

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Continued from page 466.)

CHAPTER XI.

GRAND MASTER, GERARD DE RIDEFORT.

Saladin captures Ascalon, Gaza, and other towns.—Advance upon Jerusalem.—Heroism of the defence.—Fall of Jerusalem.—Treatment of the inhabitants by Saladin.—The Sultan attacks Tyre, but is repulsed.—Releases the king and Gerard de Ridefort.—A.D. 1187.

By the disastrous loss of the battle of Tiberias, the Holy Land lay at the mercy of Saladin. There was no body of troops strong enough to withstand him. The soldiers of the Cross hid themselves from the attacks of the Infidel behind the walls of their fortresses. They dared no more venture forth in search of their foes. They waited in silence and despair for their approach. Sad times for the Christians, who saw but ruin and desolation about to fall on the holy places, and death upon themselves; glad times for the Musselmen, who gathered wealth in heaps, and who were flushed with enthusiasm at the slaughter of their enemies and the prospect of recapturing the Holy City. Saladin, to break for ever the power of the Christians in the east, to deprive them of their citadels, and to wrest Jerusalem from their hands, divided his army into various troops, and appointed as their leaders his bravest and most experienced generals. These troops were to depart in different directions, to overrun and subdue the country on their march, and at an appointed day to meet before Jerusalem.

Malek-el-Afdal, who had already proved himself so skilful and successful a leader, was placed at the head of one of these divisions, and sent against the Templar fortress of La Feue. The Templars had but a few brethren there, the Order having been nearly exterminated by the slaughters of the Kedron and Tiberias, where the whole garrison of La Feue had fallen, so that very few of the surviving Knights could be spared for garrison duty. Still, few as there numbers were, the brethren showed a determined front to the enemy, refused to surrender the castle to the Infidel, and Malek only obtained possession of it when the last of the Templars had fallen. His loss in the attack as enormous, even in those days, when no fortress

was captured but at a fearful sacrifice of life. The Templars, who were well aware of the hatred which Saladin bore to them, and the commands he had given his generals to slay every one belonging to the Order, fought like men possessed. The massacre of their brethren after Tiberias was ever before their eyes, banishing any hope of safety. Thus, aware that martyrdom was their lot if they fell alive into the hands of the Musselmen, they resolved to sell their lives dearly, and to slay as many of their enemies as they possibly could before they died. The defence of La Feue was therefore most desperate. Each Knight fought with the furious strength of a giant; every sweep of their weapons gave an Infidel to death, and they only sunk when, from a thousand wounds, their blood was emptied from their veins. Malek dismantled the fortress, and threw down the walls. Excited by this capture, he led his army across the great plain to Sebaste, a city held in the greatest veneration by the Christians, for here the pious Empress Helena had built a magnificent church over the site of the prison in which St. John the Baptist had been confined, and where he suffered martyrdom by the command of Herod. The graves of the martyr and of his parents, Zachariah and Elizabeth, were also in this place. The bishop, on learning the approach of the Saracens, terrified by the tales of their cruelty and cupidity, hid the sacred vessels, the rich stoles, copes, and vestments of the clergy, and the money belonging to the church. On entering the city, Malek was disappointed at this loss, and having vainly attempted to extort from the bishop an indication of the place where the wealth was concealed, he had him stripped naked and beaten with rods. Thereafter, he led the priests away into captivity. On approaching Naplous, Malek found it deserted. The people had abandoned it and fled to Jerusalem for protection. The Infidels then pitched their tents beside the famous well, the scene of the Saviour's conversation with the woman of Samaria, and there they waited for tidings of their brethren. They, however, did not remain inactive, for bands were sent out to destroy the country which lay between Naplous and Jerusalem, and they continued, according to Cogglesdale, both by night and day, to slaughter every living thing they met, seizing much spoil.

Another body of the enemy proceeded through the valley of the Jordan, and entered the plain of Esdraelon by way of Mount Tabor. Taking the

direction of Nain and Endor to Jezreel, they crossed the mountains of Gilboa to Beisan, and descended the valley of the Jordan as far as Jericho. Upon the mountain which was called Maledoin, or the Red Mountain, from the blood which had been shed on the spot, and which was the scene of Christ's temptation by the devil, the Templars had built a fortress for the protection of those pilgrims who came to bathe in the Jordan, and visit the holy places at Jericho. This fortress commanded an extensive view of the course of the Jordan until it falls into the Dead Sea, and was a protection to the eastern frontier of the Latin kingdom, and of the important passes communicating with Jerusalem. The fortress was of immense strength, and capable of presenting a most formidable resistance to an enemy. Saladin, in his hatred of the Templars, and thirsting for their utter destruction, had offered fifty Syrian dinars for the head of every Knight. This inflamed the courage of the Infidel, who surrounded the doomed castle, yelping like so many curs round the noble stag at bay. The assault was begun, and the Templars defended themselves with superhuman valour. Each one fell upon a heap of Saracens whom he had slain, a fit bed for the soldiers of the cross to take their last sleep upon. So obstinate was the defence that the enemy were driven back several times, and the Knights, forming ramparts of the dead bodies of the Infidels, sold their lives most dearly. But encouraged by their generals and trusting to their immense numbers and the fewness of the Templars, the Saracens returned to the attack, and at last the garrison was all put to the sword, the heads of the Knights cut off, and the castle reduced to ashes. The Saracens then advanced towards Jerusalem, destroying on their march all the country between Jericho and the Holy City, finally pitching their tents at Bethany, upon the spot where the houses of Simon the Leper and of Mary Magdalene and Martha stood. In their fanatic zeal, and loathing every thing dedicated to the service of the Christian religion, they destroyed the beautiful church which had been erected over the house and tomb of Lazarus. While stationed here waiting for a signal from Saladin to advance upon Jerusalem, the Arab horse daily dashed over the Mount of Olives, took possession of the church constructed upon the summit of that sacred place, and extended their ravages even to the gates of the Holy City.

Meanwhile, the tidings of Saladin's success being carried into Egypt, his brave brother, Saif-edding, crossed the desert to take part in the glorious war, and participate in the plunder of the Holy Land. His march was an unbroken triumph, and he left the territory between Daron and Gerar, as far as Jerusalem, a desert. In front of his army he marched his captives, tied wrist to wrist, that their appearance might awe those Christians who might presume to defy his arms, if the smoking and bloodstained ruins of the fortresses in his rear had not already made them abandon hope, and surrender without a blow. Mirabel, a very strong town still in the hands of the Christians, at the sight of his warlike engines approaching to the assault, sent a deputation of the chief inhabitants to implore his clemency. Saif-eddin agreed to spare their lives upon the immediate surrender of the place, and the citizens agreeing at once to depart for Jerusalem. The Christians consented to these terms, and an escort of four hundred Musselmen cavalry was given them as a guard to the Holy City. They arrived within two miles of the city, and there their escort left them. The Templars, however, had detached bodies of troops scouring the country, and reconnoitring the advance of the different divisions of the Saracens. One of these had dogged the footsteps of the Infidel from Mirabel, and no sooner had the escort left the Christians and got some distance on their return, than the gallant Knights dashed out upon them from a valley and put the greater number to the sword. They likewise hung like burs upon the skirts of Saladin's army, cutting off stragglers, and causing him great annoyance and loss, so much so that he offered fresh rewards to those who brought him the heads of the Knights. Saladin having thus despatched his forces on their various expeditions, proceeded himself at the head of a large body of troops against Acre. This city was of great size, importance, and wealth. On account of its proximity to the sea it was the residence of many wealthy merchants, and it was on that account most powerfully fortified. Although, during the third Crusade, the city sustained the attacks of the finest and best equipped armies of Christendom, during three years, so great was the terror inspired by the name of Saladin, that it capitulated to him after two days' siege. The inhabitants were permitted to retire from it, with their most valuable property; the churches were converted into

mosques, and the thanks of the Infidel were offered up therein to Mahomet for the triumph of the Mussulman arms. Several of the maritime towns, from Acre to Jaffa, also fell into Saladin's hands; but he attacked Tyre without success, and determined to wait for a more favourable opportunity of renewing the siege. Nazareth, Sidon, Caiphaz, Sephour, Caesarea, Jaffa, Lidda, and Ramla, successively fell before his victorious arms, the inhabitants became slaves, and the garrisons were butchered. He furthermore ravaged all the country about Mount Carmel and Caiphaz, and destroyed the celebrated church of Elias, which, being built on a mountain above the Port of Acre, served as a lighthouse to navigators sailing past that coast. He pursued his successes along the seacoast north of Acre, and reduced several of the fortresses of the Templars. The strong castle of Tebuin, on the road to Beyrout, suffered the same fate as had befallen the other fortresses of the Order. For six days the Templars defended it against the most furious attacks of the Saracens, who were incited to renewed endeavours by the example and language of Saladin. The moat was filled with the dead bodies of the Infidel, and the assailants mounted to the attack over heaps of their own slain. Human gallantry and strength could not preserve the castle. On the seventh day, Saladin ordered a general attack to be made; the walls were swept by the arrows of his bowmen, the Knights fell down wounded on the battlements, the place was taken by assault, the garrison most foully and barbarously butchered, and the fortifications destroyed. Jomada, Hobeil, and Bolerum successively fell into his hands. Martene, in his chronicle, has the following passage about Bolerum:—"To this castle belonged the lady whom the Count of Tripoli refused to give up to Gerard de Ridefort, the Grand Master of the Temple, from which sprung up that great quarrel between them which ended in the loss of the Holy Land." Saladin now proceeded to attack Ascalon, a town of great importance, and which he was anxious to possess himself of, as it would assure his communication with Egypt. The citizens, however, bravely defended it and for a long time baffled the assaults of the Saracens. At length a breach was made in the wall, and Saladin sent messengers to propose terms of peace to the citizens, but to these they would not listen. The King of Jerusalem, whom Saladin carried about with him, then entreated the defenders not to com-

promise the safety of their families and the Christians of the city by a useless defence. Moved by this, the citizens came to Saladin and said, "It is not for ourselves that we are come to implore mercy, but for our wives and children. Of what importance is a perishable life to us? We look for a more solid blessing, and that death alone can procure us. God alone, the master of all events, has allowed you to obtain victories over the unhappy Christians, but you shall not enter Ascalon unless you take pity on our families." They likewise insisted upon the liberation of the king and the Grand Master of the Templars. Saladin, touched by their heroism, consented to their terms, promised to liberate Guy and Gerard at the end of a year, and to respect the persons and the property of the inhabitants. While engaged in the siege of Ascalon, Saladin sent messengers to the Templars at Gaza, representing to them that the Holy Land was now in his possession, that all further attempts at resistance were useless, and offered them their lives and a safe retreat to Europe on condition of their giving up that important fortress, which had been specially committed to their care. The Templars received this message with great contempt. The hatred which Saladin bore the Order made them view his promises with suspicion, and doubt the sincerity of his offers of safety. Gaza was a strong town, well fortified, and the garrison was officered by some of the bravest Knights of the Temple. They sent a haughty answer back to the Sultan, scornfully bade him first take Ascalon before he demanded possession of Gaza, and ended by sending him a contemptuous defiance. This conduct, although gallant and chivalrous, was impolitic. The Sultan was bitterly enraged at their answer, and swore to make them rue their defiance. On the 4th of September, Ascalon was surrendered to Saladin.

The news of the successes of Saladin had roused the people of Europe, and tidings were brought him of the arming of troops for despatch to the Holy Land for the defence of Jerusalem. He, therefore, became anxious to obtain possession of the various places which still withstood his arms before the winter rains commenced. He sent Guy de Lusignan and Gerard de Ridefort to Naplous, and hastened to lay siege to Gaza. Gaza was one of the principal fortresses of the Order, and a most important bulwark of the Latin kingdom. In a former attack upon the city, the Saracens had been repulsed with great slaughter, and they now

swarmed to the attack eager for revenge. The garrison, however, made a most valiant resistance, and proved no way inferior to their brethren in valour and fidelity to the sacred cause in which they fought. Saladin surrounded the city with his finest battalions, but the struggle was long and uncertain. At last the city was carried by storm, and the fortifications demolished. The fate of the garrison is not recorded, but there can be little doubt that death was the doom of all. After this capture, Saladin sent off messengers to the various commanders of the divisions of his army, ordering them to advance without delay upon the Holy City, so that the crowning act of his glorious expedition might be performed in the capture of the sister of Medina and Mecca.

The captivity of Gerard de Ridefort once more raised John Terricus to the regency of the Order. He, upon the rapid successes of the Saracen arms, sent off expresses to Europe soliciting immediate help in men and money from the brethren. One of these letters was addressed to Geoffrey, Grand Prior of England:—

“The Brother Terricus, so called Grand Master (that is, acting for the time being as Grand Master) of the most impoverished house of the Temple, and of all the brethren himself the most impoverished, and that brotherhood all but annihilated, to all preceptors and brethren of the Temple to whom these presents shall come, greeting, and may they lift up their sighs to Him, at whom the sun and moon are astounded. With how many and how great calamities, our sins so requiring it, the anger of God has lately permitted us to be scourged, we are unable, O sad fate! either in writing or in the language of tears, to express. For the Turks, assembling together an immense multitude of their nations, began with bitter hostility to invade the territories of us Christians; and, accordingly, uniting the forces of our nation against them, we ventured, before the octave of the Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul, to attack them; and for that purpose ventured to direct our march towards Tiberias, which, leaving their camp unprotected, they had taken by storm. After repulsing us among some most dangerous rocks, they attacked us with such vehemence, that, after they had captured the Holy Cross and our king, and a whole multitude of us had been slain, and after two hundred and thirty of our brethren, as we verily believe, had been taken by them and beheaded, besides those sixty

who had been slain on the first of May (referring to the battle of the Brook Kishon), with great difficulty the Lord Earl of Tripoli, the Lord Reginald of Sidon, the Lord Balian, and ourselves, were enabled to make our escape from that dreadful field. After this, the Pagans revelling in the blood of us Christians, did not delay to press on with all their hosts towards the city of Acre; and, taking it by storm, spread themselves over nearly the whole of the land—Jerusalem, Tyre, Ascalon, and Beyrout being alone left to us and to Christendom. These cities, also, as nearly all the citizens have been slain, we shall not be at all able to retain in our hands unless we speedily receive the Divine assistance, and also aid from yourselves. For at the present moment they are besieging Tyre with all their might, and cease not to assault it either night or day; while so vast are their numbers that they have covered the whole face of the land from Tyre as far as Jerusalem and Gaza, just like a swarm of ants. Deign, therefore, with all possible speed, to bring succour to ourselves and to Christianity, all but ruined in the East, that so, through the aid of God and the exalted merits of our brotherhood, supported by your assistance, we may be enabled to save the remainder of these cities. Farewell.”

The alarm of the Christians in Jerusalem became extreme, on the tidings being brought to them of the advance of Saladin. His uninterrupted series of victories, the slaughter of the bravest champions of Christendom, and the captivity of the king and the Grand Master of the Templars, made up a catalogue of misfortunes which daunted the courage of the most valiant, and sent the timid to the shrines of the Holy City, to supplicate the aid and assistance of that God who appeared to have given them over to the malice of their enemies. The people, terrified by the approach of the Saracens, crowded in from the surrounding villages to Jerusalem, while the inhabitants of the cities which had fallen into the hands of Saladin likewise hastened thither for shelter and protection. The houses could not contain the vast multitudes, and the steps of the churches and the streets became the resting-places of the terrified and helpless fugitives, whose presence increased the difficulties felt by the defenders of the city.

When Saladin had come near to the Holy City, he sent for the principal inhabitants, and, addressing them, said:—“I acknowledge, as well as

you, that Jerusalem is the house of God. I do not wish to profane its sanctity by the effusion of blood. Abandon its walls, and in return I will bestow on you a part of my treasures, and as much land as you will be able to cultivate." To this the Christians replied, that they could not yield up the Holy City, in which Christ had died, to any one, still less could they yield it up to him. This answer enraged Saladin, and he swore upon the Koran to prostrate with the ground the towers and ramparts of Jerusalem, and to avenge in a signal manner the deaths of those Mussulmen who had fallen in the first Crusade. To add to the terror caused by these threats, while Saladin was speaking, an eclipse of the sun covered the earth with darkness, which appeared to the superstitious Christians an omen of the direst import. Dismissing the Christians, Saladin ordered his army to advance at once upon Jerusalem.

(To be continued.)

AN ANALYSIS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN FREEMASONRY.

BY ✠ BRO. WILLIAM J. HUGHAN, 18°.

Member of the German Union of Freemasons, Knight Comp of the Royal Order of Scotland, &c.

(Continued from page 444.)

Notes to First Part.

OPERATIVE MASONIC CONSTITUTIONS (Page 287).

These Constitutions are referred to in various histories of Freemasonry, and should be familiar to every Freemason. The oldest printed copy believed to be in existence is the one in the possession of Bro. Richard Spencer, London, to whom the writer is indebted for the gratification of having perused it. The following may not be uninteresting to many who may not have been so favoured. The title runs thus:—"From the old Constitutions belonging to the Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons; taken from a MS. written above five hundred years since. London: printed and sold by J. Roberts, in Warwick-lane, 1722. Price sixpence." It is a pamphlet of some score of pages, and commences—"The Almighty Father of Heaven, with the wisdom of the glorious Son, through the goodness of the Holy Ghost, three persons in one Godhead, be with our beginning, and give us by grace so to govern his bliss that never shall have end. Amen." The ancient

charges were read to the candidate for admission, and then he subscribed to them thus—"All these articles and charges, which I have now read unto you, you shall well and truly observe, perform, and keep, to the best of your power and knowledge, so help me God, and the true and holy contents of this Book." The O.B. is almost exactly the same as the MS. in the British Museum (Harl. 1942), which is said to be a copy of one which was written in the tenth century (*Vide* note, Hutchinson's "Spirit of Masonry," 1843, page 201). It is as follows:—"And moreover, I, A— B—, do here, in the presence of God Almighty and of my fellows and brethren here present, promise and declare that I will not at any time hereafter, by any act or circumstance whatsoever, directly or indirectly, publish, discover, reveal, or make known, any of those secrets, privities, or councils of the Fraternity or Fellowship of Freemasonry which at this time, or at any time hereafter, shall be made known unto me, so help me God, and the true and holy contents of this Book." The beginning of this scarce work is very similar to "A book of the Antient Constitutions of the Free and Accepted Masons, printed and sold by B. Cole, engraver, in London-house-yard, St. Paul's Churchyard," 1728-9—a copy of which I have the pleasure of owning. The latter finishes with "These charges that we have now rehearsed unto you, and all others that belong to Masons, you shall keep, so help your God and your Hallidon. Amen." And the invocation culminates in wishing "Grace, so to govern us here in our living, that we may come to his bliss that never shall have an end. Amen."

This edition of the Constitutions of 1722 must not be confounded with a work published one year later by the Grand Lodge of England, as the former does not refer to any Grand Lodge whatever.

LAWS AND ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, EDINBURGH, 1682 (Page 369)—Incorrectly printed MDCCXXXII.

In an "Exact abridgment of all Statutes in force and use from the beginning of Magna Charta until 1641, by Edmund Wingate, Esq., of Gray's Inn, London, 1681," we find that, according to the Statute 14 H., 8, "The said Wardens and that one stranger shall assign a proper mark for strangers' wares, without taking anything for the same." It appears that all strangers were "under the reformation of the Wardens of Handicrafts

within that city," and that all the crafts were considered mysterious, as it was provided "That strangers shall not assemble but in the common halls of their mysteries, upon the penalties aforesaid," such mysteries being, no doubt, the secrets of their various trades. The Statute 3 H., 6, is thus alluded to—"It shall be felony to plot confederacies amongst Masons, and such as assemble upon such confederacies shall suffer imprisonment, and make fine and ransom at the King's will" (page 369). The sums of money "Employed by any corporation, guild, fraternity, company, or fellowship of any mystery or craft, towards the maintenance of any priest, anniversary, obit, lamp, light, or the like," had to be "paid yearly as a rent charge to the King, his heirs, &c." (Marlb. 28, 52, H. 3).

We have compared these Acts, and others also, with those "Collected, viosied, and extracted fourth of the bukes and register of the Actes of Parliment, at his Majestie's command, be me Maister John Skene, clerk of his Hienesse, council, register, and rolles, under my signe and subscription mannuall," Edinburgh, 1597; but, beyond the fact of their agreement, we have nothing to mention in addition to the foregoing.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 1425, AND MASONS
(Page 422).

According to a good authority, "Dr. Plot, in his 'History of Staffordshire,' mentions the Statute of 3 Henry VI., and asserts that it was repealed by an Act passed in 5 Elizabeth, cap. 4. This is not correct, but it is difficult to imagine how the mistake could have originated, for *it does not appear that the Statute ever was repealed*" (Early history of Freemasonry in England, page 45).

"ST. PAUL'S CHURCH" OPERATIVE FREEMASONS,
&c. (Page 443).

The following is from a manuscript said to be in the Royal Society library, and certainly worthy of reproduction here. It is an extract from Aubrey's "Natural History of Wiltshire":—"Sir William Douglas told me many years since, that about Henry the Third's time the Pope gave a bull or patent to a company of Italian Freemasons to travell up and down over all Europe to build churches. From these are derived the Fraternity of Adopted Masons. They are known to one another by certain signs and watchwords; it continues to this day. They have severall lodges in

severall counties for their reception; and when any of them fall into decay, the brotherhood is to relieve him, &c. The manner of their adoption is very formall, and with an oath of secrecy.

"*Memorandum.*—This day, May the 18th, being Monday, 1691, after Rogation Sunday, is a great convention at St. Paul's Church of the Fraternity of the Adopted Masons, where Sir Christopher Wren is to be adopted a brother, and Sir Henry Goodric of the Tower, and divers others."

OPERATIVE LODGES OF SCOTLAND.

These lodges are frequently alluded to (and some at length) in the *Scottish Freemasons' Magazine*, especially when under the editorship of Bro. A. O. Haye, and of late in the *English FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE*, several able articles have appeared. From the former we glean the following (April, 1865, page 66). According to a statement in the records of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Lodge Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh, was instituted in 1518, although none of its minutes are now in existence until some eighty years later. "In its early days this lodge had a connection with the Incorporation of Wrights and Masons, which was constituted by an Act of the magistrates in 1475. The lodge took the same name as the Incorporation, held its meetings in the same place, had generally the same clerk to record its transactions, and the Deacon of the Masons was most frequently the Master of the lodge. In reading the records of the lodge it is often difficult to say whether they refer to a separate society or the Incorporation itself." This extract is from the "History of the Lodge of Journeymen Masons (No. 8)," by Bro. William Hunter, P.M., and is well worthy of a careful perusal. We apprehend in many respects the above is a photograph of Operative lodges, so far as their connection with foreign bodies is concerned, and, certainly these and similar facts tend strongly to confirm us in the belief of the present society of Freemasons having originally been formed out of, or on the basis of, Operative Masonry.

(Part Second will be commenced in Vol. xviii.)

SCANDAL.—Poor indeed is the cultivation of the mind where scandal is the only inmate; base the soul that can derive amusement or gratification from the vices or misfortunes that befall its acquaintance.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

[BRITISH AND IRISH MASONIC CALENDAR.

We understand that this extremely useful publication is now all but ready for sale, and, that being the case, we must congratulate the editors on their promptitude.

Undoubtedly, when a calendar is for the Masonic world—which the above really is—Christmas is quite late enough for it to appear, and hence we shall hail its advent with much pleasure and satisfaction.

The labours of my esteemed friends, Bros. J. D. Porteous and James Stevenson have been most unremitting and arduous, and right heartily do they deserve the warm support of the Craft universal for their Masonic zeal and attention to the wants of the Fraternity.

We believe the above handy publication is superior to all others in point of the quantity and quality of its information, as it is literally crammed with lists of lodges, chapters, encampments, and other bodies meeting anywhere and everywhere over the four quarters of the globe.

The editors have spared neither pains or expense to obtain correct reports from the various lodges and other assemblies of Freemasons, to attain which desirable end, forms have been sent to every such body or branch of the Fraternity in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and we are gratified to hear that there has been a very general response to the applications made. All are alike interested in its success and accuracy, and have a stake in the matter, as there is no other work from which we can obtain such vast, extensive, and reliable Masonic intelligence as in the above calendar. It is, in fact, a marvel and a thorough *multum in parvo*. We make no apology for this lengthy notice, as we think its merits cannot be too widely known, and certainly its sale should be commensurate with its importance.—W. J. HUGHAN.

BE A CHRISTIAN AND BE A FREEMASON.

Brother —, you are mistaken. The words with which the English Freemason, in the case you suppose, addresses the half-civilised man are to the following effect:—"Be a Christian and be a Freemason." Such is my counsel. I regret that you decline to follow it. But, unwilling as you are to be a Christian, you nevertheless desire to be a Freemason. Know, however, that to be a Freemason you must first be what conscience and reason tell you that you ought to be. Do all the good you can. Do no evil. Believe that there is another life when death has brought the present life to an end. Believe that there is a God who made the world, who in that other life will reward or punish you—reward you, if your actions shall have been good; punish you, if your actions shall have been able. Striving to do all the good you can, and to do no evil, and believing in another life and in God, you will become what conscience and reason tell you that you ought to be, and you will be receivable into Freemasonry.—C. P. COOPER.

TWO SUITORS—A THEIST AND AN ATHEIST.

Brother —, some years ago, in a town in Burgundy, a young lady, whose father was a zealous disciple of Diderot, and an Atheist, had two suitors

for her hand, equally eligible as regards fortune, family, position, and mental and personal qualities and accomplishments, but the one was a Theist and the other was an Atheist. Everybody anticipated that the father would choose the Atheist for his son-in-law; he, however, chose the Theist. The only reason that he ever gave for this unexpected preference was that he thought it more probable that a Theist would make his daughter happier than an Atheist.—C. P. COOPER.

A MOTTO FOR MODERN ENGLISH FREEMASONRY.

"Christianity and Toleration" is not, dear Brother B., a fitting motto for modern English Freemasonry. Toleration is sometimes the toleration of Pantheism, sometimes of Atheism. A more fitting motto, in my judgment is "Christianity and Natural Religion."—C. P. COOPER.

SEVEN PROOFS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

Brother F., the proofs *à priori* and *à posteriori* of the existence of the Great Architect of the Universe are seven. I subjoin a summary of them, as entered in my Common Place Book several years ago, after the perusal of the late Professor Emile Sayset's excellent work "La Philosophie Religieuse." The summary is, I believe, in his own words:—
1. "Preuve Socratique; argument des Causes Finales." [My communications to the *Freemasons' Magazine* show that the Socratic proof is that upon which Freemasons chiefly rely.]
2. "Preuve Platonicienne; argument tiré des vérités nécessaires et universelles."
3. "Preuve Peripateticienne; tiré de la nécessité d'un premier moteur."
4. "Argument de Saint Anselm; preuve ontologique fondée sur ce que l'idée de l'être, parfait en implique immédiatement l'existence."
5. "Preuve Cartésienne; tiré de la notion de l'être parfait."
6. "Preuve Newtonienne, fondée sur les idées d'immensité et d'éternité."
7. "Preuve Leibnitzienne; fondée sur le principe de raison suffisante."—C. P. COOPER.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

Under this heading the indefatigable Mason, Bro. J. G. Findel, editor of *Die Bauhütte*, in No. 49 of that well-conducted Masonic Magazine (December 7) announces the discovery of a very rare work of 1744, believed to be a unique copy.

No authority that we know of ever quotes first hand from the work, excepting Laurence Dermott, in the "Ahiman Rezon," 1st edition, 1756, page 48. All the other writers base their remarks on the passages referred to by Bro. Dermott.

Dr. George Kloss, in his "Bibliographie der Freimaureri," 1844, says (No. 1,859), "Fifield d'Assigny fehrieb 1744 ein Buch, welches Dermott ein Ahiman Rezon, Nvo. 154, angiebt, als enthalte es Beryügliches auf den Royal-Arch Grad." The learned divine and Bro. Dr. George Oliver gives Dr. D'Assigny's opinion of the Royal Arch degree, as quoted by Bro. Dermott in the new edition of "Origin of the English Royal Arch," page 107 (Spencer, London). We believe it is the earliest work that alludes to the English Royal Arch, and its importance and value cannot well be over-estimated.

Bro. Findel congratulates Bro. Hughan on his possession, and presents his readers with the title-page (supplied by the latter), in the hope that a fuller account of the work may follow. We have much pleasure in doing so likewise, and also in stating that, in our new volume, our esteemed correspondent, Bro. W. J. Hughan will refer to this scarce book at length in his articles entitled "An Analysis of Ancient and Modern Freemasonry," translations of the first part of which, we hear, have already graced the pages of more than one of the foreign Masonic periodicals. The title-page is as follows:—

"A serious and impartial inquiry into the cause of the present decay of Freemasonry in the Kingdom of Ireland. Humbly addressed to all the brethren accepted of before and since the Constitutions. To which are added such instructive remarks as may be found useful to revise the honour of that ancient Craft, &c. By Fifield D'Assigny, M.D., author of 'The Impartial Answer to the Enemies of Freemasons.' Dublin. Printed by Edward Bate, in George's-lane, near Dame-street. 1744. It is Svo., and numbers some 80 pages altogether."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

LOOSENESS IN MASONRY.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Sometime since, in reply to a letter which appeared in your MAGAZINE, complaining of a man being initiated in one of the Jersey lodges, by the name of "Box Brown," your correspondent "H. H." took up the gauntlet on behalf of some of the lodges in that island, and repudiated their having done so, promising to furnish the details of some others that he was not so well conversant with. I have been waiting very patiently for some time for his reply before taking further action in the matter, and, after his gratuitous services voluntarily offered, I now ask him to furnish me with the number of the lodge, together with the proposer, seconder, and date of initiation of the individual referred to.

Yours fraternally,
Z.

FREEMASONRY IN SWEDEN.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Seeing the great interest excited in your numerous readers by the statements made, or recording of incidents connected with the history of Masonry at home and abroad, I have thought you would like to see a very curious medal which has been in my possession for many years. It is of large size, considerable thickness, in solid silver, well executed, and, being connected with an interesting period in the history of Freemasonry, and relating to a country in which our ancient and honourable Order is held in the highest admiration—indeed, *eneration*, I send you the medal that you may, if you please, publish engravings of the obverse and reverse thereof.

There are so many of your talented correspondents, such as Bros. Hughan, Oneal Haye, Murray Lyon, Bairnsfather, and a host of others, who have dealt in your paper with such subjects, that it would be much more interesting to your readers, and tend to elicit all that is likely to be interesting in connection with the subject, if I just shortly state the fact that it came into my possession many years ago, it having belonged to a near relative of mine who had been much in Sweden, and who was a zealous and worthy Mason. The interesting facts mentioned on the medal itself, together with the admirable artistic skill and the splendid execution of the medalist's art, speak for themselves.



Does it not suggest that the Masonic history of Sweden and Norway, during so long a reign as forty-five years, during which Charles XIII. was protector and Grand Master, must offer a splendid field for investigation.

Yours fraternally,
Dundee, Nov. 30th, 1867. J. C., P.M.

[We have great pleasure in complying with the suggestion of our greatly-esteemed and much-respected correspondent "J. C.," and have had engravings made of the very-beautifully executed medal; and we take this opportunity of inviting our readers generally to contribute similar objects and matters of like interest,

with a view to their being published. We will cheerfully incur the cost of engraving them for publication in the *Magazine*. We have had the two sides of the medal engraved on wood, the exact size of the original, and they are given above in the body of our correspondent's letter.—Ed. F. M.]

DR. MORRIS' PILGRIMAGE TO THE ORIENT, ETC.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Your subscribers must have perused the announcement made by Bro. David Murray Lyon, of Ayr, in your magazine of the 14th inst., with great pleasure and interest, as it concerns the visit to old England of one of the most learned Masons in the world. In America he is styled "the most eminent Masonic poet, statistician, and antiquarian now living," and well does he deserve so great a character amongst the Craft, as who can compare with his fervent and soul-stirring Masonic poems, his devotion to the Fraternity, and his life-long labours on our behalf.

Dr. Morris had published over seventy Masonic works, and has just brought a new dictionary of Freemasonry to the *light*, which is far in advance of any of its predecessors. Besides all these efforts—and their name is legion, he has either been editor or on the staff of some half dozen Masonic magazines in the United States, and now, when he has arrived at the age when rest should be enjoyed, he is about to commence a gigantic tour, for no other purpose than to collect Masonic information, that he may impart it to the Fraternity in whose interests his life is bound up.

Dr. Morris expects to leave port for his European and Oriental tour about the 15th of January next, and, therefore, all those brethren in England who may be anxious to entertain so distinguished a Mason, should lose no time in making the necessary arrangements. Bro. William Smith, C.E., the spirited proprietor of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, has kindly consented to take charge of all communications for the learned brother during his sojourn in this country; and we hope that the *city* of Masonry in England will accord him an enthusiastic reception.

Being so far west, we cannot take the initiative in the matter, but can truly say that all we have is at Dr. Morris' disposal, and the longer he can stay with us the more we shall esteem the honour and gratification. My friend Bro. Lyon, the Masonic historian, tells me they have already commenced preparations in Scotland wherewith to greet Dr. Morris on his arrival, so let us also unite in so doing. I presume Dr. Morris' stay will necessarily be short, so that one good and thorough welcome in London would be better than many smaller ones in the provinces.

Yours fraternally,

W. J. HUGHAN.

GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—In your number of the 14th inst. I observe three points of some importance, and yet they all merge into one.

On page 469 is an account of the proposition of himself as Grand Master of England by Bro. Matthew Cooke.

On page 470, in reference to the Board of Benevolence, it is stated that "suggestions were made as to the propriety of a little new blood being infused among them."

Allow me space for a few comments on these matters. It is no doubt true that the Grand Master has the confidence of the Craft in general, and that having, in accordance with custom, been elected to that high position year after year for a quarter of a century, it would not only be most ungracious, but most unwise, to think of making any change during his lifetime, although I, and at least some others, think that affairs run too much in the same groove, that too much power is in the hands of the Grand Secretary, that more courtesy ought to be practised by him, and that some changes might be made with advantage. I do not offer these remarks without definite reasons for doing so, drawn from a Masonic experience of much activity extending over twenty years, and I am familiar with one province which has lamentably suffered from this cause, where an incubus of a most prejudicial nature has long existed, which all efforts have hitherto failed to remove, to the deep regret of a numerous body of Past Masters, and, indeed, of all right-minded Masons, especially because the circumstances are so patent that the Order has been brought into disrepute among the inhabitants not connected with us. I am convinced that such a state of things could not exist in a district more easily accessible than the one alluded to. Whatever may be our feelings of respect for the Most Worshipful Bro. the Earl of Zetland, and the extent of our dissent from the course pursued by Bro. Cooke (of which few, if any, can approve), a very different sentiment, as I am inclined to think, prevails in regard to the Grand Secretary, and there are, probably, many disposed to endorse his opinions on that head. Had Bro. Cooke proposed some eminent Mason for Grand Master, and spoken on the subject in a different spirit, the ludicrous and insulting exhibition would have been avoided, and he would not have been subject to the censure with which his conduct has met, and which he deserves.

The inference I wish to draw from this affair is one which I have before brought before the notice of your readers, namely, that, in the best interests of the Craft, it is desirable, during the life of our present Grand Master, to alter our "Book of Constitutions" on pages 29 and 45, so as in future to limit the term of years during which a Grand Master, a Provincial Grand Master, and their respective deputies shall hold office. Why should they be under an arrangement differing in principle from that which regulates the tenure by a W.M. of a lodge? Seven years is probably sufficient for the Grand Master, four years for his deputy or a Provincial Grand Master, and three years for a Deputy Provincial Grand Master. This would afford an opportunity for meeting the objection raised by Bro. Cooke, inasmuch as it would diminish the probability of any subordinate officer remaining too long in his place, and it would also tend to the infusion of new blood in the highest departments of the Craft, as well as in the provinces and the Board of Benevolence, where it is probably

also much needed, as suggested in the second quotation I have made from your pages. It cannot but be regarded as an injustice to the many eminent men who do honour to our Order—that they have no means of rising to the rank of Grand Master except by the hand of death. One can understand this where, as in a monarchical government, the headship is hereditary, and the executive is vested in other responsible persons, but not where, as in our case, it is elective.

I fear that there is but little chance of carrying this or other salutary changes, since Grand Lodge is in the hands chiefly of the London Masons, who act together, whereas the provinces are necessarily but scantily represented, and have not means of working in unison and making themselves heard. The only remedy for this would be an occasional meeting of Grand Lodge (say once a year) in one of the large provincial towns, as Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, &c., just as the Provincial Grand Lodges assemble in rotation at different places. I see no reason why this plan should not be adopted; it would do much to produce union in our Order, and to promote its primary objects.

Yours fraternally,

A. PROVINCIAL P.M., P.Z., &c.

MASONIC IMPOSTORS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I find I am right in waiting a little, and that my friend of St. Stephen's Lodge would crop again. If I am not mistaken, the W.M. of St. Stephen's addressed his Grand Lodge certificate to a certain locality in a large seaport town in the south of England, and such locality in my young days was the resort and abiding place of a class called "travellers" (not sojourners), as he produced the envelope which he said he had received it in, and I then saw what made me suspicious that he was one of—— well, I must not again use the terms I have done, and given so much offence; but those are the class I want to get rid of. I hope I possess some small portion of that great Masonic virtue—I mean charity—and I have found honourable and worthy men and Masons in the lower walks of life, but never in all my experience have I known a worthy brother have to take to this trade for a living. Brethren knowing them are always ready to hold out a helping hand; and, further, this character, I am sorry to say, is not confined to the humbler class of our Order, for I have met such in persons who have, from education and appearances, been in good positions at one time, but now completely lost to all sense of shame and self-respect.

But I do still adhere to my former opinion that there is not that due amount of care and attention in the admission of candidates in the sister lodges as there should be (I don't mean as far as regards pecuniary matters); and I am sorry to say the very same mischief exists in our own lodges to a very great extent, and I trace a great deal of it to persons going to other places to be initiated, after being rejected by lodges in towns where they reside. If W.M.'s of

lodges were to direct their Secretary to inquire before such persons were accepted, it would prevent much ill-feeling, and bickerings would be kept out of the Craft, and many lodges have what they devoutly wish for—peace. I am sorry this practice exists to such an extent so near head-quarters.

I would like to draw the attention of Almoners to a Bro. Thomas W. Richards, of Lodge 349, I.C. He came to me on the 25th ult. with a most plausible story about losses in trade, and mentioned names of leading firms very glibly, and that he was making his way to the west of England—Plymouth, I think. He is well dressed, with a black Inverness cape and gloves, &c. ("doing the gentleman," I think, is the professional name for it). I happened to see him one evening about a week after I had relieved him, and I called the attention of one of our police officers to him, and asked if he knew him, "Oh, yes, Sir, he is a cadging Freemason; I have been called to turn him out of two or three of our lowest public houses at very late hours." I then made some further inquiries, and found he had been reaping a very rich harvest amongst the brethren. I must confess, with all due deference, that there can be no charity in relieving such a character as this. Might I ask under what Grand Royal Arch Superintendent is that chapter worked which receives members by the lot so cheaply, as, by Article 21, page 19, of the Royal Arch Constitutions, it is laid down that no Royal Arch chapter shall exalt any person under the sum of three guineas. Should not this warrant be recalled?

Yours fraternally,

18°.

FREEMASONRY CRITICISED.

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

Respected Friend,—Long have I known the society called Freemasons, of which thou art a member; and, believing it to be capable of doing far more good than it is at present doing, I will, by thy permission, write thee—say a few letters, perhaps, once a month, or oftener, just as the spirit moves me; and so that thou mayest not be alarmed, for thy secrets I will tell thee thou hast no need to trouble thyself on that head, as the subjects on which I will write thee will be, amongst others:—

"How thy society treats thy wayfaring brothers (by some called tramps), and how thy wayfaring brothers treat thy society."

"Thy society's treatment of other distressed brothers."

"Thy society's Grand Charities (?)—how supported, and how the elections thereto are conducted."

"Thy society's banquets, and thy society's support to other charities than Freemasons'."

If thou insert this in the next number of thy Magazine, I will then proceed with my next letter to thee.

Thy esteemed friend,

A. QUAKER.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Dublin, on Thursday, the 5th inst., the nomination of Bro. Maxwell Close as Grand Secretary, in place of the late Hon. George Handcock, was confirmed.

THE ROYDS LODGE, MALVERN.—The constitution and consecration of this new lodge will take place on Monday, the 30th inst., at the Winter Promenade Home, Malvern, at twelve o'clock precisely. The ceremonies will be performed by the R.W. Bro. A. H. Royds, Prov. G.M., and the W. Bro. J. Barber, D. Prov. G.M. After the ceremony the brethren will attend Divine worship at the Priory Church, when a sermon will be preached by Bro. the Rev. George Fisk, *L.L.B.*, vicar of Malvern. There will be a banquet at the Belle Vue Hotel at four o'clock.

GLASGOW.—The installation of the R.W. Bro. Captain Speirs, *M.P.*, as Provincial Grand Master for Glasgow, and the annual Provincial Festival being appointed for the 20th inst. (after our going to press), the report of the proceedings cannot reach us in time for our present issue, but will appear in our next.

METROPOLITAN.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday the 11th inst., under the presidency of Bro. Dale, the I.P.M., the W.M. not being able to attend through an accident. Bro. Riley was passed to the second degree, and Bro. Honey, J.W., was unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year. Bro. Watson was unanimously re-elected Treas., and Bro. Crawley, Tyler. The usual banquet followed at the conclusion of Masonic business.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This old, influential, and numerous-attended lodge held its usual meeting for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, and for general business, on Monday, the 3rd inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. The lodge was summoned for five o'clock, when a large attendance of members mustered punctually, and the lodge was opened, according to ancient custom, with solemn prayer, the W.M., Bro. Hartley, presiding, supported by all his officers, viz.:—Bros. Bley, S.W.; Dicketts, J.W.; Charles Long, S.D.; W. S. Adams, J.D.; William Godfrey, I.G.; W. Watson, P.M., and J. Dyte, P.M., Wine Stewards; J. Caulker, Dir. of Cers.; and J. Lyons, Sec. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved, were signed as correct. A ballot was taken for Messrs. J. H. Pearce, and J. H. O'Farrell as candidates for initiation, which having proved to be in their favour, they were afterwards duly initiated by the W.M., whose admirable working and perfect knowledge of all the ceremonies is so well known throughout the metropolitan district. Two candidates for passing being present, viz., Bros. Kimmont and Hobbs, they were first duly examined, and afterwards, when the lodge was opened in the second degree, were regularly passed to the degree of a F.C. On their retiring, and previously to the lodge being opened in the third degree, the only candidates in waiting to receive the degree of a M.M. were Bros. Megson, Taylor, and Farmer, who were then duly examined, and on the lodge being opened in the degree, they were respectively raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, and the business of electing the W.M. for the ensuing year was proceeded with by ballot, when the choice of the brethren was duly recorded in favour of the then Senior Warden, Bro. Bley, and the election gave general satisfaction to members and visitors. The Tyler was next

elected by show of hands, when Bro. Radford was again elected. He was called in, and informed. He thanked the W.M. and brethren, saluted, and retired. Bros. Wincham, Fowell, and Long were then elected auditors. Bro. Charles Webber having kindly consented to act as the Lodge Steward at the approaching festival of the Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, to be held January 29th, 1868, the brethren expressed their thanks to him, and promised him their subscriptions and personal support, and the usual money in aid was voted by the lodge to grace the subscription list of their Steward. The usual amount of general business connected with the lodge affairs was then transacted, and propositions for candidates for initiation and joining were made in open lodge; the proceedings then terminated, and the lodge was closed in peace and harmony, in accordance with ancient custom, and with prayer. The brethren adjourned to dinner somewhat after the usual hour, the members and visitors mustering over seventy. Bro. Gosden, the active and zealous manager of the Freemasons' Tavern Company, who had not been instructed to provide table room for so large a number on this occasion, was, however, equal to the emergency, and provided in every respect to the satisfaction of the members and visitors. Amongst the latter were Bros. Patten (Girls' School); J. Patterson, a P.M. and ex-member of No. 25; Robert White, of Placeville, California, U.S.; H. C. Wisewould, P.M. 241; W. T. Stephens, of the Crystal Palace Lodge, 742; W. Smith, *C.E.*, P.G.S., P.M. 26, 33, 840, &c., and others. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given from the chair, and amongst the responses to the toasts was an excellent speech from the Californian brother, full of true Masonic spirit. After several excellent speeches and songs the brethren adjourned, highly delighted with the meeting.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 147).—On Wednesday, the 11th instant, this old lodge met at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford. Bro. G. Chapman, W.M., officiated, and there were present:—Bros. J. Patte, S.W.; W. Andrews, J.W.; J. Lightfoot, P.M., Treas.; J. Ravin, P.M., Sec.; Batt, S.D.; Percival, J.D.; F. Whiffen, I.G.; G. Bolton, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M.; N. Wingfield, P.M., and many others. The visitors were Bros. Luing, P.M. 45; Nash, I.G. 79; Littlecott, 169, 1,155, &c. The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously confirmed. All the ceremonies were most impressively rendered. Bro. J. Patte, S.W., was elected W.M., there being but two votes given to an old P.M. Bro. Lightfoot, P.M. and Treas., was re-elected to his office by a good majority over Bros. Bolton, Wingfield, and Walters, who each obtained a few votes. Out of two Tylers proposed Bro. J. L. Winn, P.M. 147, an ex-member of this lodge, was elected. The audit committee was appointed. The usual five-guinea P.M.'s jewel was voted to the W.M., who, on being allowed his choice, preferred and selected a life subscribership of the Male Annuity instead of the jewel. The lodge was closed. Refreshment then followed.

CAVEAC LODGE (No. 176).—At the ordinary meeting of this lodge, held on Saturday, the 14th inst., at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, the W.M., Bro. Henry Dorey, in the chair, supported by his officers, the following business was transacted. The lodge was called for four o'clock precisely, and upon the W.M. taking the chair the various offices were filled by the following brethren:—Bros. R. Gailoway, *C.Z.*, I.P.M. and Treas.; Percival A. Nairn, S.W.; W. N. Smith, J.W.; Thomas Quinhampton, S.D.; Robert S. Foreman, J.D.; Henry Besley, I.G.; Elijah Litchfield, P.M. Secretary. The lodge was opened with solemn prayer, the minutes of last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed as correct. Letters were read from various members, and attention was called to the approaching festivals in aid of the various Masonic charities, and members were invited to act as stewards to represent the lodge therat; and Bros. Nairn and Besley we understood responded to the invitation. A ballot having been taken for Messrs. William Burt Turner, Frederick Robert Burnett, and Robert Nesbett Coghlan as candidates for initiation into the ancient and honourable fraternity, and it having proved favourable, they were then prepared and presented to undergo the ceremony of initiation, with which the W.M. then proceeded, and upon its completion the ordinary business of the lodge was resumed, and the lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and the meeting then adjourned until the second Saturday in January, 1868. After the lodge was closed the brethren, members and visitors, dined together, according to the custom of the lodge. Bro. Hart, the proprietor of Radley's Hotel, provided, in his usual liberal style, for the creature comforts of his patrons, and as the

character of the catering at Radley's is so well known it is unnecessary to say more than that the dinner, wines, and service were alike excellent, and contrasted highly with the disgraceful state of things so much complained of in connection with "the great shams," called dinners, provided at several of the new "Grand Hotels," west and north of Temple-bar, where the Masonic dinners are of indifferent quality, very badly served, and the wines are shamefully bad and dear. Some thirty members of the lodge and visitors enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Amongst the visitors were the esteemed secretary of the Masonic Girls' School, Bro. Patten, also Bros. Dr. O'Connor, Turner, and other well known members of the Craft. Tea and coffee were served about nine o'clock.

LODGE OF CONFIDENCE (No. 193).—The brethren of this lodge met at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Monday, the 9th inst. After Messrs. Philpott and Reed had been initiated, and Bros. Lawrence and Bishop had been advanced to the degree by the W.M., Bro. Webb proceeded to the installation of his successor in the Solomonic chair, Bro. Theodore Foulger, which ceremony he performed in a manner that evoked the commendations of every brother present. Labour ended, refreshment succeeded. In the course of the toasts, the W.M., in proposing "The Health of the I.P.M.," took the opportunity of presenting him, in the name of the lodge, with a magnificent P.M.'s jewel, and congratulated him upon the admirable way in which he had fulfilled the duties of his office during his year of service. Several entertaining songs were sung by Bro. Charles Sloman and other vocal brethren, and an evening passed in conviviality concluded in fraternal affection.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (No. 862).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held at 14, Bedford-row, on Monday, the 16th inst. Amongst the brethren present we observed Bro. T. J. Nix, W.M.; W. F. Smith, P.M. 177, as S.W.; H. A. Allman, as J.W.; J. G. Thompson, P.M., Treasurer; R. W. Little, P.M., Secretary; W. F. N. Quilty, J. Brett, and W. Hurstone, P.M.'s; L. Carle, I.G.; C. Walker, A. Frickehaus, &c. Visitor—Bro. Dodd, S.D. 1,194. After the confirmation of the minutes, Mr. C. Bergmann was initiated. Agreeably to notice of motion given, it was proposed, seconded, and unanimously resolved, that the future meetings of the lodge be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Several minor alterations in the by-laws consequent upon the contemplated removal were agreed to, and the brethren separated.

ROYAL ALBERT LODGE (No. 907).—This lodge met on Monday, the 16th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of Bro. W. H. Farnfield, W.M. for the current year, who was supported by his Wardens, Bros. C. Chard, S.W., and N. J. Lewis, J.W. The lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the last regular meeting read and confirmed, Bros. C. Howson and J. Leary were passed to Fellow Crafts; after which Bro. Sandall was raised to the third degree in Freemasonry. A ballot having been taken on behalf of Mr. S. H. P. Moore, which, resulting in his favour, that gentleman received the benefits of initiation. The attention of the lodge was then directed to the fact that it had been agreed upon to charge lodges meeting at Freemasons' Hall for the use of the rooms at a tariff considered too high by many of the brethren of the Royal Albert, and this, coupled with the fact that the banquets at the tavern have not always given satisfaction, a committee was appointed to consider and report whether it would be advantageous to remove. Business concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, and here, as is usual with No. 907, were seated many visitors, among whom were Bros. A. Bryant, W.M. 192; J. G. Marsh, P.M. 98; Farnell, 745; Strip, 749; Jenkins, 829; Thomas, 435; W. Bryant, 192; and, Allinson, 256. All the customary Masonic toasts received, a hearty response, and these having been interspersed with some excellent singing, the Tyler's toast brought a happy evening to its conclusion.

ELECTIC LODGE (No. 1,201).—This lodge, established as the first practical attempt to separate Freemasonry from taverns or houses of public entertainment in London, was consecrated on Monday, the 16th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, by Bro. Thomas Fenn, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers. (acting for the M.W.G. Master) in the most perfect and impressive manner; he was assisted by Bro. the Rev. W. J. Skilton, M.A., as Chaplain, who delivered a very beautiful and appropriate address on the nature and design of the institution. The musical arrangements were under the superintendence of Bro. John Lane, assisted by Bros.

Donald King, Wilkinson, and Robert Barnby. There were a number of distinguished visitors present, and the manner in which the ceremonies were conducted reflects the greatest credit and adds additional lustre to the highly distinguished brother who presided.

INSTRUCTION.

CONFIDENCE LODGE (No. 193).—A crowded meeting of the members of this lodge of instruction was held at the Sugar Loaf Tavern, St. Mary Axe, on Wednesday, the 11th inst., for the purpose of witnessing the ceremony of consecration, which was performed by Bro. R. W. Little, P.M. 975, assisted by Bros. Brett, Wrenn, Gottheil, Newton, and other eminent P.M.'s. In addition to the oration in the course of the ceremony, Bro. Little, after the concluding benediction, addressed the brethren at some length upon the nature and derivation of certain customs observed in consecrating Masonic lodges, and from which address we make the following extract:—"We have met to rehearse one of the most interesting and instructive ceremonies of Freemasonry, viz., the rite of consecration, and a few remarks, therefore, upon the origin of this and similar inaugural solemnities may not be inappropriate upon the present occasion. Many of the customs of our Fraternity may be traced to the mystic rites of the ancients, and notably to those of the Egyptians. The practice of circumambulating the altar or sacred place always formed a part of their religious ceremonies, and we learn from historical records that in Greece the priest and the people walked thrice in procession round the altar during the sacrifice, singing hymns in praise of their deities. The use of incense may clearly be traced to the Jewish priesthood on scriptural authority; and the dedication of our lodges to the service of the Most High is doubtless founded upon the solemn dedication of the Holy Temple by King Solomon. And when we reflect upon the sublime teachings of our Order, and remember that in the darkest ages it has ever been the chosen asylum of truth and virtue, we shall cease to wonder that its ceremonies are so deeply tinged with the spirit of rational devotion. In the select circles of the Masonic body, from remotest time, the grand doctrine of belief in a Supreme and Superintending Power has ever been impressively inculcated by a symbolism as pure as it is beautiful; and the hope of immortality has been fondly cherished as the bright inheritance of the human race, by our ancient brethren when mankind in general lay prostrate under the degrading sway of superstition and idolatry. We have great privileges as Freemasons, and we owe most of them to the heroic conduct of the faithful few who, amidst the fire of persecution, have ever shown that the principles of Freemasonry, when sown in congenial minds, render the spirit of man superior to the frowns of fortune, and even to the terrors of death itself. It is true that in this age of enlightenment, and more especially in this land of freedom, we have little to fear from the shafts of malice or the open raucour of persecution; but should the time of troubles ever return, I feel convinced that brethren as true and faithful as the men of old would still be found ready to uphold the truths of Freemasonry and to proclaim its principles as boldly in the storm as in the sunshine." Bro. Little concluded by expatiating upon the duties of Masons, and stated that the greatest care ought to be exercised in the admission of candidates into the Order: a course of caution which had the sanction and approval of every right-minded brother. The installation ceremony was then ably worked by Bro. Gottheil, who installed Bro. Berger as W.M. for the ensuing year. A cordial vote of thanks and the rank of an honorary member were awarded to Bro. Little, who was requested to perform the consecration ceremony again on the 15th January, 1868. The fifteen sections will be worked on the 1st proximo.

PROVINCIAL.

ESSEX.

COLCHESTER.—United Lodge (No. 697).—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting, in the George Hotel, on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at seven p.m. Present:—Bros. Sutherland, P.M., W.M. *pro tem.*, in the chair; C. Carnegie, I.P.M.; Wolverson, S.W.; Newman, J.W.; Palmer, S.D.; Ray, J.D.; Calthorpe, I.G.; Eustace, Conyard, Bigley, King, Shaw, Bix, and Tarleton. Visiting brethren:—Bros. Donnolly, 308 (E.C.), and J. Black, 56 (I.C.). The lodge was opened in due form in the first

degree, the summons convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A requisition to the W.M. was read, requesting him to place the name of Sergt. Webb, 18th Regiment, in the summons as a candidate for initiation. Sergt. Webb was proposed by Bro. Vann, and seconded by Bro. Calthorpe, I.G. A report from the Board of General Purposes, approving of Colour-Sergt. Crick, 16th Regt., and Sergt. Webb, 18th Regt., as candidates for initiation, was read and confirmed. A letter from the G. Sec. was read, directing that when an application was made for a Grand Lodge certificate for a brother joining from an Irish, Scotch, or foreign lodge, his Grand Lodge certificate should be forwarded for inspection. A ballot was then taken for Sergts. Crick and Webb as candidates for initiation, which proved unanimous in their favour in each case. Bro. Tarleton, Lieut. 16th Regt., was examined as to his proficiency in the first degree, which, proving satisfactory, he was entrusted, and retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Tarleton was passed to the degree of F.C. Bro. Sutherland being obliged to retire, the W.M.'s chair was taken by Bro. C. Carnegie, I.P.M., who put round the questions appertaining to the second degree for the information of Bro. Tarleton. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, when Sergts. Crick and Webb were separately admitted and regularly initiated by Bro. C. Carnegie, who also explained the working tools, and gave the usual charge. The questions appertaining to the first degree were answered by the brethren for the information of the newly-initiated. Bro. Donnolly, 308 (E.C.) was proposed as a joining member by Bro. King, seconded by Bro. Newman, J.W. Some further business having been transacted, the lodge was closed at ten p.m.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

INSTALLATION OF THE W.M. AND THE FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

St. Helen's Lodge of Loyalty (No. 897).

The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Assembly-room, Fleece Hotel, on Tuesday, the 10th inst., at two p.m. In consequence of the lamented illness of the W.M., Bro. James Morris, the chair of K.S. was occupied by Bro. Wignall, P.M., who was supported by Bros. W. Webster as S.W.; Peter Robinson, J.W., W.M. elect; Jos. Robinson, Hon. Sec.; W. Harrison, J.D.; John Knowles, P.M., Org.; W. Butler, I.G.; Edwin Bentley, W. C. Seddon, W. C. Marsh, P.M., P.Z.; Capt. Naylor, C. F. Clark, W. Leather, James Johnson, R. MacGill, Beasley, Fraser. Visitors:—Bros. James Hamer, P.M., Prov. G. Treas., Installing Master; John Bowes, P.M., Prov. G. Reg. Cumberland and Westmoreland; James Charnock, W.M. 441; James W. R. Fowler, 86; John Knight, Dr. Pennington, W. Woods, W. Savage, all of I.S.; Woods, Thos. Sephton, Tyler. The lodge was duly opened in the first degree, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bros. Marsh and Webster, P.M.'s, presented the W.M. elect; Peter Robinson, for the benefit of installation, to whom the summary of ancient charges, &c., were read by the Secretary, Bros. Joseph Robinson. The lodge being opened in the third degree, and all brethren below the degree of Installed Master having retired, a board of Installed Masters was opened by Bro. Hamer, assisted by the following P.M.'s, viz., Bros. John Bowes, as S.W.; W. C. Marsh, as J.W.; F. W. Wignall, John Knowles, W. Webster, Jas. Morris, and James Charnock, when the W.M. elect, was re-admitted and solemnly installed in the chair of K.S. The Board of Installed Masters having been closed, the M.M.'s, the F.C.'s, and the E.A.'s were successively admitted and saluted the W.M., who was proclaimed on each occasion. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. James Morris, P.M.; W. C. Seddon, S.W.; W. Harrison, J.W.; F. W. Wignall, Treas.; William Leather, Hon. Sec.; Beasley, S.J.; W. Butler, I.G.; Thomas Sephton, Tyler.

Bro. Hamer delivered the whole of the charges to the several officers in an impressive and correct manner.

At a convenient point in the ceremonies of the day Bro. Wignall, P.M., referred in a feeling manner to the illness of the I.P.M., Bro. Morris, and assured that brother he had the warmest sympathy of every member of the lodge in his affliction; a statement which afforded the afflicted brother evident pleasure.

The W.M. then commanded the J.W. to call the brethren off for refreshment.

THE BANQUET.

Which was served in the Assembly-room, at the Fleece Hotel, by Mrs. Taylor, widow of the late Bro. Taylor, in a sumptuous manner. It included the choicest delicacies of the season, and in every respect gave satisfaction, reflecting the greatest credit on her abilities and liberality as a caterer.

The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Peter Robinson, while the two Wardens, Bros. Seddon and Harrison occupied their constant places.

The cloth having been withdrawn and orders given and executed, the following toasts were drunk.

The W.M., on rising to propose "The Queen," said the loyalty of Masons was proverbial, and therefore no words of his were required to ensure for the toast a hearty reception. The Queen was a model in every relation of life. The toast was drunk with right loyal enthusiasm.

"National Anthem," led by Bro. Savage.

The W.M. next proposed the "Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," and said that they deserved their respect and esteem. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Bro. Savage led off "God bless the Prince of Wales."

The W.M. next proposed the "Army, Navy, and Volunteers," and in doing so reviewed the claims of each branch of the service to their gratitude.

Song—"The Sailor's welcome home from sea," by Bro. Woods.

Bro. Lieut. F. W. Wignall responded. He traced the history of the many brave deeds of both the Army and Navy. The Volunteers, he said, deserved recognition and merited all the kind words bestowed upon them by the W.M. They were the "home" defences, and as far as the 47th Lancashire was concerned he could most truthfully assert that they had in Colonel Gumble one of the best commanding officers in England.

The W. Master now rose to propose their chief Masonic ruler and his subordinates, "The Earl of Zetland, the M.W.G.M., Earl de Grey and Ripon, the R.W.D.G.M., and the Grand Lodge of England." He said he entertained the most unbounded respect for the heads of the Craft, for they were the best of men and Masons.

Drunk with all honours.

The W. Master said they now came nearer home, and he called upon all present to do honour to "The R.W. Prov. G. Master, Col. Sir T. G. F. Hesketh, M.P., the R.W.D. Prov. G. Master, Lord Stelmursdale, and the Prov. G. Lodge of West Lancashire." They had all had opportunities of judging of their fitness for the position they held, and, therefore, he need not detain them with any lengthened remarks to ensure the toast a fraternal welcome. He was glad that he had in his power to call upon an officer of the province to respond to this toast. Bro. Hamer had laid them under deep obligations in days gone by, and he had still further added to those obligations that day. If Bro. Hamer was not present he should have much to say about him, but as it was he would simply propose the toast, coupling with it the name of Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas. of the province.

Drunk with full honours, under the leadership of Bro. Bowes.

Bro. Hamer, who was received with long-continued cheers, responded. He expatiated at some length on the grand principles on which the Order was founded, and the reasons the Masons of West Lancashire had to be proud of their provincial rulers. He expressed himself highly gratified and complimented by the hearty and fraternal reception he always received from the St. Helen's brethren. He further thanked them for expressions of respect and esteem for the Provincial Grand Lodge, of which he had the honour to be a member.

Bro. Hamer asked permission to propose a toast not in the list. This being granted, he said they had a brother present who represented the adjoining province of Cumberland and Westmoreland. That province was presided over by a nobleman, Lord Kenlis, who was an honour to the Craft. Lord Kenlis was W.M. for the second time of a lodge in his province. He felt proud to say that he was present at his installation on the first occasion, and still more proud that he had now attained the honour he so richly merited. Bro. Bowes had held provincial office under his lordship's predecessor as Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., and had fulfilled his duties with credit to himself and advantage to the province. He begged to propose "The Health of the Right Hon. Lord Kenlis, the R.W. Prov. G.M., Major Whitwell, the R.W.D. Prov. G.M., and the Prov. G. Lodge of Cumberland

and Westmoreland," and coupled with the toast the name of Bro. John Bowes.

Drunk with full Masonic honours, directed by Bro. Hamer.

Bro. John Bowes, Prov. G. Reg. Cumberland and Westmoreland, said that, in responding to the toast so enthusiastically received, he felt unable to satisfactorily perform his duty, but he could assure them that they had only rendered justice to the noble brother whom he was proud to look up to as his Masonic chief. He, his deputy, and his other officers were each and all worthy of the greatest esteem and respect. Lord Kenlis was a "working" brother, and as such set a good example. He (Bro. Bowes) should never forget his lordship's speech at the magnificent banquet he gave on the occasion of his installation as Prov. G.M. in September last. It evidenced a thorough appreciation of the beauties and teachings of the Craft—it was the offering of a noble heart in behalf of a truly noble science. He believed that under such guidance Masonry would make rapid strides in the province under his rule. He should not fail to convey to his lordship the kind expressions they had manifested, and concluded by again thanking the brethren on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmoreland.

Bro. Bowes again rose to propose a toast—one which he was confident would meet with a hearty response. The very title of their lodge was a proof of their loyalty. He had known their W.M. some years, and a better man and Mason he was sure did not live. That he was popular among the brethren there could be no doubt, and he congratulated the lodge on having for their guide a brother of such warm sympathies and amiable disposition. He (Bro. Bowes) was sure the lodge would go on and prosper. He begged to propose "The Health of the W.M. of No. 897," and, in order to give their W. Bro. breathing time, he would call upon Bro. Woods, of Warrington, to sing "Simon the Cellarer."

The toast was drunk with fraternal and hearty goodwill.

The W. Master, on rising to respond, was received with great cheering. He expressed his gratitude to all present for the kind and hearty manner in which they had received the mention of his name. He felt that he was not worthy of the distinction they had bestowed upon him, but he would give them his best services, and he hoped thereby to maintain their good opinion.

The other toasts proposed were, "The P.M.'s, Wardens, and Officers of St. Helen's Lodge of Loyalty, No. 897," by the W.M., and responded to by Bro. Webster, P.M.; "The Visiting Brethren," proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Bro. Charnock, W.M. 418, and Dr. Pennington, of No. 148; "The Ladies," proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Capt. Naylor; and the Tyler's Toast.

It was an exceedingly pleasant meeting, and the brethren separated, after the lodge was closed, "sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge* (No. 471).—Wednesday last, the 11th inst., was the time fixed by the by-laws for the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, and although there had been current rumours of an opposition, yet we are happy to say the same proved untrue, and the new W.M. was elected unanimously. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The brethren proceeded to the election of the candidates named in circular. On the ballot being taken, all were admitted, viz., Messrs. Wm. Brown Smith, James Harrison, Ebenezer Proper, John Walters. The first three being in attendance they were duly initiated; the ceremony being most ably performed by the W.M., Bro. Bartholomew Thomas. The ballot again took place, when Bro. James S. Watkin was admitted as a subscribing member. The lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees, when Bro. Fornacon was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M.; he having been first examined in open lodge as to the progress he had made as a Fellow Craft Freemason. The lodge was then closed in the third degree, also in the second degree, when the W.M. reminded the brethren that the time had now arrived for them to elect his successor, and he paid a tribute of respect and gave his most hearty thanks especially to the P.M.'s and officers for their very kind attention during the past year. Bro. Hellyer, P.M., said he believed the only two candidates to be brought before the meeting were the S.W., Bro. Oliver, and the J.W., Bro. Parnall, for he thought he was enunciating the feelings of all, even excluding Bro. Parnall, when he said that Bro. Oliver's election should be unanimous.

Bro. Parnall, in a very kind address, told the brethren he had no intention whatever then to solicit their suffrages, but would do so, if spared, that day twelvemonths. The Secretary then read a list of members eligible for the chair, also the third by-law, and two scrutineers, Bros. Wells and Hellyer, having been appointed, the brethren proceeded to the election of a new W.M. After all had voted who wished to do so, the scrutineers reported to the W.M. that Bro. Oliver had been unanimously elected. And the W.M., amid loud cheers, declared Bro. Charles Henry Oliver as W.M. elect for the ensuing year. Bro. Oliver thanked the brethren for this mark of their confidence, and hoped when he laid down his collar and gavel in December, 1868, they would be as pure and unpolluted as when he received them. The brethren then proceeded to the election of a Treasurer, when it was proposed by the W.M., seconded by Bro. R. B. Evans, P.M., that Bro. Pickford be re-elected, which was carried unanimously. It was then proposed by the Secretary and seconded by Bro. Wells, P.M., that Bro. McFee be re-elected Tyler; this was also carried unanimously. The banquet was arranged to take place on the 27th, St. John's Day, at the King's Head Hotel, and all preliminaries were left to the W.M., P.M.'s, Treas., and Sec. Bros. Hellyer and Thomas, P.M.'s, were invited to perform the ceremony of installation, and those brethren immediately consented to do so. Two subscribing members were proposed, viz., Bros. Captain Stephen Williams and Captain Edgar Kidd, both of Newport, and after some other trifling matters were disposed of the lodge was duly closed in harmony at ten minutes past ten p.m. There were nearly eighty brethren present, and all went off as happy as a marriage bell. We congratulate the Silurian members on the great progress they are making, and would remind them and all other lodges, that "quality, not quantity," must be their motto.

NORTH WALES AND SHROPSHIRE.

LLANDUDNO.—*Lodge of St. Tudno* (No. 755).

The brethren of this lodge held their installation meeting at the New Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 9th inst. There were present Bros. William Bulkeley Hughes, J.P., Prov. G. Reg., the W.M.; John Preece, P. Prov. G.W., P.M.; Chapman, Dudley Watkins, Hunter, Warren, W. G. Roberts, Davies, Rev. John Morgan, Wm. Dew, F. J. Marsden, Wm. Griffiths, and Mellor, and a brother of an Irish lodge as a visitor.

The lodge having been duly opened in the first degree by the W.M., and the minutes of the previous lodge read and confirmed, the W.M., Bro. Wm. Bulkeley Hughes, addressed the lodge in a most feeling and impressive manner, and, after thanking the brethren for their uniform courtesy and attention to him as W.M. for the last two years, stated that before he finally left the chair he was anxious to place at the disposal of the lodge three Masonic chairs for the use of the W.M., the Senior and Junior Wardens, and expressed his anxious hope that they might prove not only convenient but ornamental in the New Masonic Hall, and that he hoped to be spared to see them frequently used by his successors and their Wardens, officers of the St. Tudno Lodge.

A burst of applause and most enthusiastic cheering followed the announcement of the W.M., and he resumed his seat with evident marks of deep emotion and feeling.

The chairs were executed from the designs of one of the most distinguished members of the lodge and of the Craft (Bro. J. C. Fourdrinier), and are exceedingly handsome carved dark oak with Utrecht velvet, back cushion and arm rests, the backs being supported by pillars admirably carved of the Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian orders, according to the relation of those orders to the respective presiding officers, and very elegant Masonic decorations similarly applicable to the office of each brother for whose use they are intended, being placed in a plateau at the back of each chair above the back cushions.

The lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees, and the ceremony of installation was most ably and impressively performed by Bro. Roden.

Bro. John Coles Fourdrinier, P. Prov. G.W., the W.M. elect, being duly placed in the chair and saluted with the accustomed honours, appointed the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year—namely, Bros. W. Bulkeley Hughes, I.P.M.; Henry Kneeshaw, S.W.; John Henn, J.W.; Rev. John Morgan, Chaplain; Roden, Secretary; Chapman, S.D.; Henry Platt, J.D.; Hunter, I.G.; Dudley Watkins, Organist; and Daines and Roberts, Stewards.

The Treasurer elect (Bro. Farrant) was prevented from attending by serious illness, and Bros. Kneeshaw, Henn, and Platt, by pressing business engagements.

At the conclusion of the last general address in the ceremony of installation, the new W.M. returned thanks to the brethren for the honour they had done him by this unanimous vote in his favour as W.M. of the lodge for the ensuing year, and addressed a few words to the lodge upon a matter of internal government and arrangements called for by a recent occurrence in the lodge, and then proceeded to say he proposed to submit for their approval certain resolutions respecting the late W.M., Bro. William Bulkeley Hughes, *M.P.* Bro. Fourdrinier touched upon the fact of Bro. Hughes having served the office of W.M. for two years in succession as furnishing a proof amongst many others of the high estimation in which that brother was held, and of his well-earned and acknowledged ability in the discharge of his duties as W.M. Bro. Fourdrinier then adverted to certain private matters which had occurred in the lodge during the last two years, and to the line of conduct pursued by Bro. Hughes on those occasions as having been of most vital importance to the lodge, and concluded (begging pardon of the brethren for taking a liberty with one word of our great poet, namely, "was" for "is") with the words—

"I am no orator as Brutus was,
But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man
Who loves my friend."

I wish I were an orator that I might be able to do greater justice to the occasion on which I now address you."

The W. Master then proposed that it be resolved that the best thanks of this lodge be given to our V.W. Bro. William Bulkeley Hughes, *M.P.*, Provincial Grand Registrar, the Immediate Past Master, for his constant attention and attendance in the discharge of his duties as Worshipful Master of this lodge during the last two eventful years, and for his most impressive and efficient discharge of the same. For his uniform kindness and urbanity towards each and every member of the lodge during the whole of his Mastership; and for his firm and dignified conduct in upholding the rights and maintaining the true principles of the Craft during recent most trying and anxious circumstances; for his costly and most handsome presents to this lodge, and for the exhibition at all times on his part during his entire membership with the Lodge of St. Tudno of a spirit of perfect independence and Masonic uprightness tempered at all times with those finer and gentler shades of character and heart which render him universally beloved and respected as well in as out of the Craft, and lastly for his great zeal and assiduity and exertions, exhibited in the erection of this splendid hall, in which we are now assembled, for which not only this lodge and the Craft at large of the province may well join with us in thanking him, but the town of Llandudno itself, seeing that the style of this Masonic hall has already given a powerful impulse towards the erection of a superior class of buildings in this town. Resolved—that the foregoing vote of thanks be entered in the minutes and a copy thereof be transmitted to our brother, the I.P.M., signed by the W.M., Wardens, and Secretary on behalf of the lodge. Resolved—that our Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes be requested kindly to accept from this lodge a Past Master's jewel, suitably inscribed, in token of the personal respect and esteem entertained towards him by each and every member of the lodge, and that the present officers and the Past Masters be constituted a committee to carry out this resolution, three to be a quorum.

Bro. Dr. Roden, in a feeling and eloquent address, seconded the resolution, which was ably supported by Bro. Swanborough, and carried unanimously and by acclamation, the cheering continuing for several minutes after Bro. Bulkeley Hughes had risen to respond. Silence being restored—

Bro. Bulkeley Hughes, who was deeply moved, returned his acknowledgements for the kind resolutions of the brethren, and expressed his fears that he was not worthy of such expressions of their kindness, though he admitted he had always had done and should continue through his life to do everything in his power to promote the interests, the welfare, and harmony of the lodge, and concluded a most impressive and eloquent address by alluding to the fact that his own nephew, Bro. Frederick John Marsden had journeyed from London expressly to support him and to take his second degree in the lodge that evening, affording a somewhat pregnant proof that the true Masonic fervour was one of their family characteristics, even

if he himself were less competent in his attainments and duties than he wished to be.

A ballot was then taken for Mr. Henry Daniel Gooch, of Beaver-grove, Bettws-y-Creed, as a candidate for initiation, who was unanimously elected, but was unable to be present. Two other gentlemen were also named as candidates. Bro. Marsden was then examined for the second degree, and acquitted himself satisfactorily, and retired to be prepared. The passing of Bro. Marsden then took place. The lateness of the hour and the exigencies of the railway trains preclude the consideration of many of the agenda, but it was understood that if the three gentlemen proposed for initiation could conveniently attend, a lodge of emergency would be held in anticipation of the next lodge and the W.M. undertook to take the three raisings which unavoidably stood over at the same lodge of emergency.

After the lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to the Queen's Hotel, where an elegant banquet was provided by Bro. W. G. Roberts, in his usual style of liberality and abundance, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, and a variety of songs given, the day was brought to a harmonious and happy conclusion by a collection for all poor and distressed Masons being made in accordance with the custom prevailing in St. Tudno Lodge from its very first inauguration down to the present time.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Fletcher Lodge* (No. 1,031).—The annual festival of this flourishing lodge was held at the Masonic-rooms, Birmingham, on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at five p.m., at which time there was a large attendance of members and the following visitors:—Bros. John Upton, P.M. 624, Prov. G.S.D.; R. Mayger, J.W. 624; John Stainton, O. 74; W. Genever, W.M. 794; John Hutton, I.G. 473; E. Pembroke W.M. 925; John Bragg, W.M. 739; J. R. Lee, P.M. 739; Rev. H. L. Elliott, P. Prov. G. Chap., S.W. 468; M. O. Suffield, P.M. 925; E. Worrall, P.M. 225; Alfred Hill, *M.D.*, 887; E. Thomas, W.M. 43; S. Fenn, P.M. 473; Joseph Banner, 1,016; John Zair, 390, Australia; J. A. Harris, 739; A. R. Gaul, S.W. 938; W. Glyndon, 74. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. G. J. Bland, and the minutes having been read and confirmed, the W.M. then vacated the chair which was taken by Bro. Thomas Partridge, P.M., Installing Master. Bro. Benjamin Parnell, W.M. elect, was then presented in the usual form and installed into the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom. At the conclusion of the ceremony the W.M. appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. T. D. Miller, S.W.; J. Garner, J.W.; Rev. W. B. Smith, Chap.; A. Simpson, Treas.; A. Rooke, Sec.; W. W. Rose, Assist. Sec.; E. Kent, S.D.; W. Hale, J.D.; T. Partridge, P.M., Dir. of Cers.; J. Bibbey, Assist. Dir. of Cers.; F. Cuissett, Org.; C. Cooper, I.G.; J. Kennedy, J. Stanley, B. Gray, and D. Owen, Stewards; J. Coates, Tyler. Bro. Wright, a candidate, for the degree of F.C. being absent, the report of the audit committee was read, which showed that the lodge was in a flourishing condition, having a surplus of £56 after paying expenses, and the sum of £38 for charitable purposes. One of the items included in the latter sum was ten guineas to purchase a life governorship of the Girls' School for Bro. Partridge, P.M. The lodge was closed by the W.M. and the brethren adjourned to refreshment and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to; the intervals between each were enlivened by the excellent singing of Bros. Gaul, Glydon, Zair, Davis, and Kennedy, who kindly volunteered their services for the occasion. Bro. Cuissett presided at the organ during the installation, and added greatly to the impressiveness of that ceremony. The brethren of this lodge have great cause for congratulation in having a brother appointed to the chair who is so well qualified to discharge its duties in every respect and who is a thorough Mason in the strict sense of the word, and as he is supported by an excellent staff of officers, there is no doubt that the Fletcher Lodge will maintain, if not raise the position it now holds in the province. The only drawback to the evening's enjoyment was the absence of two of the Stewards, who retired almost as soon as invested, at the time their services were most required.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Fletcher Chapter* (No. 1,031).—The quarterly meeting of this young and flourishing chapter was held at the Masonic Rooms, on the 4th inst., when there was a full attendance of members. The following visitors were also present:—Comps. Stillman, Fairfax, and Scofield, of Chapter 43; and Baldwin, 482. The usual preliminary matters of business.

having been gone through, Bros. Tibbitts and Truman were admitted and exalted to this sublime degree; Comp. Sproston, M.E.Z., performed the ceremony in his usual correct and impressive manner. In the absence of Comp. Bland, H., the duties of that chair were most ably and efficiently discharged by Comp. the Rev. W. B. Smith, the M.E.Z. elect of Chapter 74, also a member of this chapter. The M.E.Z. then presented to the chapter a handsomely-bound minute-book, with appropriate remarks. A candidate was proposed for exaltation, and the chapter was duly and solemnly closed, and the companions adjourned to refreshment. The ceremony of exaltation was rendered more impressive by the excellent performance of Comp. Baldwin on the organ.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

GLASGOW.—*Lodge Scotia* (No. 178).—The following are the office-bearers of this lodge for the ensuing year—viz., Bros. J. Singleton, R.W.M.; G. McLaren, D.M.; S. Spreul, S.M.; J. Spreul, J.W.; J. Constable, J.W.; J. McMillan, Chaplain; John McNeill, Bible-bearer; S. Scott, Secretary; R. Mooney, Treasurer; A. McCulloch and George Spreul, Deacons; Robert Gardiner and J. Young, Stewards; John Matheson, I.G.; and E. Hunter, Tyler.

GLASGOW.—*Lodge St. George* (No. 333).—At the annual meeting of this lodge, held on the 11th inst., the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year—viz., Bros. Robert Adam, R.W.M.; William Robertson, P.M.; Mitchell Allan, D.M.; George Cranston, S.M.; Andrew McIntyre, S.W.; M. McFarlan, J.W.; J. Clark, Treasurer; Thomas Stewart, Sec.; N. B. Dalveen, Chaplain; John McFarlan, S.D.; J. McMillan, J.D.; Robert Pollock, S.S.; Edgar Crosher, J.S.; J. Millar, S.B.; N. Ballie, Dir. of Cers.; J. McC. Crosher, V.G.S.; G. Hogarth, I.G.; and Hickson, Tyler.

RENFREWSHIRE (EAST).

BUSBY.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 458).—At the annual meeting of this lodge, held in Bro. Wilson's hall on the 6th inst., the following office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing year—viz., Bros. Alpine McGrigor, R.W.M.; Charles C. Wakefield, P.M.; George Hunter, D.M.; William Dick, S.M.; John Cranu, S.W.; Robert McAllister, J.W.; Rev. A. R. Storry, Chaplain; James Hart and John McLintock, Stewards; James Pollock and Alexander Wilson, Deacons; David Galbraith, Treasurer; Alexander Donaldson, Secretary; George Blair, I.G.; John Clason, Tyler; John Blair, Bible-bearer; Alexander McLean, Standard-bearer; and John Horne, Jeweller.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE TOWN.

JOPIA LODGE (No. 864, E.C.)—The brethren of this lodge lately held a meeting in the temple of the Goede Trouw, pursuant to custom, for the installation of the W.M. and other officers. The lodge was well attended by the leading members of the several neighbouring lodges, and, after the transaction of preliminary business, Bro. Wm. McLeod was installed as W.M.: Bros. Seligsohn, S.W.; A. Inglis, J.W.; F. H. Lean, S.D.; H. Hutchinson, J.D.; A. Dixon, I.G.; Kelly, Tyler; Le Roy, Dir. of Cers.; Maxwell, Preparator; Hutchinson and Alexander, Stewards; W. Fletcher, Org.; Ellis, Sec.; and Gardner, Treas. About fifty brethren were present at the banquet, which took place at Mr. Klisser's, Commercial Hotel, the newly-installed W.M. occupying the chair. After the cloth was removed, the chairman proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured. The proceedings were enlivened with vocal music, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Of the thirty-six Grand Masters who have presided over the Craft in England since the revival of Masonry in 1717, thirty have been noblemen, and three princes of the reigning family.

INDIA.

MADRAS.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

A special communication held at the Masonic Hall, Vepery, Madras, on Monday, the 19th August, 1867, at six o'clock, p.m. There were present, R.W. Bro. A. Macdonald-Ritchie, B.A., Dep. D.G.M., as D.G. Master; the W. Bros. W. M. Scharlieb, P.D.S.G.W., as Dep. D.G.M.; J. T. Greatorex, P.D.S.G.W., as D.G.S.W.; W. Fraser, C.E., D.G. Supt. of Works, as D.J.G.W.; J. Miller, D.G.R.; H. J. Brockman P.D.G.R.; C. Scott, D.G.S.; T. W. Wray, P.D.S.G.D. as D.S.G.D.; W. Joyes, D.G.S.B., as D.J.G.D.; H. Gardiner, D.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers., as D.G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Mills, D.G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; L. Miller, P.D.G.S.B.; C. Tate, D.G.O.; J. H. Walker, D.G. Purst.; W. F. Hooper, Dr. S. Jesudasan, and W. A. Goodchap, D.G. Stewards; W. Axelby, D.G. Tyler.

The following representatives of subordinate lodges attended—Perfect Unanimity (No. 150), Bros. J. H. Spring Branson, Sec., as S.W.; and R. F. Chisholm, C.E., D.C., as J.W. Universal Charity (No. 273), Bros. C. Bartoli, S.D., as S.W.; and H. Tate, J.D., as J.W. Bangalore (No. 1,043), Bros. J. J. Franklin, Sec., as S.W.; and T. E. Vincent, as J.W.

1. The District Grand Lodge was opened in form, and with solemn invocation of God's blessing.

2. The Deputy District Grand Master having resigned the gavel to Bro. Scharlieb, retired to a seat in the body of the hall, accompanied by the District Grand Director and District Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies, and Bro. Scharlieb having assumed the chair, addressed the brethren present in the following terms:—

Worshipful Brethren and Brethren—It has fallen to my happy lot, as senior officer present of this District Grand Lodge, to perform the important ceremony that constitutes the chief feature of this evening's communication; and it is a source of great pride and pleasure to me to know that the exercise of this privilege by me is in entire consonance with the wishes of the distinguished brother himself, who is now about to be installed as the new ruler of the Craft in this presidency.

Brethren, you all know how death has robbed us of the revered Master, friend, citizen, soldier, who for so long a period ruled over Freemasonry in this portion of Her Majesty's dominions; but as his worth has before this been appropriately mentioned and commemorated, it needs not that I do more than announce the fact that, death having caused a vacancy in our highest place, it has pleased the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England to nominate Bro. Macdonald-Ritchie to the exalted office of District Grand Master of this presidency.

Of the wisdom and fitness of this selection we are already fully assured. No sooner did the melancholy news reach us of the death of our late District Grand Master, than our eyes were unanimously turned to the distinguished brother, who was ever at his elbow in the interests of Freemasonry in this Presidency, as the man best fitted to succeed such a Master; and it is most gratifying to us to find that the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England has promptly, and without question, responded to our timely suggestion. That Bro. Macdonald-Ritchie had the very best claims, on Masonic grounds, independently of other striking qualifications, for the high station to which he has been called, will be at once apparent on glancing at his career in Masonry. From a memorandum which I hold in my hand, I find the following particulars. He was initiated in 1841 in the Scientific Lodge, at Cambridge, when probably he was an undergraduate in that University. In 1845, he joined Lodge Good Report, holding at Blackfriars, in the city of London, of which he became soon after Worshipful Master. In 1848, or nineteen years ago, Bro. Macdonald-Ritchie came to Madras, and joined Lodge Perfect Unanimity, of which he has been no less than five times Master; and he has been thrice First Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter attached to it. On the 18th February, 1850, he was appointed Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies by Bro. John Binny Key, then Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He was re-appointed to the same office in December of the same year by the same dignitary. On the 27th December, 1851, he was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden by Bro. Key. On the 21st December, 1852, he was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden by Bro. R. H. Williamson, then Provincial Grand Master. On the 6th July, 1853, he opened Provincial Grand Lodge as Provincial Senior Grand Warden. On the 10th November, 1858, he was appointed

Deputy Provincial Grand Master by the late Provincial Grand Master, Colonel William Pitt Macdonald. On the 10th April, 1865, he opened Grand Lodge as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master being then absent from the Presidency. On the 9th July, 1866, he was appointed to take charge of the district by the District Grand Master, in consequence of the latter's failing health. We all know that on the 6th February, 1867, Bro. Macdonald-Ritchie had the distinguished honour of assisting Lord Napier to lay the foundation stone of the Presidency College. On the 28th February, 1867, he opened District Grand Lodge as Deputy District Grand Master. And on the 25th March, 1867, he held special service in District Grand Lodge in memory of the late District Grand Master.

Of his social qualifications for the exalted office to which he has been so worthily appointed, we have had abundant opportunities of judging. In him we have found that sternness of rule has always been tempered with the courteousness of the polished gentleman; thus realising the true secret rule of Masonry viz., an unflinching adherence to the Constitutions, mingled with the affable bearing of a kind-hearted and well-bred gentleman. There is no doubt, brethren, that we shall have the fullest reason to congratulate ourselves that Bro. Macdonald-Ritchie has been appointed our District Grand Master. A scholar, a gentleman, and a Mason of rich and ripe experience, he is certain to administer the district successfully. He is never likely to be found asleep on his post; but, watchful and wary, he will infuse life and vigour into every transaction. And his talents, zeal, and activity, will maintain Masonry on such a footing in this district, that the Order cannot but flourish and prosper under his genial and benign sway, while the echo of its popularity and usefulness will be heard and felt throughout the presidency, and even beyond the limits of Southern India. Long, then, may Bro. Macdonald-Ritchie live and reign over us.

The District Grand Registrar was then requested to read aloud the subjoined Patent of Appointment from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, nominating Bro. A. Macdonald-Ritchie to the office of District Grand Master of the Presidency of Madras:—

(Signed) ZETLAND, Grand Master.

To all and every our Right Worshipful, Worshipful, and loving Brethren.

We, Thomas Dundas, Earl of Zetland, Baron Dundas, of Aske, in the county of York, &c., Grand Master of the most ancient and honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England, send greeting.

Know ye, that we of the great trust and confidence reposed in our right trusty and well-beloved brother, Arthur Macdonald-Ritchie, barrister-at-law, and registrar of the High Court of Madras, Esquire, do hereby constitute and appoint him District Grand Master of the Presidency of Madras, with full power and authority to make Masons, and constitute and regulate lodges, as occasions may require, subject nevertheless to our approval; and also to do and execute all and every such other acts and things appertaining to the said office, as usually have been or ought to be done and executed by other District Grand Masters, he, the said Arthur Macdonald-Ritchie taking special care that all and every the members of every lodge he shall constitute have been regularly made Masons, and that they and the members of all other lodges within his district do observe, perform, and keep, all and every the rules, orders, and regulations contained in the Book of Constitutions, except such as have been repealed or may be repealed at any quarterly communication or other grand meeting; together, also, with all such rules, orders, regulations, and instructions as shall from time to time be transmitted by us or by the Right Hon. George Frederick Samuel Earl de Grey and Earl of Ripon, of Studley Royal, our Deputy Grand Master, or by any of our successors Grand Masters or their Deputies for the time being; and we do will and require you, the said District Grand Master, to cause at least one general meeting or communication to be held in every year, and that you promote on these and on all other occasions whatever may be for the honour and advantage of Masonry and the benefit of the Grand Charity. And that you yearly send to us or our successors Grand Masters an account in writing of the proceedings therein, and also do forthwith transmit to us a particular statement of what lodges you constitute, and when and where holden, with a list of the several members of the said lodges, and copies of all such rules, orders, and regulations as shall be made for the good government of the same, with whatever else

you shall do by virtue of these presents. And that at the same time you remit to the Treasurer for the time being five guineas sterling for every lodge you shall constitute for the use of the Grand Lodge and other necessary purposes.

Given at London under our hand and seal of Masonry, this, 31st day of May, A.L. 5867, A.D. 1867.

By command of the M.W. Grand Master.

(Signed) DE GREY AND RIPON, D.G.M.
W. G. CLARKE, G. Sec.

(To be continued.)

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—There was a large muster of companions at the weekly meeting of this chapter on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, amongst whom we noticed Comps. Pendlebury, as Z.; Hosgood, H.; Dr. Woodman, J.; Little, P.Z., E.; Brett, P.Z., N.; Foulger, P.S.; T. A. Adams, P.Z.; S. Foxall, T. Foxall, Hamilton, Barnes, Loewenstark, Powell, Turner, Newton, Cayley, &c. The ceremony of exaltation was well worked by the officers, Comp. Powell being the candidate. Comp. Brett, assisted by the members present, then worked the three clauses of the first section, and we were pleased to observe that the companions generally evinced a degree of proficiency in answering the questions in the lecture rarely shown in Royal Arch Masonry. Comp. Cayley, of the Old Globe Chapter (No. 200), Scarbro', was elected a member, and the chapter was then closed.

SCOTLAND.

ALEXANDRIA.—*St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge* (No. 321).—The following is the result of the election of office-bearers for the lodge—viz., Bros. Walter Brown, R.W.M.; Peter Jardine, S.W.; Daniel Bruce, J.W.; James Shearer, Treasurer; William Graham, Secretary; James Katers, Chaplain; William Carlile, S.D.; D. McGregor, J.D.; G. S. Robb, S.S.; J. Stewart, J.S.; J. Forsyth, I.G.; D. Jardine, Tyler.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

GRAND CONCLAVE.

The half-yearly meeting of Grand Conclave was held on Friday, the 13th inst., at their own magnificent hall, No. 14, Bedford-row, when an unusually large attendance of Knights filled the hall, and produced an effect such as has never been witnessed in connection with the Order in this country.

We cannot, from pressure of general Masonic matters during the past two weeks, find room for a complete report of the proceedings of Grand Conclave, nor can we promise for the present to do more than give the following particulars of the business from the agenda paper, which was prepared for the meeting, and presented to each knight on entering the hall; and to add that the programme was adhered to:—

AGENDA PAPER.

Upon the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Sir Knt. Wm. Stuart, taking the throne.

The Grand Conclave will be opened in ample form.

The Grand Registrar will call the muster roll.

The Provincial Grand Commander for Suffolk will attend, and do homage on his appointment.

The Provincial Grand Commander for Cornwall will attend, and do homage on his appointment.

The Provincial Grand Commander for Cheshire will attend, and do homage on his appointment.

The minutes of the last Grand Conclave will then be read.

The report of the Committee will be read, as follows:—

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,—Your Committee, in accordance with the recognised usage, has the honour to report that, since the Grand Conclave assembled in May last, two new warrants have been signed by the Grand Master for the holding of encampments in England and Wales, viz., the Hyde, at Bridport, in Dorsetshire, and the Palestine, in

Swansea, in the county of Glamorgan; and one for holding encampments in the colonies, the Ceylon, in Colombo, in the island of Ceylon. On the other hand, five have become extinct, viz., the Holy Trinity, in Whitehaven; the Mount Carmel, of Middlesex; the Observance, in Madras; the Eastern Conclave of Redemption; and the King Baldwin, of Canada West; and four are in abeyance, viz., the Ascalon, of Birmingham; the Geoffrey de St. Aldemar, of Toronto; and the Jacques de Molai, and Plains of Rama, in Australia.

The Grand Master has been pleased to appoint Sir Knight Philips Prov. G. Commander for Suffolk.

Sir Knight Huyshe having been raised to the dignity of Deputy Grand Master at the Grand Conclave in May last (vice Sir Knight Colonel Vernon, resigned), suggested, on assuming that high office, that the provinces of Devon and Cornwall, heretofore united, should be severed, and recommended that the vacancy thus created should be supplied by Sir Knight Eliot, *M.P.* for Devonport.

The Grand Master has been graciously pleased to accede to the suggestion, and to appoint Sir Knight Lord Eliot Provincial Grand Commander for the Duchy of Cornwall.

The severe illness of Sir Knight Cruttenden has created a vacancy in the province of Cheshire.

Sir Knight Major George Cornwall Legh, *M.P.* for North Cheshire, has been selected by the Grand Master to supply the vacancy thus created.

The Grand Chancellor, in the execution of his office, proceeded to these provinces, and duly enthroned these distinguished members of the Order, and installed them into the offices for which their social position, zeal, and judgment so eminently fits them. They are present here to-day to perform homage for their provinces, and take the oath of fealty, as of ancient rite accustomed.

Your Committee cannot but congratulate the Order on the selection made by the Grand Master.

The elevation of Sir Knights Philips and Lord Eliot creates two vacancies in the Committee, the one is the gift of the Grand Master, the other elective by the Grand Conclave.

The vacant command of the united provinces of Stafford and Warwickshire is still, according to statute, provisionally in the hands of the Grand Chancellor.

The convention with Scotland has been concluded by the plenipotentiary appointed by the Grand Master in that behalf, who was, however, obliged to take a second journey to Edinburgh this autumn for that purpose. This convention has been ratified by the Grand Master, and, in obedience to his commands, is laid on the table of the Grand Conclave.

The Deputy Grand Master for Ireland, Dr. Townsend, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty in that kingdom, has been in communication with the Grand Chancellor with the view of effecting a similar object in that country. The negotiations are in progress with every prospect of a satisfactory issue. When this is effected the Order will, by combined action, be greatly increased in power and importance. The Grand Chancellor begs to represent that, for carrying out the convention with Scotland, and ultimately with Ireland, it will be indispensable to entrust the Committee with powers to make such changes in the existing laws and regulations not of a fundamental character, as may be necessary to that end. It will also be necessary for the sake as well of the regulation of the Grand Chancery, as for that of uniformity, that the Committee should approve of such forms forthwith. The Grand Chancellor, therefore, recommends that the Grand Conclave should entrust to the Committee such powers as may be necessary to accomplish these desirable objects, and to carry out the recommendation of sub-committees, where the powers of the Committee of Grand Conclave may be at present deemed insufficient.

In order to diminish in some degree the labour thrown on the Grand Chancery of the Order by its rapid extension, which would otherwise necessitate ere long addition to the Staff, your Committee recommends that the dues payable to Grand Conclave be collected in each province, except Middlesex, by the Provincial Grand Registrar of such province, who shall also distribute the forms and collect the returns which may be required at head-quarters from encampments within his province, and remit such dues in bulk, and such returns, when collected, to the Grand Chancery; and that power be given to the Committee to make such verbal alterations in the Statutes as shall be necessary to carry out the objects.

The Grand Treasurer's accounts show a balance in favour of the Order of £49 14s. 5d., exclusive of an exchequer bill for £100.

The Grand Almoner's Benevolent Fund amounts to £71 11s. 5d.

Your committee recommends that £5 be paid by the Grand Almoner to the widow of the late William George King, a serving brother, of the Mount Zion Encampment, Bombay; and £20 to Sir Knight George W., who has fallen into distress, and whose necessities are vouched by the Past Grand Treasurer, Sir Knight Tomkins.

The Grand Treasurer begs to call the attention of the Grand Conclave to the gradually decreasing balance of Grand Conclave, arising from revenue not keeping pace with the extension of the Order, and to recommend that means be taken to increase its income. Your committee is of opinion that the expenses of all solemn and indispensable ceremonies be borne by those in whose behalf they are especially performed. The committee thinks it urgently necessary to invite the attention of Grand Conclave to the state of the revenue, which has, from unforeseen circumstances been heavily trenched upon, first, by the loss of £100 paid to the Masonic Union Company, Limited, and secondly, by the acts which were referred to at the last Grand Conclave. It is sincerely to be hoped that such contingencies may not occur again; they have, however, reduced the reserve of the Grand Conclave by £200. The current expenses have also increased in a greater proportion than the revenue produced, which is barely sufficient for its requirements, even with the strictest economy.

In conclusion, the committee has to report favourably on the state of the Order, which now numbers 2,096, and strongly to impress on the Eminent Commanders of private encampments, the care and judgment they are bound to exercise in the admission of new members and to intimate a strong opinion that too much facility has been shown in some cases in this respect, and that some encampments do not appear to be fully alive to the importance of this Order.

By order of the Committee of Grand Conclave,
 † P. MAC C. DE CORQUHOUN,
 Grand Chancellor.

A motion to receive the report will be made.

Motions duly notified will be proposed.

The Grand Conclave will be closed in ample form.

A Priory of the Order of Malta will then be holden.

Those members who have kindly promised to assist the Grand Director of Ceremonies, are requested to comply promptly and accurately with their written instructions.

Those members who are about to be admitted into the Order will adjourn to the dining room, and enter names on the list by Sir Knight A. Brunton, who will officiate as the Guard in the priory.

Those members of the Grand Conclave who are not members of the Order of Malta will retire.

The rest of the knights will retain their stalls, and those who possess the mantle of the Order should wear it.

A priory of the Order of Malta will be opened by the Rev. John Huyshe, the Very High and Eminent Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Prior of the Order. Each officer, on his being called, will take his place in the priory.

Those knights whose names have been submitted and accepted will be admitted to the Order.

The priory being closed a Grand Priory of the Order of Malta will be opened in ample form by the Grand Master of the Order of Malta.

The report of the Committee will be read as follows:—

Report of the Committee of the Grand Prior of Malta.

The success which attended the Grand Priory of the Order of Malta, in May last, has induced your Committee to recommend you to direct summonses to issue for a Grand Priory this December, preceded as, on the last occasion, by a meeting of the Observance Priory for the reception of candidates, so as to afford those Templars an opportunity of taking this degree at head-quarters, and who have hitherto been prevented from doing so in the provinces from a deficiency in the number requisite to form a priory.

The Deputy Grand Master having again, and notwithstanding the severe illness from which he has but recently recovered, consented to preside in the Observance, the recommendation was adopted, and the result has been successful.

The present strength of the Order may be set down at 800, which is, however, rapidly increasing.

It has been impossible, in consequence of the neglect of many priories to make their returns, to state the number with greater exactness; indeed, so much laxity and neglect has occurred in this respect as almost to amount to contumacy, and if these returns be not completed, the dues paid, and other requirements of your committee complied with within a limited period, your Committee will, with much reluctance, feel it an imperative duty to recommend the suspension of such encampments and priories as may be in default.

Your Committee in conclusion cannot but congratulate you on the great advance that has been made in this very significant Order, and trust that the example set at head-quarters will be duly seconded in the provinces.

By order of the Committee of the Grand Priory.
 † P. Mac C. de COLQUIHOUN, Grand Chancellor.

A motion will be made to confirm the report.
 The Grand Priory will be closed in ample form.

By order,
 † M. H. SHUTTLEWORTH,
 Grand Vice-Chancellor.

After the business was concluded, and it was greatly prolonged beyond the usual time, about thirty of the members of Grand Conclave adjourned to the Inns of Court Hotel, where, under the presidency of the M.E. and S.G. Master, Sir Kut. W. Stuart, supported by all the principal officers, dinner was served. We regret we cannot say anything in favour of the dinner, the service, or the wines (their quality and price), so that "the least said" in respect of either "the soonest mended."

NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS AT TRURO.

GRAND DEMONSTRATION ON LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

The foundation stone of the proposed new public buildings, was laid on Tuesday, the 10th inst., amidst the greatest *clat*, at Truro, by the Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic body in Cornwall, R.W. Bro. Augustus Smith, of Scilly. The much respected Mayor of the borough, Mr. T. Solomon, has been working for some weeks past with the greatest assiduity and energy; he was particularly desirous that the day should be observed as a general holiday, and an announcement of his wish to that effect being circulated throughout the town was sufficient for nearly every tradesman, with scarcely a single exception, to resolve upon acceding to his request.

At eleven o'clock in the morning the brethren held a lodge meeting at the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master. It was opened in the first degree, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone. There were present, in addition to the Provincial Grand Master, Bros. H. Bale, Supt. of Works; Anderton, P.M. Phoenix Lodge, Truro; the Rev. Dr. Bannister, St. Day, Prov. G. Chap.; R. Rogers, P. Prov. G.M.; W. Tweedy, Prov. G. Treas.; Carlyon, Prov. G. Sec.; Mayne, Assist. G. Sec.; Jenkyn, Prov. S.G.W.; Solomon, Prov. S.W.; Dabb, Prov. J.W.; I. Latimer, Plymouth; Hawke, Prov. S.G.D.; Holloway, Prov. S.J.D.; Harvey, Prov. G. Purst.; Hancock, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; Vinnies, Prov. G. Reg.; Captain Webber and Bro. Christow, Grand Stewards.

Shortly after twelve o'clock, by which time several hundreds of people had assembled in the streets, but the greatest number in front of the Town Hall, the arrangements for the formation of the procession were completed, and after a short delay a grand procession was formed.

The Director of Ceremonies was Bro. Chigwin, assisted by Bro. Hughan, and these gentlemen, with commendable promptitude, very soon started the procession, which was of considerable length. As the procession left Boscawen-street it was followed by a large number of people. On entering the green the procession was

inverted, when the P. Prov. G.M., preceded by his Banner and Sword Bearers, made his way to the foundation-stone, which was surrounded by those brethren bearing the cornucopia, with corn, and the ewers containing wine and oil. Before commencing the ceremony,

The Prov. G. Master said: Mr. Mayor, Dr. Barham, Directors of the Public Rooms' Company, Trustees of Bishops' Library, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Inhabitants of Truro—We are met together here this day for a most interesting purpose; we are assembled here to lay the foundation stone of extensive buildings which have a three-fold character. We have, first, the central building, in which there will be large and spacious apartments for the purpose of recreation, for entertainments, and to give the inhabitants an opportunity of making themselves acquainted with the news of the day, and of gaining that information on all those matters which are connected with their trade and business. We have, then, at the western extremity of this edifice which is about to be raised, apartments to receive the munificent donation from the venerable prelate who presides over this diocese, and with regard to that most important donation let me just remark that it is most important for the clergy of any church to be highly learned men, for we know that in the dissemination of Christianity it was the apostles and the evangelists who were the most learned and the most efficient instruments for carrying out that work. In the third place, the eastern portion of the buildings had a peculiar interest for the brethren who have been entrusted with ceremonial of to-day. We are here about to erect that which was much required in this province—a Masonic hall, which in many parts of England is built with much credit to the Fraternity—a proof of the increase of its numbers and of the hold which the principles of Masonry has upon the community at large. I feel sure, Mr. Mayor, that these buildings will be an ornament and a credit to the borough of Truro. Before proceeding with the ceremony, our Provincial Grand Chaplain will invite you to introduce it by the song of praise and the humility of prayer.

A hymn having been sung by the choirs of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Churches, under the directorship of Mr. Hele, prayer was offered by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, after which the foundation stone was raised from the ground, whereupon several coins of the realm were placed on it by the Provincial Grand Master. After the bottle had been placed in the recess, the Provincial Grand Master, holding a small silver trowel in his right hand, said: With this trowel I will now spread the cement which is to make firm the foundation stone of these buildings, and I doubt not that it will be made as immovable as the principles of our Craft are calculated to draw together all sorts and conditions of men.

The stone was then lowered slowly into its position, the band of the Truro Volunteers playing solemnly during the time. The Provincial Grand Master proved that the stone was properly adjusted by a plumb rule, delivered to him by the Prov. J.G. Warden.

After some further formalities, the Provincial Grand Master handed to the builder the several implements for his use, and in presenting Mr. Manning, the clerk of the works, with the plans of the building, he said: I have a word or two to say as to your duties with respect to the Craftsmen. You will see that they lag not at their work, that they prove themselves by their skill to be worthy of their hire; and, further, take care that every Craftsman receives the wages that are his due. Your duties to the builders require that you should take care that there is no waste in the materials, and at the same time you will be careful to see that the walls rise true and perfect, and that the timbers are sound and of the proper scantling. Your duties to the architect are that these buildings shall rise in all the beauty of his designs; your duty to those at whose cost these buildings are raised is, that when they are called on to take possession they

may admire the apartments prepared for them, that they may say the work is well done, and that when other persons who may have any building intentions consult them, they may be able to say, "You cannot do better than go to Messrs. Habershon and Pite as designers; you cannot do better than employ Messrs. Clemens and Battershill as builders; and if you want a clerk of the works to superintend them, you cannot do better than engage the services of Mr. Manning.

After the R.W. the Prov. G. Master had declared the stone to have been properly laid, according to ancient custom, and donations had been placed on the stone for the entertainment of the workmen, Bro. Dr. Bannister, Prov. G. Chap., was called upon for the oration, which he delivered, as follow:—

"In accordance with ancient usage, we—humble as we may be individually, yet occupying the honourable position of representatives of, and successors to, Solomon, King of Israel, and of those who worked under him in the erection of the magnificent Temple of Jerusalem, 1,000 years before the Christian era—of those, too, who before those days laid the foundation of the stupendous pyramids of Egypt—of those, likewise, who planned and formed the simple but mysterious Druid circles of our own land—and also of those who, in later times, procured and superintended the erection of the glorious cathedrals of Christendom, temples dedicated to Jehovah, the Great Geometrician, the Grand Architect of the Universe, who in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, whose we are, and whom we serve—we, the Free and Accepted Masons of Cornwall, have now, in accordance with ancient usage, laid in the north-east corner of this building its foundation stone. That stone was properly squared; our highly-esteemed Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master has laid it perfectly level in its bed; it now stands firm, upright, and perpendicular on its base, an earnest of what every building when completed should be—"perfect in its parts, and honourable to the builders." The work has now been handed over to the operative mason; and we pray that the grace of God (by which alike princes reign, and the humblest artizans perform well their allotted tasks in life), may be given to all engaged in this undertaking, that they may be enabled to do their work honestly, faithfully, truly, in a workmanlike manner; that the blessing of God may attend them in their labour, and enable them to bring it to a happy completion; that this building may long serve for the convenience and benefit of the Craft and of the inhabitants of this ancient borough of Truro (a name found with little variation in the classic writings of Tacitus the historian); and that, as Truro may thus date far back into remote ages of antiquity, so she may, for generations and ages to come, continue to be, and become more and more, like the sun in the firmament, a centre of influence, literary and scientific, social and political, religious and moral in the county of Cornwall, the first, the last, and the best in England; and lastly, as part of the building is to be set apart for the reception of the library given by the munificence of the venerable bishop of the diocese for the benefit of the county, and as Cornwall once had its own bishops, or, according to ancient Cambrian writings, its own archbishops, before the metropolitan see of Canterbury was founded, so, if it be God's good will, we would pray that the blessing may speedily be restored, and that old Truro may become the seat of the Cornish see."

A special prayer was then offered by the Rev. Grand Chaplain, and the choir having sung the National Anthem, the ceremony was brought to a termination.

THE PUBLIC DINNER.

A public dinner was held at the Royal Hotel at four o'clock, and was largely attended both by members of the Freemason Fraternity and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. The chair was occupied by the Mayor of Truro, Mr. Thomas Solomon, supported on the right by Bros. Augustus Smith and Reginald Rogers, and the Rev. T. Phillpotts; and on the left by Dr. Baham, the Revs. R. Vautier, G. L. Church, S. Symonds, E. J. Luce, and Mr. P. P. Smith. The vice-chairman was Bro. F. Hearle Cock (town clerk), supported on his right by the Rev. G. H. Whittaker, master of the Truro Grammar School, and on the left by the town treasurer, Bro. E. Trewbody Carlyon. Among the company were:

Bros. Captain A. C. Willyams, Captain Parkyn, Lieut. Paul, Lieut. R. F. Mitchell, &c., Ensign Nix, Rev. W. Page (Baptist), Rev. Mr. Anthony (Independent), Stokes, W. H. Jenkins, G. A. Jenkin, M. P. Michell, W. Tweedy, Bale, H. Spry Leverton, Christoe, Heard, H. Andrews, T. Chirgwin, J. Hamilton, Hughan, Mayne, E. D. Ander-ton, C. Curnow, L. Holloway, R. Clarke, Dingey, Tregaskis, J. Hawkin, and S. Harvey; Messrs. J. Roberts, S. Pascoe, J. Reynolds, &c.

On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal toasts were duly drank, after which

The Chairman proposed "The Health of the Clergy and the Ministers of Religion," coupling with it the names of the Rev. R. Vautier, rector of Kenwyn, and the Rev. T. Anthony, Independent minister.

The Mayor next proposed, in flattering terms, the toast of "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," coupling with it the name of Capt. Parkyn, of the 11th D.C.R.V.

The Mayor next proposed the toast of the day—"Success to the Truro Public Rooms."

Mr. P. P. Smith acknowledged the toast in a brief, terse speech.

Mr. Roberts also returned thanks.

The Mayor next proposed "The Health of the Bishop of the Diocese."

The Rev. T. Phillpotts, whose name was coupled with the toast, expressed his gratification at the manner in which it had been received.

The Mayor then proposed "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall," associating with it the name of Bro. Augustus Smith.

Bro. Augustus Smith briefly acknowledged the compliment.

"The Health of the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge," was next given and enthusiastically received.

Other toasts of a complimentary character being drunk, the party broke up, an exceedingly pleasant evening having been spent.

METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, ETC., FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 28TH, 1867.

MONDAY, December 23rd.—Tower Hamlet Engineers Lodge, 902, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Joppa Chapter, 188, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.

TUESDAY, December 24th.—Moir Lodge, 92, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Industry Lodge, 186, Freemasons' Hall. Israel Lodge, 205, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Royal York Chapter of Perseverance, 7, Freemasons' Hall.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

E. G.—Can the minutes of a regular meeting be confirmed at any save a regular meeting? No.

No. 3,100.—A W.M. is elected at, say, the regular meeting in November, can the minutes be confirmed and he be installed before the regular meeting in December? No.

AUSTRALIAN FREEMASON.—No. 5 received with thanks. Send the previous numbers; our numbers will be forwarded.

T. J. SWAIN.—Your letter to hand with contents. Accept our thanks. We shall be very much obliged for the jottings kindly mentioned in your note, and will make a point of giving them insertion.

ROTHERHAM.—Publication of your inclosure deferred for the present. We, perhaps, may have something to add in our next issue.

C. T. EDWARDS (Mauritius).—We have not yet received your promised remittance.

J. D. NORDON (Cape of Good Hope).—Your account stands at £7 5s.; please remit.

T. OCKENDEN (Turk's Islands).—You have not kept your promise as to remittance.

STAR IN THE EAST (Cape of Good Hope).—We should be glad to receive our account last rendered.