotel, Northumberland-park, Tottenham. Royal Oak Lodge, 871, Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford.

THURSDAY, November 28th.—Gen. Com. Fem. School, at office, at 4. Neptune Lodge, 22, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Lodge of Prosperity, 65, Masons' Arms Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street. Grenadiers' Lodge, 66, Freemasons' Hall. Domestic Chapter, 177, Falcon, Fetter-lane. Canonbury Chapter, 657, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Lily Chapter of Richmond, 820, White Cross Hotel, Richmond, Surrey.

FRIDAY, November 29th.—House Com. Boys' School, at 3. Lodge of Finsbury, 861, Prince of Wales Tavern, Banner-street, St. Luke's.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

INQUIRE.—Certainly not: the W.M. cannot hold the duties of Secretary in addition to his Mastership.