

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1868.

### LE GRAND-ORIENT DE FRANCE.

The Cosmopolitanism of Freemasonry renders it desirable that members of the Craft should be made acquainted, as far as possible, with the progress and working of the Order in foreign countries. We have, therefore, thought that some remarks on the present position of Masonry in France would not be uninteresting to our readers.

There are in France two Great Masonic authorities; viz., "Le Grand-Orient de France, Suprême Conseil pour la France et les Possessions Françaises," and the "Suprême Conseil du Rite Ecossais Ancien et Accepté." Between these two powers there has been and still exists great contention. The Grand-Orient is, however, much more extensive than the Suprême Conseil, and it is, moreover, the recognised Masonic Body in the Grand Lodges of Great Britain. It is hoped that, ere many years are passed, the unsatisfactory rivalry between the associations we have named may be ended, and that the Grand-Orient may become the sole centre of the Masonic hierarchy in France. This is most devoutly to be desired by all true Craftsmen, for at present there exist many things which bring discredit on our Order, and which are utterly opposed to the spirit of brotherhood, which is the basis of all true Masonry. As a case in point we may mention the fact that when a number of persons in Jersey wished to form a French lodge and were refused a charter by the Grand-Orient, which properly referred them to the English lodges working in the island, those individuals applied to the Suprême Conseil, and had no difficulty in obtaining a charter from that body. It will be seen, therefore, that the Grand-Orient works in harmony with the Grand Lodge of England, whilst the Suprême Conseil preserves what our French brethren would denominate a separate and distinct "autonomy." The Grand-Orient consists of nearly 400 lodges, chapters, and consistories, whilst the Suprême Conseil has less than 100 lodges and chapters affiliated to it.

It is beyond our limits to go into the details of the history of the Grand-Orient, nor do we think that it would be profitable to our readers. It is undoubtedly the fact that Freemasonry has never yet had fair play in France; and, although Napoleon III. is himself a Mason, he has not

scrupled to interfere with his brethren in a manner which to English Masons will appear equally strange and perplexing. On the 9th of January, 1852, Prince Lucien Murat, son of King Joachim Murat of Naples, and cousin of the present French Emperor, was elected Grand Master by the "Assemblée Générale du Grand-Orient." At this time the brethren were in dread of a decree of suppression or suspension, and they thought by electing Prince Murat to conciliate the Emperor. Our brother Jonaust in his great work, the *Histoire du Grand-Orient de France*, which is now before us, says, quaintly enough, that the Masons sought "un protecteur par la nomination d'un Grand Master assez haut placé près du chef de l'Etat pour servir de garant à la Maçonnerie contre ses préventions." From 1852 to 1861 Prince Murat occupied the Grand Chair, but at the latter date he had to retire in consequence, it is believed, of the jealousy of the Emperor at the influence and favour which his cousin derived from his connexion with the Freemasons. In 1862, His Excellency Marshal Magnan was appointed Grand Master by Imperial decree, and remained in office until 1865, when the brethren were permitted to elect the present Grand Master, General Mellinet. To English brethren who are accustomed to regard their Masonic lodges as places where for a while they may cast aside all sectarianism and political contention, these proceedings will appear exceedingly curious. But probably our brother Napoleon III. has not forgotten that, in 1848, the Grand-Orient presented an address to the Provisional Government, in which, while admitting that they were not a political organization, they expressed their sympathies "pour le grand mouvement national et social" which the Revolution had inaugurated; reminding the "Citoyens Ministres" that "Les Francs-Maçons ont porté de tout temps sur leur bannière ces mots *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*," and assuring the Government that they admired "the courage with which you have accepted the grand and difficult mission to found upon a solid basis the liberty and the happiness of the people," and that "40,000 French Masons with one heart and one spirit promise you here their help to achieve happily the great work so gloriously commenced." The presentation of such an address by the Masonic body was, in our judgment, not only injudicious, but a positive violation of the universal canon of Masonic law, and we cannot but think that those who

sanctioned it must now feel that they thereby proved themselves false to their Order. It is not for us to write for or against republican, royal, or imperial principles; for, happily, Freemasons are, as a body, above political strife; and, if we number Napoleon III. and the King of Prussia amongst us, we can also point to Garibaldi and Victor Hugo as notable brethren. We trust that the experience of the past will in future teach our French brethren to consistently avoid politics. Probably the mistake of 1848 was the work of only a few restless spirits who, in the disorganized state of the Order, had obtained place and power to which they were not entitled. We believe the great body of French Masons are men of whom we may be proud, and in recent years they have conducted their affairs with remarkable discretion and ability. General Mellinet, the Grand Master, is considered an able man, and is generally liked. Although not much known in England, he is a Knight Commander of the Bath, and fought with great bravery in the Crimean and Italian wars.

The Conseil, or governing body, of the Grand-Orient is composed of 33 members, elected by the Assemblée Generale of the Order from among its members. A member of the Conseil must be at least 30 years old. The members are elected for three years by the majority of votes, and a certain number retire each year, being eligible for re-election. The Grand-Orient is composed as follows:—

1st. Of all the presidents or delegates of the affiliated lodges.

2nd. Of the Grand Masters.

3rd. Of the Council of the Order.

The Deputy Grand Masters and the Grand Officers are permitted to attend, but only *avec voix consultative*, unless they are otherwise qualified for seats in the Assemblée. Each *atelier*, or lodge, may, in default of its President, elect another delegate, but this must be done at a meeting specially convened for the purpose. The delegate must be above 30 years of age, and have belonged to the lodge which elects him for at least one year.

The Grand Master names to the Assemblée each year the following Grand Officers, who take rank accordingly:—

1st. Un Premier Surveillant.

2nd. Un Deuxième Surveillant.

3rd. Un Orateur.

4th. Un Secrétaire.

5th. Un Premier Experte.

6th. Un Deuxième Experte.

7th. Un Hospitalier.

8th and 9th. Deux Maitres des Cérémonies.

The *Surveillants* are, in point of fact, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens and the Experts are Senior and Junior Grand Deacons. The Orator is an officer who is unknown in English Masonry, and he is charged with the guardianship of the constitution and of the statutes and general laws of the Order. Any point of Masonic law which may arise in the debates of the Assemblée is referred to his judgment, and he is "authorised to give his conclusions without his reasons for the same" an exceedingly wise regulation, as it will be in the recollection of our readers that a celebrated English judge was thought a great legal authority until he was induced to explain the reasons which had led him to pass a curious opinion in a certain case, when the reasons were found to be so silly that his lordship was henceforth consigned to the paradise of fools. The offices of Secretary, Hospitalier, and Master of Ceremonies, sufficiently explain their own character.

The Freemasons of France are able, if they wish, to take the whole 33 degrees of Masonry, the Grand-Orient recognising them all, and being consequently less exclusive than the Grand Lodge of England. The three higher degrees are regulated by *Le Grand Collège des Rites*, which is composed of 33 Masons of the thirty-third degree, and including, *ex officio*, the Grand Master and two Deputy Grand Masters of the Grand-Orient. The Secretary-General of the Grand-Orient is also secretary to the Grand College of Rites. The following are the names of the officers of the Grand College, who are elected annually on St. Andrew's Day:—

1st. Sovereign Grand Commander.

2nd. First Lieutenant Grand Commander.

3rd. Second Lieutenant Grand Commander.

4th. Minister of State.

5th. Grand Chancellor and Secretary.

6th. Grand Hospitalier.

7th. Grand Keeper of the Seals and Stamps.

8th. Grand Master of Ceremonies.

9th. Grand Captain.

10th. Grand Standard Bearer.

The members of the Grand College of Rites do not, in virtue of their high position, hold any prerogative in the Assemblée of the Grand-Orient.

The thirty-three degrees of French Masonry are divided under the Scottish rite into seven classes: The first class is composed of *lodges*; the second, third, fourth, and fifth classes meet in *chapters*; the 6th class, and the 28th, 29th, and 30th degree are convoked in *councils*; the 31st degree is summoned as a *tribunal*; the 32nd degree sits as *consistory*; and the 33rd degree form the *Suprême Conseil*.

The thirty-three degrees are, in consequence of their facilities, much easier of attainment than in England, and the gradation of the degrees is precise and regular. At no distant date the attitude of the Grand Lodge of England with reference to this matter will have to be again considered, and without believing that the French system would necessarily work well with us, we think that some simple and effective means of regulating the higher degrees might be adopted.

#### THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

By ANTHONY ONEAL HAYE.

(Continued from page 204.)

#### BOOK II.—CHAPTER VI.—(contd.)

The Sub Marshal, Standard Bearer, Farrier (a most important character in the Middle Ages), Cook and Preceptor of the coast of Acre, were elected from the serving brethren. They were also often Preceptors of Houses, and placed over the various estates and farms as stewards. Acre being the seaport at which all the shipments of the Order to and from Europe took place, the Preceptory there was an office of toil, and required a person well acquainted with commercial business to manage it. It was thus unsuitable for a Knight, and, consequently, fell to the care of a serving brother of experience and eminence.

The Turcopilar commanded the light horse, and was under the direction of the Marshal. He was allowed four horses.

The Guardian of the Chapel had the care of the portable chapel, and the vessels of the Altar. In the field the Templars had always such a chapel. It was a round tent, and pitched in the centre of the Templars' encampment. The brethren surrounded it, for the double reason of protecting it carefully, and the more easily of attending divine service. In this chapel was carried the wood of the True Cross.

Retired from the world, says Michaud, the Templars had no other country but Jerusalem, no other family but that of Jesus Christ. Wealth, evils, and dangers, were all in common amongst them; one will, one spirit, directed all their actions and all their thoughts; all were united in one house, which appeared to be inhabited but by one man. They lived in great austerity, and the severer their discipline became, the stronger appeared the bonds by which it enchained their hearts and their wills. Arms formed their only decoration; precious stones were never seen upon their persons; and in their houses, for ornaments, abounded lances, bucklers, swords, and standards taken from the infidel. They feared neither the number nor the fury of their foes, proud to conquer, happy to die for Jesus Christ, believing victory or death proceeded direct from God. In spite of the weight of their armour, nothing could exceed the rapidity with which they passed to places the most distant. At the same time, they were to be found fighting in Egypt, on the Euphrates, and on the Orontes, and only left these, their customary theatres of victory, to threaten the principality of Damascus or some city of Arabia.

The battle-field was the delight of the Templars. To fly from the presence of a foe, however unequal the fight, was the height of dishonour: to abandon a friend, or to retire before an enemy, an action equally infamous in the sight of God and man. Thus the principle of honour took the place of discipline, and made them terrible in the sight of an enemy. In battle, their close ranks their lofty stature, their war horses covered with steel like themselves, overthrew and scattered like chaff before the wind the hordes of Saracens. In every part of Palestine they were to be found, recognising no law but victory, and asking only of their officers pre-eminent examples of valour. They did not wait for the approach of an enemy; they went forth to meet them without any attempt at concealment, and whatever might be the disparity in number, attacked and put to flight hosts, or fell, man by man, in the combat. They were the guardians of the Holy Cross, and on the march formed the vanguard of the army, while the Hospitallers formed the rear. In the field, the Templars formed the right wing, and the Hospitallers the left. At the call of the Marshal, the Templars mounted, and proceeded at a walk or small trot on their march, which, on account of the heat of Palestine, took place at night, the Standard

Bearer preceding them with a banner. At a halt, the Marshal selected a place for his own tent, and the chapel containing the Holy Cross. He then cried, "Pitch your tents, O, Brethren in the name of God!" The tents were pitched around the chapel, without the ropes. No brother was permitted to go beyond hearing of the war cry, or to visit anyone but the Hospitallers, if their tents were pitched near. The Prior of the province selected the camp ground, the Marshal assigned the different quarters and appointed the Knights Preceptors.

When the battle commenced, the Marshal unfurled the standard in the name of God, and appointed from five to ten Knights to surround and guard it. One of these he made a Knight Preceptor, whose duty it was to keep beside him with a banner furled on a spear, so that if the one borne by himself should be torn or destroyed, he might display it. If the Marshal should be wounded or slain, this Knight Preceptor bore the standard in his stead. No one was to lower a banner, or thrust with it, for fear of causing confusion. No brother was to go beyond the defence of the banner; but if he saw a Christian in imminent danger, he might hasten to his relief, but was to return to his place as speedily as possible. Should the Christians be defeated, the Templars were not to leave the field so long as the Beauseant flew, under the penalty of being expelled the Order; and should no Temple standard be seen, they were then to join the Hospitallers or some other Christian force. If no Christian banner appeared at all, they were then to retreat as best they could. The Templars, in the event of defeat, were either taken prisoner or slain, for they seldom condescended to retreat before the enemy, choosing to die rather than to suffer defeat. By the laws of the Order, no one taken prisoner could be ransomed for anything more valuable than a girdle, a knife, or some such trifle. Captivity was thus, in the case of a Templar, the certainty of death, and that generally of the cruellest description.

#### BOOK II.—CHAPTER VII.

The chapter-general of the Order was composed of all the dignitaries and the Knights who could attend, and the place of holding it was fixed by the Master. Every brother was permitted to be present as a spectator, but only the proper mem-

bers were allowed to speak. Laws and regulations were made or confirmed in the chapter-general, the great officers appointed, and the visitors to the provinces chosen. A chapter-general was seldom held, and during the intervals of meeting the powers of the Order were exercised by the Chapter of Jerusalem. This chapter was composed of the Master, the chief dignitaries, the provincial Priors, and such Knights as the Master might invite, along with his two assistants. This gave the Master great power in spite of the restrictions put upon his office, as he could, by inviting his friends, contrive to carry matters as he pleased. This chapter appointed the visitors. When chapters-general were held in Europe, the place of meeting was the Temple at Paris. To these chapters the Prior or Master of England was always summoned.

Each province had a general and ordinary chapter, and every preceptory and great house of the Order had the latter, which was presided over by the Preceptor. The business of the ordinary chapters was the reception of new brethren, and the making up of quarrels among the members, who, being soldiers, could not fail to have constant disputes. Every question was settled by the votes of the meeting.

Chapter lix., states that it was not compulsory that all the brothers should be called in every instance to the council, but those only whom the Master should know to be circumspect and fit to give advice. When, however, important matters were to be treated of, such as the granting of land of the fraternity, or when the thing debated affected the Order itself, or when a brother was to be received, then it was fit that the whole society should be called together, if such was the pleasure of the Grand Master. When the advice of the common chapter was heard, the Master was to do that which in the circumstances he considered the best and most useful.

The proceedings of an ordinary chapter were as follows:—

Each brother, as he entered the chapel, took off his cap, unless he was bald, and made the sign of the cross. When the members of the chapter were assembled, the Grand Master rose, saying, "Rise up, my beloved brethren, and beseech the Lord our God that His holy grace may be upon us this day." The Knights then repeated in secret the *Pater Noster*, and the chaplain said a prayer. Search was then made to see if any one not

belonging to the Order was present, and any one guilty of such an offence was very severely punished. The strictest secrecy was enjoined as to the time of the meeting and the transactions of the chapter. The Grand Master then delivered a discourse, exhorting the brethren to amendment of life, during which no one on any pretence was allowed to quit the chapel. If any one had any offences to confess, on this discourse being ended, he went up to the Master, and kneeling at his feet, confessed the same. He then retired out of sight and hearing of the chapter, and the opinion of the Knights was taken in regard to his fault and its punishment. Punishment immediately ensued, it being generally some blows from a scourge or girdle. The sick were not punished till after their recovery. Any Knight could impeach another, and while the impeachment was under consideration, both accuser and accused retired. If the impeachment was found valid, the impeacher received the thanks of the chapter; but if false, he was severely punished. A false accusation was often punished by death or expulsion from the Order. The discipline was severe in the extreme. For a light offence the Templar was withdrawn from the companionship of his fellows, and not permitted to eat at the same table with them; for graver offences, in addition to this, he was deprived of his lodging and compelled to sleep with the beasts in the open court. Adam de Valaincourt, who quitted the Order, struck by remorse, desired to return to it again; but before this was granted he was compelled to eat for a year with the dogs, to fast four days in the week on bread and water, and every Sunday to present himself naked in the church before the High Altar and receive chastisement from the hands of the officiating priest. But even sterner punishment was awarded in the case of Sir Walter le Bachelor, Grand Preceptor of Ireland, guilty of misconduct and disobedience to the Master. This Knight was confined eight weeks in the penitential cell, in the Temple, London, where finally he was starved to death, not having confessed his fault. He was buried at morning's dawn by two brethren, John de Stoke and Randolph de Barton, without the habit of the Order, and not in the cemetery of the brethren, because he was considered to be excommunicated. This was done in pursuance of a statute of the Templars, to the effect, that any one who should privily make away with the property of the Order, and did not confess his fault,

'should be considered as excommunicated.' The penitential cell, which is still to be seen in the Temple, London, is formed within the thick wall of the church. It is four feet six inches long, and two feet six inches wide, and so narrow and small that a grown person cannot lie down in it. Two small apertures afforded light and air to the captive, and one of these looked eastward towards the High Altar, so that the brother might have the consolation of religion. Brethren were confined here, that, by the chastisement of their bodies their souls might escape from the eternal prison of hell. Chapter lxviii. of the rule referred to punishment, care to be taken that no brother, powerful or weak, strong or feeble, desirous of exalting himself, becoming proud by degrees, or defending his own fault, should remain unchastened. If he showed a disposition to amend, a stricter system of correction was to be added; but if by godly admonition and earnest reasoning he would not be amended, but would go on more and more lifting himself up with pride, then he was to be cast out of the holy flock in obedience to the words of the apostle, "Take away evil from among you." "It is necessary," continues the rule, "that from the society of the faithful brethren the dying sheep be removed. But let the Master, who ought to hold the staff and rod in his hand, that is to say, the staff that he may support the infirmities of the weak, and the rod that he may, with the zeal of rectitude, strike down the vices of delinquents; let him study with the counsel of the patriarch, and with spiritual circumspection, to act, so that, as blessed Maximus sayeth, 'The sinner be not encouraged by easy lenity, nor hardened in his iniquity by immoderate severity.'"

After mass was sung, the Grand Master explained a further portion of the statutes, and exhorted all present to live suitably thereto. He then said, "Beloved brethren, we may now close our chapter, for praise be to God, all is well; and may God and our dear Lady grant that it may so continue, and goodness be every day increased. Beloved brethren, ye must know how it is with pardon in our chapter, and who has not part therein. Know then, that those have no part either in the pardon of our chapter, or in the other good works of the chapter, who live as they should not who depart from the righteousness of the Order, who do not acknowledge their offences and do penance in the mode prescribed by the Order, who treat the alms of the Order as their own pro-

perty, or in any other way contrary to law, and squander them in an unrighteous, scandalous, and foolish manner. But those who honestly acknowledge their faults, and conceal nothing out of shame or fear of the punishment of the Order, and are right sorry for their transgressions, have a large share in the forgiveness of our chapter and in the good works which take place in our Order. And to such, in virtue of my authority, I dispense forgiveness in the name of God and our dear Lady, in the names of the Apostles Peter and Paul, of our father the Pope, and of you all who have given me authority, and pray to God that, according to his mercy, He will for the merits of His mother, and of himself and all the saints, forgive you your sins as He forgave the famous Mary Magdalene. I on my own account, implore the forgiveness of those to whom I may have given offence or done injury unwittingly. I pray for peace to the Church, to the Holy Kingdom of Jerusalem, for the Order and all its houses and people, for the brethren and sisters of the Order, and for its living and dead benefactors. Finally, I pray for the repose of the souls of the dead, who wait for the mercy of God, especially for those near and dear to us, for the souls of our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, kinsmen, and kinswomen, and all those who lie buried in the Temple grounds." The Chaplain, if present, repeated the Confiteor, in which all joined, and pronounced absolution. If no Chaplain was present, each brother repeated a Pater and an Ave, and so the chapter ended.

When a Knight, either from old age or wounds received in battle, became incapable of entering actively into the duties of the Order, he retired to some chapter house, and there spent the remainder of his days. In councils, however, these old Knights were listened to with marked attention, their opinions being based upon experience and sound acquaintance with the rules of the Order; and they were ever treated with great respect, and are constantly mentioned in the records of the Templars as Prodomes, or good men. When a Templar died, he was dressed in his habit, his legs crossed, in imitation of the posture of our Lord when hanging on the Cross, placed in a wooden coffin, and buried. The burial took place at midnight, with the most solemn ceremonies.

Masses were after afterwards said for the repose of his soul, and his arms were given back to the marshal, while his clothes were placed at the disposal of the draper for distribution among the poor.

The rule of the Order minutely directs the manner in which the domestic affairs were to be conducted. (Chapter 8.) The Templars were to take their meals together in one common hall, or refectory, where, if their wants could not be made known by signs, they were quietly and privately to ask for what they wanted. If the thing required was not to be found, they were directed to seek it with all gentleness, and with submission and reverence to the board, in remembrance of the words of the apostle, "Eat thy bread in silence," and in emulation of the Psalmist, who says, "I have set a watch upon my mouth," that is, "I have communed with myself, that I may not offend with my tongue," that is, "I have guarded my mouth, that I may not speak evil. (Chapter 9.) Sacred reading was always to take place at dinner and supper, for "if we love the Lord, we ought anxiously to long for, and we ought to hear with most earnest attention his wholesome words and precepts. (Chapter 11.) Two and two were to eat together, that the one might have his eye upon the other.

(To be continued.)

## MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES

### LODGE BUSINESS.

Ought the ordinary business of a lodge to be conducted in the second and third degree, or only in the first?—††.

### ENGLISH FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTIANITY.

A correspondent, "R. W. B.," neighbourhood of York, desires that I should set down my notions of Freemasonry in relation to Christianity. Communications to the *Freemasons' Magazine*, abundantly show these notions. I subjoin a list of all the communications made on this subject exclusively, and of all the others in which anything occurs on the subject incidentally, and I have interspersed a few passages that may possibly save my correspondent the labour of a research, which the state of his health, I regret to learn, will hardly permit. List of communications:—"Religion of English Freemasonry." "The Religion of English Freemasonry is Christianity, with toleration in the lodge of all other religions which recognise a Supreme Being, the Great Architect of the Universe," vol. xiii., p. 349.—"The Lodge in English Freemasonry." "In our English Freemasonry I consider the Lodge essentially a Christian Temple," vol. xiv., p. 89.—"Christianity and English Freemasonry," *Ibid*, p. 391-427.—"A Motto for Modern English Freemasonry." "A Fitting Motto, in my judgment, is Christianity and Natural Religion," vol. xvii., p. 487.—See the same volume, p. 168, "Religion of the English Freemason." It is there stated, from the manuscript book in my collec-

tion, called "Freemasons' Table Talk," that "from the third century to the end of the seventeenth century the English Freemason was always a Christian."—See further in connection with this subject the following communications:—"True Freemasonry and Pure Christianity," "True Freemasonry is pure Christianity's not unworthy handmaid," vol. xv. p. 186.—"Christianity and Freemasonry," *Ibid*, p. 289.—"The Christian Missionary and the English Freemason," *Ibid*, page 309.—"The Christian and the Freemason," *Ibid*, page 330.—"Union of Freemasonry and Christianity," p. 348.—Γηρασικω αει πολλα διδασ κομενος, vol. xvii. p. 106.—"Be a Christian and be a Freemason," *Ibid*, p. 487.—C. P. COOPER.

## DIR. OF CERS.

Among the lodges where a P.M. is Dir. of Cers. is a centenarian lodge, the Burlington. Those who have seen W. Bro. W. Hutton perform his duties in lodge and at banquet can appreciate the advantages of such an appointment.—VISITOR.

## BIBLE IN THE ENGLISH LODGE.

A communication, made by me to the *Freemasons' Magazine* nearly two years ago, states my opinion upon the subject which a brother, who is a Theist, discusses in a very long letter. See the communication, entitled "Christianity and English Freemasonry," *Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. xiv., p. 391. My brother will there find these words. "The Bible will ever keep its place in the English lodge; the Sacred Volume will ever be seen there open before the Worshipful Master."—C. P. COOPER.

## SIR E. STRACHEY, BART.

Is not Sir E. Strachey, the archæological author, a Mason and Deputy Grand Master for Norfolk?—A READER.

## ENGLAND, AMERICA, SEMI-BARBAROUS, AND BARBAROUS NATIONS.

To "J. H. P.," neighbourhood of Shrewsbury. Dear brother, I say, be not too much discouraged by what you have seen in another country. Doubt not that Cristianity, with diminished theology, and with increased toleration, and therefore with increased charity—for toleration is but one kind of charity—and true Freemasonry, where from any unsearchable cause Christianity cannot act, the Freemasonry which announces the existence of the glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth, which announces his Providence, and which teaches that the good man will be rewarded and the bad man will be punished in another life—doubt not, I say, that these, Christianity and true Freemasonry, are the instruments by which England and America (another England) will in God's good time civilise the semi-barbarous and barbarous nations of our globe.—C. P. COOPER.

## SHEER SLUGGISHNESS.

I cannot admit a Lancashire brother's excuse. His lodge possesses a copy of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, and, as he will find, if he will take the trouble to examine the indexes, the seventeen volumes furnish ample information upon the point respecting which he lately inquired. His ignorance is discreditable. It is voluntary ignorance. It has its root in sheer sluggishness.—C. P. COOPER.

## BASTARDS.

Is there any Grand Lodge that holds bastards eligible for Freemasonry? or is the very Constitution of the Order opposed to their admission?—A P.M. OF AN ENGLISH LODGE.

## MASONS' SECRET SIGNS.

Masons' secret signs are not supposed to have been used in Germany until the year 1452.—From a bundle of Masonic memoranda in Bro. Purton Cooper's manuscript collection.

## FROGS.

Can our R.W. and learned Bro. C. P. Cooper tell us whether frogs are ever served at banquets in France. This will determine a dispute, and oblige  
AN INQUISITIVE BROTHER.

## OUR OLD LECTURES AND CHARGES.

Our old lectures were first published about 1720, and our old charges about 1723.—From one of Bro. Purton Cooper's Masonic Note-books.

## CENTENARIES.

I presume it must be rather a difficult matter to give an exact reply to the query of "X." on the above head in your issue of the 29th ult., for though it is a comparatively easy task to ascertain the particular lodges whose one hundredth anniversary of their foundation will fall due in the present year, it must be hard to tell collectively which of them purpose celebrating such an interesting epoch. Thus I glean from the "British, Irish, and Colonial Masonic Calendar" for this year, that in Scotland during 1868 three lodges arrive at their hundredth year, viz.:—St. Andrew's, 110, Aberdeen; St. John's, 111, Hawick; and St. John's, 112, Fisherrow, Musselburgh; whilst last year no less than six Scotch lodges reached the venerable age of a hundred.—BUTE.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

## H.R.H. PRINCE SKANDERBEG.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—We believe that as manufacturers and men of commercial habits, it can scarcely be expected that we should possess any precise and particular knowledge of the pedigrees, titles, political or personal pretensions, family histories, and other circumstances and matters connected with the lives of the persons who, being suitably authenticated to us by the introduction of eminent individuals of known rank and probity, have, in the character represented, thought fit to confer on us a share of their patronage; and we shall accordingly on the present occasion waive any attempt to lay before the readers of your magazine a history of the numerous insurrectionary movements which have taken place through a long course of years—in fact, ever since the accomplished independence of Greece—to subvert the Ottoman power in Albania, Epirus, Thessaly, Macedonia, and other portions of the north of Greece and the adjacent provinces. We profess to know

little beyond what is patent to the general reader of such intelligence; and, were it otherwise, we should certainly deem it no part of ours to discuss the subject of Prince Skanderbeg's well-known connection with those events. The public journals of Europe have amply discussed the subject, and long and eloquent letters in support of the patriotic party in Albania (whose head-quarters, established by the "Junta" or Provisional Government at Durazzo, were for some time the address of H.R.H.) have occasionally appeared from the distinguished pen of Dumas the elder. We may add, without wishing to draw on ourselves further discussion (into which it is impossible for us as mere men of business to enter) that H.R.H. claims the title of Prince of Croia, that he is, as we believe from good information, a native and *cittadina* of Venice; that, as legal heir and representative of the great King or Prince of Epirus in the 15th century (Scanderbeg), he aspires to the dangerous honour of freeing his country from the Mussulman yoke, and of relieving Christianity of the intolerable burden imposed upon nearly eleven millions of sufferers, as well as of introducing the blessings of civilisation in regions comparatively in a state of ignorance, barbarism, and wretchedness.

That the "Junta" of Durazzo have admitted him their President is, we believe, unquestionable; but we repeat that our engagements with the Prince are strictly confined to the appointment we hold, and that we are not in a position (were we inclined to enter further into the present discussion), to debate the question of his political or personal "antecedents" or "surroundings."

Apologising for the unpremeditated length of this communication,

We remain, yours fraternally,

A. D. LOEWENSTARK & SONS.

Devereux-court, Strand, W.C., March 16.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—The letter of a Mason is very complimentary in its terms to the firm of brethren who are medallists to H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg, and respectful to H.R.H. himself. It may thus be the means of doing good both to H.R.H. Prince Skanderbeg, by making him better known than he now appears to be, and laying before that illustrious person the desire of the Brother who wishes to approach his throne. The subject will, therefore, no doubt meet early attention. If the Brother is in want of charity, he may expect to be relieved by the Grand Almoner; if a favour to ask, to have a response from the Grand Secretary; if a demand to be paid, to receive it from the Grand Treasurer; or if an impostor, to be prosecuted by the Grand Attorney General of H.R.H.

Yours fraternally,

F. C.

#### PRIORITY OF THE LODGE OF GLASGOW ST. JOHN.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Your caution as to brevity in this controversy is very pertinent, and consequently, though I compliment Bro. Buchan on his

long and candid letter, I have not the least disposition to follow him through it.

My observations have been by no means written in an oracular style, they are the ordinary comments which anyone at all conversant with the subject would make, and the propriety of which Bro. Buchan has to a great extent admitted. He admits the translation is a forgery, and his account of the original as it stands suggests that it must be a forgery too, until the contrary be proved.

Even if I had your permission I cannot undertake to give Bro. Buchan minute informations on questions of historical evidence, and I can only ask him to get to work and read up before he undertakes to pronounce an authoritative opinion, and before he quotes to your readers the evidence of Bro. Miller, P.M., &c., in his book, p. 19, "There is no doubt of its being an authentic charter," &c. It is this vain reliance on authorities, who may be very good Masons, and very bad historians or archæologists, that brings us into difficulties and disrepute.

I can afford to wait for a competent examination of the parchment.

Yours fraternally,

R. Y.

#### M.W. BRO. ROBERT MORRIS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—W. Bro. Captain Stab, P.D.G.W., P.M. of the St. John's and Debran Lodge, writes to me from Smyrna, in Asia Minor, that my recommendation of M.W. Bro. Robert Morris had arrived in good time, and had been received with great satisfaction by the brethren in that E. "Bros. Morris and Thompson arrived here," writes he, "on the 25th Feb., and left on the 26th for Palestine. We gave them as good a reception as the short notice allowed. We assembled about thirty brethren of various nations, and were agreeably surprised with some of Bro. Morris's eloquence. He recited some of his poetic compositions on Masonry, and gave us the Gavel Song and the Rosicrucian, which were much admired." M.W. Bro. Morris was attended on board the steamer for Syria by several of the members.

Yours fraternally,

HYDE CLARKE, P.D.G.M. Turkey.

32, St. George's-square, S.W., March 11.

#### THE TENDENCY OF SOME CORRESPONDENCE.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Our excellent brother, Anthony Oneal Haye, makes two mistakes, and supplements them with an injustice. I do not want to know "the tendency of some (late?) correspondence," nor am I insensible to the value of antiquarian researches.

I repeat—and I do so with emphatic earnestness—that the tendency of some of the recent correspondence in the *Magazine* is to produce scepticism among "the million," a result I am sure the writers never contemplated. *Verbum sap.*

Yours fraternally,

A LOVER OF THE CRAFT.



FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTIANITY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—“Bro. H. B. White gravely enunciates the startling doctrine that Freemasonry is Christianity.” No, Bro. Oneal Hays, I do not. I have never sought to identify a human institution with Divine revelation. I have stated, and now repeat my belief, that Freemasonry is founded on Christianity, and that no man can be a true Mason (and here “A Chaplain” in a recent number of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, correctly interprets my meaning) unless he is a Christian. And what has Bro. Oneal Hays to say to the contrary? Surely the fact that of late years men holding other faiths have been initiated into our Order is no argument against my proposition. In what country was Freemasonry originated? Can Bro. Oneal Hays find any existing lodge that does not owe its existence to a parent or Grand Lodge in some Christian country? Does he deny that before the Union in 1813 the two St. Johns were the patrons and parallels of ancient Masonry? If not, have Jews, Musselmen, Hindoos, Chinese any St. Johns? We place a volume on the Master's pedestal in our lodges. What book is it? We draw the attention of candidates to it, and charge them to esteem it as the “unerring standard of truth and justice.” Would Bro. Oneal Hays initiate a Mahometan, and in so doing substitute the Koran for the Bible, and declare it to be the “unerring standard of truth?” Is Jesus Christ the Great Architect and Grand Geometrician of the Universe? Is Christianity truth? Is truth a leading principle of Freemasonry? When Bro. Oneal Hays has considered these questions, if he is still of opinion that Freemasonry is not founded on Christianity, I shall be glad to have his reply to his own question, “What is Freemasonry?”

Yours fraternally,  
H. B. WHITE.

MASONIC CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS FOR SCOTLAND.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I observe with great pleasure in your leading article of last week, referring to the doings of St. David's Lodge, Dundee, that attention is given to that most important point of our Order—“Charity”—and justly awarding praise to our English brethren for having so handsomely taken that mote out of their eyes. I would humbly follow in the channel of the writer's views, and suggest that in many of our Scottish towns systems of Masonic benevolence might easily be put into operation, and would instance Dundee itself as one most favourably disposed for such objects.

It has—what would be wise in other such communities to follow,—its board of Masters and Wardens, with a conceded power of levying an annual assessment on the lodges within the bounds. In Dundee the system of managing “Bursaries” at the ordinary day schools is also so well understood that, with the judicious disposal of part of the Masters and Wardens revenue, several boys might receive a good ordinary education, at an ordinary school, without any but the

schoolmaster and the parent or parents knowing how the fees were paid. This idea will at once commend itself to our Scotch readers as preferable to any open “hospital” scheme (at all events in so far as the child has a home) affording the educational fees in conjunction with the family training. I hope the brethren of that good town will think of the lucky position they are placed in, and, if possible, make a commencement in the way I have here indicated, and by-and-bye, when Scotland gets wealthier, and Masons are able to pay a moderate annual payment to their lodges, we may then hear of more extended systems of educating those who are unfortunately in poor and necessitous circumstances.

A corner in your valuable magazine for this will much oblige

Yours fraternally,  
P. M.

PRIORITY OF LODGES.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—When Bro. Buchan wrote his last letter he had not seen mine. I hold to my first letter.

Yours fraternally,  
ANTHONY ONEAL HAYS.

THE NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Let me by the means of a journal devoted to Masonry, and therefore to the cause of benevolence, call the attention of such of my brethren as are journalists, and particularly in the provinces, to that valuable institution, the Newspaper Press Fund. In one sense the number of members is large, for some years ago two hundred would be called a large muster roll; but it is small in comparison with the present state of this important profession, which now reckons in its lists the Premier of the country, who has designated his title as “a gentleman of the press.”

The annual subscription is one guinea, the life subscription ten guineas, and the invested funds already amount to four thousand pounds. The calls of distress among members and their families requiring assistance have already tested the value of the institution, and have received liberal relief.

It is, however, as a bond of union among journalists, as an enrolment of the profession, and as an assertion of its dignity, that the Newspaper Press Fund renders direct benefits to every member, and to the profession at large.

Yours fraternally,  
A LIFE MEMBER.

[It is with pleasure we respond to the request of our correspondent by inserting the above letter, in the hope that such of our readers as can aid in the good cause will do so; and as there are many amongst our subscribers and contributors who may now for the first time become aware of the existence of a fund for so excellent a purpose, we trust the appeal made by “A Life Member” will not be made in vain.—Ed. F. M.]

## MASONIC IMPOSTORS.

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

Dear and Brother,—When I wrote you last on the subject of impostors, I little thought then that I should so soon be tried with a man who has the appearance of an impostor, for on Saturday, the 22nd ult., a man who stands about 5ft. 10in., has light hair and moustache, no beard, clean shaved, roughly dressed, dark scarf, with a Masonic pin, carries a thick walking stick with a white handle, came to my apartments and asked if I lived there, and I just coming to the door, answered "Yes." He said, "You are a Mason; I want you to give me a few names of your principal members, with their residences, for I am an oculist, one that cures corns, bunions, and other bad things on the feet (or some such like words, for he speaks very bad English), and I want some little assistance if I can get it." Indeed, said I, I cannot do any such thing without authority, therefore I decline. "Oh," said he, "I have been to your W.M., Bro. Slack, and he has given me a few names, yours included, and he sent me down to you to get some more."

I asked him if he was a Mason, and where he came from. "Yes," he replied, "I am a Mason, and I come from the St. James's Lodge, Edinbro.'" So with that, thinking the W.M. had tried him and that he was all right, I asked him into the house, and left him with the Mrs. and a friend whilst I went to an upper chamber to write out several names, and when I gave them to him I requested that he would sign his name on a paper I presented to his notice, he then wrote "Charles Kellett." I also asked him to write the name and number of his lodge, to which he refused in very strong and abusive language; he asked me did I think he was an impostor or a swindler. No, he would see me — first, and would not have his name made public. Nether would I (at the same time placing my hand on the list of names that I gave him), allow my brethren's names to be made a tool of by such a man as Mr. Kellett. He then raised his stick as if to strike, but perhaps a second thought saved me from its falling weight, and as he was retiring, I told him that our lodge met on Tuesday, the 25th inst., and if he would favour us with a call he would obtain all that he desired—and I thought, perhaps more than he would like. Well, sir, when I got in the house again, I learned that while I was absent he had been exposing a packet of recipes, showing the best method to make soap, &c., which was 4s., but the Mrs. could have one at 2s.; and that he had come from New York, U.S., and wished to go to Australia, that is, if he could raise the means.

Now, sir, it looks very strange on my part to advise a brother to take the beggar's carte de visite, when I on this occasion fail to do the same myself, and why? —Because Mr. Kellett having been to the W.M. (which I afterwards proved), and got a list of names from him; I then thought that the fellow was all right, but the mean fellow bolted as soon as he could, not giving me much chance to get his photograph taken. I send you this information to save others from being imposed on, and if you think it worth putting in the *Magazine*, you are quite welcome.

Yours fraternally,  
A. WOODHOUSE.

## HEBREW CEREMONIES.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I beg leave to hand you the following paragraph, which I find in the *Jewish Chronicle* of December last, abridged from the Californian *Evening Bulletin* of September 16th; and as every article relative to Freemasonry must be interesting to the readers of your valuable paper, perhaps you will find a nook for it.—Yours fraternally,

THOMAS M. CAMPBELL.

"During a portion of last week special invitations were circulated among the friends of Henry Danzyger, to distinguished military and civic personages, and to the representatives of the press, to attend the synagogue Ohabai Shalom and witness the ceremony of circumcising his three infant sons, products of one birth.

"The hour for the performance of the ancient and solemn rite was fixed at half-past eleven a.m. yesterday. Before the hour appointed arrived there was a large throng of people in waiting about the doors of the synagogue, but none were allowed to enter who did not present the cards of invitation. At an early hour the building was crowded to excess, and a large number of ladies occupied the galleries. General McDowell and Hon. John Conness were present, as was also Governor Henry H. Haight, but he was obliged by another engagement to leave before the ceremony was finished. The various Jewish religious and benevolent associations were fully represented. Surrounding these persons were tables on which were placed goblets and medals of beautiful design, gifts to the triplets, glasses of choice wine, &c.

"At about the hour of noon Mr. Galland advanced to the altar and exclaimed in the Hebrew tongue, 'Barach Habo,' which translated signifies 'Blessed be the comer.' Upon this the doors of the synagogue were opened, and three ladies, wives of presidents of Hebrew churches, bearing each one of the babes, came down the aisle and delivered them at the altar to the godfathers selected for the ceremony. The infants were arrayed in elegantly-ornamented dresses and caps. They were named respectively Abraham Lincoln Danziger, Isaac Andrew Johnson Danziger, and Jacob John Conness Danziger. Major-General Irwin McDowell held Abraham in his arms, Mr. Wasserman, for Mr. Haight, held Andrew Johnson, and Hon. John Conness supported John Conness in his arms. A few preliminaries were had, and then the appointed surgeons performed the ceremony of circumcision. While it was in process each rabbi christened each babe as he held it in his arms and placed a medal of gold about its neck. The infants were then handed to their nurses in attendance at the side of the altar. The medals were of solid gold, and were inscribed as follows:—1st. On the one side Pillar of Strength, with inscription (name of child, Abraham Lincoln), and on the reverse, 'Abraham offering up his son.' 2nd. Same design (name of child, Isaac Andrew Johnson), and on the reverse, 'Isaac's blessing to Jacob.' 3rd. Same design (name of child, Jacob John Conness), and on the reverse, Jacob sleeping, and the angels ascending and descending the ladder. These gold medals were presented by Progress Lodge, No. 125, F. and A. M., through their Secretary, Louis Kaplam, Esq. Their value is at least 150 dols."

## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

### MASONIC MEMS.

**GASGOW.—THE FUNERAL OF BRO. SHERIFF STRATHERN.**—In the list given in our last issue of the deputations from daughter lodges of the Glasgow province present at the funeral of Bro. Strathern, we accidentally omitted the deputation from the Thistle Lodge (No. 87), the members of which turned out in very respectable numbers.

**OXFORDSHIRE.**—The annual Provincial Grand Lodge and festival is appointed by Bro. Colonel Bowyer, Prov. G. Master, to be held on Monday, May the 25th, at Chipping Norton, under the charge of the Bowyer Lodge (No. 1,036):

The annual festival of the Cœur de Lion Encampment of Knights Templar will be held at the Masonic Hall, Oxford, on May the 18th. The E.C. is the Rev. W. F. Short, G. Provost; and the E.C. elect, the Rev. C. W. Spencer Stanhope, of Merton College.

**KENDAL CASTLE CHAPTER (No. 129).**—The annual convocation of this chapter will be held on Friday, the 27th day of March, at four o'clock in the afternoon, prompt time.

### ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

In consequence of the great pressure on our space last week, and the length to which the report of the festival for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys extended, we were compelled to omit a portion of the report, which will be found below.

Bro. BINCKES, Secretary, said that they had then arrived at that portion of the evening when it became his pleasant duty, on behalf of the committee of the Institution, to present three boys who had won certain prizes during the year. He did not mean to say that they comprised all the prizes which were to be given, but these three prizes were awarded and were appointed to be presented at that meeting. The educational ability displayed by the successful candidate they first considered, and he then had the honour to present Harry William Wildman, who obtained the highest middle-class honour at the Oxford middle-class examination in June last. His age was thirteen years and a half, and he obtained the forty-fifth position out of six hundred candidates then presented. In point of age he was fourth on the list, and he was therefore entitled to the reward of five guineas, the gift of Bro. Winn, P.M. of the Canonbury Lodge, to the boy who should stand highest for the honours at the Oxford middle-class examination.

THE CHAIRMAN (addressing Master Wildman) said: In presenting you with this prize I wish to say that this is but a small souvenir as to your merit, and you are not to look upon it as merely representing its value in specie, but I trust that you will look at it as your first step in a prosperous career. You have done credit, not only to yourself, but to the Institution, and credit to the Order to which your father belonged, and I trust, by God's blessing, that you will be an honour to your country and those to whom you are indebted for your education. I wish you God speed in your future career, and I trust it may be as prosperous as it promises to be.

Bro. BINCKES said the next boy entitled to a reward, and whom he then presented, was Frank Herbert Read, who had attained

that age at which, under ordinary circumstances, he would have left the Institution, but by a decision of the committee, his period had been extended and his services secured. He was entitled to the silver medal for good conduct, and was awarded to the boy who, in the opinion of the master and the schoolfellows, had earned it.

THE CHAIRMAN (to Master Read) said: In presenting you with this medal, which you have earned by your good conduct, may I be allowed to say, without impugning anything that has been said of the young gentleman before me, that although a man may not be born a gentleman, yet all may become good citizens of the world merely by the force of good conduct. It requires great talent to conduct yourselves properly, and it is not so easily acquired as some may suppose. I hope that you will continue your career as you have begun, and that you will be an honour to yourself, and to the Institution that educated you.

Bro. BINCKES said, that having disposed of those who had shown great educational ability and good conduct, although all could not be entitled to those prizes, there were other things which might render them popular with all with whom they might come in contact. He therefore presented Henry Charles Chase, who was entitled to receive the Canonbury gold medal, the gift of Bro. Edward Cox, P.M. of the Canonbury Lodge, who had been elected to receive it by the unbiassed vote of his schoolfellows.

THE CHAIRMAN: Master Chase, I can scarcely consider your position as inferior to that of the two young gentlemen who have preceded you. It has been said that, "the child is father to the man," and, believe me, this is no slight testimony to the general good conduct and ability of the boy when he is selected by the unbiassed votes of his schoolfellows, to stand in the position in which you stand here to-day. That you have attained great popularity amongst them is evident, and you are a great favourite amongst them. In placing this medal round neck, I trust that your future career will prove as prosperous as the present.

THE CHAIRMAN said: It now becomes my duty to propose to you the toast of the evening; I do so with great diffidence in one respect, because I greatly regret it has not been entrusted to abler hands than mine; while, on the other hand, I have great confidence in the subject on which I shall address you, and on which I rest the toast, because to us, as Masons, it commends itself to us, when I begin to explain it. The toast I have to propose is "Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys." You have seen before you just now, three young gentlemen who have been brought from the School to receive rewards from the brethren, and I hope at some future time they may become members of the Craft. In former years it was customary to bring the whole school before the meeting here, in a kind of parade, which has been omitted on this occasion, and as far my own feelings are concerned I think it has rightly been omitted. Charity amongst Masons is a very different thing than when the word is used in the ordinary acceptance of the term. We are all Masons here in the room, with the bright exception I see up there (looking at the ladies in the gallery), and all of us who are in this sublunary sphere must recollect the obligation of our initiation, which was to promote charity and help a brother when he is in distress. If that obligation applied to a brother it also applied to his children, and while I hold we ought to relieve a brother when he is in distress, I think we are equally bound to relieve his children if we are able to do so. I think, however, that it was derogatory to us, as Masons, and derogatory to the boys themselves, for them to be brought there for exhibition, and I am

glad that the practice has been done away with, and I hope it will never be renewed. This Institution was founded in 1798, and I believe that the Institution now contains 103 boys. Before 1863 it was really not established in a building sufficient for the requirements of those children whose parents had become unfortunate in their circumstances, or from losses in business over which he had no control, and which it was impossible for him to prevent. In such cases his children became more or less dependent upon others. I will not use the word "charity" again if I can help it, but this Institution was founded to meet such cases, and I cannot think it has been unsuccessful, as I shall show from facts. Since the Institution was founded in 1798, 1,057 boys have been educated in it. They received their education in it, which comprises a thorough English education, and what is almost necessary as a concomitant with it, the acquirement of some foreign language, and more or less some mathematical knowledge as well. It has been brought before us that some brethren think the education we give these boys is of a class that unfits some of the recipients for that position in society to which they may be called. Now I have taken some little trouble to ascertain how far this assertion is correct, and I find that although they receive instruction in the high grades, the boys in question are not rendered incapable of taking situations which may more readily offer for young men in their position in life. After, too, more than half or three-fourths of the nineteenth century have passed over, I do not think it will be admitted that any amount of education can be looked upon as a hindrance to any kind of work, and I only wish that education was more easy and generally attainable, and more national than it is at present. I will now show some of the fruits and the value of this Institution, when I say that last June two candidates were sent up from this School for the Oxford local middle-class examination for the junior classes, and the number of candidates entered for examination was 1,042, and of the total number entered 663 passed, and 379 were rejected. Those candidates were divided into three divisions in the order of merit. Fifty-seven were ranged in the order of merit, and the rest alphabetically, and amongst the fifty-seven ranged in the order of merit I am happy to say that both of the candidates from this Institution were included, one stood 45 and the other 57. There is, I believe, a fund in the course of formation for founding additional scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge, which will, of course, give further means of preferment to the boys of this Institution. At present, as far as the School is concerned, there are, unfortunately, not funds enough to carry on the thing as we could wish, as there is a debt of £10,000 which absorbs an annual interest of £500, and the School could accommodate thirty more boys than are at present in the Institution, but the funds at present will not permit us to receive them. I think I have nothing further to say, and it only remains for me to drink "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," coupling with the toast the name of the Treasurer, Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell.

The toast was most enthusiastically responded to.

In the absence of Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell,

Bro. HEAD rose to return thanks on behalf of the officers of the Institution, and said it would have been a great pleasure to him had their esteemed Treasurer, Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, been able to be present, but although he was not, his heart was with them, trusting that they would go on with the good work. For his (Bro. Head's) part, he would never leave it, and as long as the G.A.O.T.U. gave him health and strength he would do all in his power to assist the School. He trusted that they would have their boys second to none in a good education, and in conclusion, he congratulated the master of the School on the

progress they had made, for since he had held the office he had done wonders amongst them. On the part of Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, he thanked them for the honour conferred upon him.

The SECRETARY then read the lists of subscriptions, but in consequence of the very hurried manner many of the amounts could not be caught. Amongst them were the Queen's annual donation of ten guineas; the Earl of Zetland, ten guineas; Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, forty-third donation of ten guineas; the chairman, ten guineas; Bro. Winn, fifty guineas; Bro. Algernon Parker, ten guineas; Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2), £44; Royal Somerset House and Inverness, £24 3s.; St. George and Corner Stone, £850 8s.; Westminster and Key Stone, £58 6s. 6d.; Robert Burns, £45 15s. 6d.; Carlisle Lodge of Harmony, £26 17s.; St. Alban's Lodge, £43 10s.; Britannic Lodge, £103 8s. 6d.; Strong Man Lodge, £41 13s. 6d.; Temple Lodge, £94 10s.; Caledonian Lodge, £94 10s.; St. Luke's, £35 18s.; Cadogan Lodge, £61 10s.; St. James's Union, £77 14s.; Percy Lodge, £50 8s.; St. Andrew's Lodge, 222, £82 19s.; Salisbury Lodge, £31 13s. 6d.; Bros. Mugeridge and Pratt, £105; Lewis Lodge, £108 13; Bro. Meggy, for Mark Lodges, £160; Province of Kent, £323, and fifteen guineas additional by the Steward; East Lancashire, £103 19s.; West Lancashire, £394; North and East Yorkshire (Bro. Walker, W.M. 57), £140 14s.; Old Concord Lodge (Bro. Emmens) £65; Maybury Lodge, £45 3s. The Secretary announced that the total receipts were £4,890, with six lists to come in.

Bro. Colonel BOWYER said he had been called on at a minute's notice to propose a very extensive toast, which was "The Vice-Presidents, Trustees, General Committee, House Committee, and Auditors of Accounts," who were all officially employed for the benefit of the Institution, and deserved the approbation of the brethren. To them they were mainly due for the prosperity of the Institution, and he thought they ought to thank them for their services. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Algernon Perkins.

Bro. A. PERKINS returned thanks, and alluded to the debt of £10,000 which was still on the Institution. He desired to throw part of it on the next generation, but that course was not agreed to by the majority of the committee, and that being so he felt inclined to give in his adhesion to the decision to which they had come, and get the debt off their shoulders as soon as possible.

THE CHAIRMAN next gave "Success to the Royal Freemasons' Girls' School and the Benevolent Annuity Funds," and coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Patten, Secretary to the Girls' School. (This toast was well received).

Bro. PATTEN returned thanks on behalf of the Girls' School, and congratulated Bro. Binckes on the result of that evening's collection. The festival for the Girls' would take place on the 13th of May, when Bro. Lord Kenlis, Provincial Grand Master, would take the chair, and when he hoped to receive the support of the brethren.

Bro. FARNFIELD, Secretary to the Royal Benevolent Institution, in the first place thanked the brethren for the support they had given to the festival which took place on the 29th of January, upon which occasion Bro. Dobie, Provincial Grand Master, took the chair. The subscription then announced amounted to £5,300, and he thanked the Craft heartily for such a large contribution. In consequence of the liberality of the brethren, the committee of management had that day resolved out of the twenty-seven men who were candidates for admission to the Institution, to receive twenty annuitants; and from the seventeen women who were candidates, to receive eight of them.

He thanked the brethren for the mention of his name on that occasion.

Some other unimportant toasts were given, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Wilhelm Ganz, assisted by Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Fanny Holland, Miss Emily Muir, Madame Osborne Williams, and Madlle. Mele, Bros. George Perren, Frank Elmore, and Ciabatta.

Bro. Spencer was as usual a most excellent toast-master, and the proceedings passed off without the slightest hitch or fault throughout.

METROPOLITAN.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., under the presidency of their respected W.M., Bro. S. Coste; there were also present Bros. E. Coste, S.W.; Palmer acting as J.W., in the absence of Bro. Butler through domestic affliction; Willey, I.P.M.; Moring, P.M., Treas.; Burton, P.M., Sec.; Warr, P.M.; Friend, P.M.; Palmer, P.M.; Valentine, P.M.; Young, Albert, Harvey, Papineau, Scott, Benson, Morton, Lemure, Pallent, etc. Visitors: Bros. Marsh, Doric Lodge, 933; Peacock; J. D. Gibson, 49; and C. Sloman, Robert Burns, 25. The lodge was opened in due form, and minutes of last lodge read and confirmed. A letter was read from Bro. Abbott, P.M., wishing to be entered on the books as a country member, not being able to attend regularly, which was acceded to. A ballot was taken for the admission of Bro. Tanner, Wesbourne Lodge, as a joining member; the result being unanimous, he was declared elected. Bro. Papineau then moved the resolution which was given last meeting, viz., that one guinea be given towards the purchase of an harmonium, as a memorial to the late Bro. Buckland, which was seconded by Bro. Moring, P.M., and carried. Bro. Morton moved that one guinea be given to the subscription being raised for the purpose of presenting a P.M. Jewel to the I.P.M., Bro. Willey, seconded by Bro. Harvey, and carried. Bro. Morton moved that the subscription of country members be 20s. instead of 16s. per annum, which was seconded by Bro. Palmer, P.M., and carried. Bro. Moring, P.M., Treas., then moved that Bro. Perryman, P.M., in consequence of the very serious state of his health, be admitted as a country member; this was seconded by Bro. Willey and carried. Bro. Morton moved, and Bro. Palmer, P.M., seconded in communicating the above, that the lodge express its sympathy and regret at the cause, and wishing him a speedy restoration to good health. Notice of motion for the usual summer excursion was given. The lodge was closed and adjourned to the banquet. Bro. Willey presided as W.M., the W.M. having to leave in consequence of a death in his family. The usual toasts were given, and some good singing emanated from Bros. Lemiere, Albert, Pallant, Willey, Sloman, etc. The brethren retired immediately after the Tyler's toast, much delighted at the meeting.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 147).—On Wednesday, the 11th inst., at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford, this lodge met. Bro. Patte, W.M., presided, and passed one and initiated two. Bro. G. Chapman raised one. There were present Bros. G. Bolton, P.M.; J. Lightfoot, P.M., Treas.; J. Bervin, Sec.; N. Wingfield, P.M.; W. Andrews, P.M., etc. The lodge was then closed.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 228). The members of this excellent lodge met on Tuesday evening, the 10th inst., at Bro. Wicken's, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. Edward Davies. During the evening Mr. G. E. Douglas and Mr. Philip Waddell were initiated. Bros. J. J. Lowenthal and James Hill were passed to the second degree, and Bro. John White raised to the third degree, all three ceremonies being ably performed by the W.M. and his officers. Visitors present: Bros. N. J. Manger; G. E. Bromage, Kent Lodge, 15; and J. Cooper, Merchants' Lodge, 241. When the business was concluded the brethren adjourned to the ancient banqueting room, where a banquet was served by the worthy host. After the removal of the cloth the usual Masonic toasts were given by the W.M., and duly responded to by the brethren, followed by some

excellent singing by Bros. Charles Braid, Org.; Alfred Colston, P.M.; T. H. Bromley, P.M.; Henry Morton, J.W.; Samuel Wickens, etc.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (No. 862).—The last meeting of this lodge for the season was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Monday, the 16th inst. Amongst the brethren present were Bro. T. J. Nix, W.M.; D. J. Davis, S.W.; J. Weaver, J.W.; J. G. Thompson, P.M., Treas.; R. W. Little, P.M., Sec.; J. Brett, P.M.; W. Hurlstone, P.M.; W. F. N. Quilty, P.M.; S. S. Davis, S.D.; L. Carle, I.G.; W. J. H. Jones, D.C.; Tanks, Stone, Frickenhaus, Allman, G. Payne, C. A. Payne, Meyer, Seely, Williams, W. F. Smith, P.M., Bergmann. Visitors: Bro. D. Morrin, P.M. 190; H. Tanner, P.M. 686; S. E. Clarke, M.D., S.W. 1,194, S.D., 975; and J. K. Allen, 26, Canada. The business of the evening was admirably performed by the W.M., assisted efficiently by the officers, and consisted of three raisings; viz., Bros. G. Payne, C. A. Payne, and H. Meyer; one passing, Bro. A. Williams; and one initiation, Mr. John Grant. Bro. Tanner was proposed as a joining member. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, under the presidency of Bro. Nix, W.M., and spent a very enjoyable evening together. Bro. Weaver, J.W., in his usual kindly manner contributed much to the pleasant character of the meeting by his playing on the pianoforte, and several brethren sang some capital songs during the evening.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

ALTRINCHAM.—Stamford Lodge (No. 1,015).—The annual meeting for the installation of Bro. Jas. A. Birch, the W.M. elect, was held at the town hall, Altrincham, on Monday, the 2nd inst. In the absence of the outgoing W.M., Bro. Weston, through severe indisposition, the ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. W. Birch, P.M. of the lodge, and Prov. G.J.D. East Lancashire. The newly-appointed officers, Bros. Jas. Sudren, S.W.; Capt. Hardy, J.W.; R. Heathcote, Treas.; R. Newhouse, Sec.; Jas. Watson, S.D.; Capt. Lathbury, J.D.; Capt. Jee, I.G., were duly installed by Bro. H. T. Baldwin, P.M., and P. Prov. G.S.B. of Cheshire. This lodge is now in a flourishing state, and, although only in the fourth year of its existence, has made itself a governor of almost all of the Masonic institutions, and last year contributed nearly £10 direct to charities. Five candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting. After business, the brethren of the lodge, together with many distinguished visiting brethren from this and adjoining provinces, sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Harvey, when a very pleasant and instructive evening was passed.

DURHAM.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Harbour of Refuge Lodge (No. 764).—The regular lodge was holden in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 10th inst., when Bro. Harpley, I.P.M., acted as W.M., in the absence of Bro. W. C. Ward Jackson, W.M., Prov. G.S.W. of Durham, who was unavoidably absent through having to attend as Steward at the Boys' School Anniversary on the 11th inst. There were also present Bros. Dr. Kirk, P.M., P. Prov. I.G.W.; W. J. Hodgson, P.M., P. Prov. G.D.; S. Armstrong, P.M.; Emra Holmes, W.M. of the St. Helen's Lodge, 531; Dr. Gourley, S.W.; Watt, J.W.; and between thirty and forty brethren and visitors. The Rev. Thomas Haslewood, Chaplain to the Seaman's Mission at the Port having been ballotted for and accepted, was regularly introduced and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry, and Mr. T. A. Farrar, also a candidate, was afterwards made a E.A. At the conclusion of the interesting ceremony, rendered doubly impressive by the introduction of voluntaries and other appropriate music on the harmonium, a recent acquisition to the beautifully appointed and really elegant lodge. Bro. Watt, the J.W., with the permission of the W.M., delivered the E.A. charge with some elocutionary power. At the conclusion of business the lodge was closed, as it had been opened with solemn prayer, and the brethren retired for refreshment. After the usual toasts had been given, Bro. Watt proposed the newly-initiated brethren, to which they responded, Bro. Haslewood, giving a peculiarly characteristic reply. The acting W.M. then gave the W.M. and visiting brethren from the sister lodge of St. Helen's, of whom there were a large number present, to which Bro. Emra



Holmes, W.M., responded. Bro. Harpley then proposed Bro. Hodgson, P.M., the first Secretary of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, who responded in brief terms. Many of the brethren contributed to the harmony of the evening with songs, and the meeting broke up at a reasonable hour.

**HARTLEPOOL.**—*St. Helens Lodge* (No. 531).—The regular lodge was holden in the Masonic Hall on Thursday, the 5th inst., when the following brethren were present: Bros. Enra Holmes, W.M.; Harpley, I.P.M., Harbour of Refuge Lodge, 764; W. J. Sivewright, I.P.M.; S. Armstrong, P.M.; Forbes, S.W.; J. J. Armstrong, J.W.; J. H. Bell, Sec.; E. Alexander, J.D.; visiting brethren, Dr. Gourley, S.W., 764, and numerous others. The lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer in the first degree, and Bro. G. Owens having satisfactorily passed the usual examination, he was entrusted and retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Owens was passed as a F.C., and the lodge being afterwards closed down, the brethren retired for refreshment.

#### ESSEX.

**COLCHESTER.**—*United Lodge* (No. 697).—The regular monthly meeting was held at the George Hotel on the 11th inst. At seven p.m., the lodge was opened by Bro. Sutherland, P.M., W.M., *pro tem.*, assisted by Bros. C. Carnegie, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works, Essex, I.P.M.; Wolverson, S.W.; Newman, J.W.; Ray, S.D.; Shaw, J.D.; Calthorpe, J.G.; also Bros. Rix, Eustace, Bigley, Donnolly, King, and Crick. Visitors: Bros. Cole and Samuel, Angel Lodge, 51. 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. Bro. Carnegie read a letter from Bro. Major Machers, D. Prov. G.M., Warwickshire, asking the votes of the lodge for L. O. Hiron, a candidate for the girls' school; also circulars requesting the support of the lodge for Gertrude Bowles, a candidate for the girls' school, and Mrs. Guy, a candidate for the Benevolent Institution. Bro. C. Carnegie stated that he had forwarded the list of the brethren to the clerk of the peace, in accordance with the Act of Parliament. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Crick, a candidate for the degree of M.M. was examined relative to his proficiency in the F.C. degree by Bro. Carnegie, I.P.M., which, proving satisfactory, he was entrusted by the W.M., *pro tem.*, and retired. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and Bro. Crick was raised to the sublime degree. The lodge was then closed down to the second and first degrees. The brethren then proceeded to elect their officers for the ensuing year. Bro. Newman, J.W., was unanimously elected as W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. C. Carnegie, I.P.M., was unanimously re-elected as Treas., and Bro. Witten as Tyler. The Board of General Purposes was requested to make arrangements for the installation of the W.M. The resignations of Bros. Moy and O'Neill were accepted, the latter being under orders to join his regiment, the 96th, in India. After the transaction of some other business, the lodge was closed in peace, harmony, and brotherly love.

#### LANCASHIRE (EAST).

**MANCHESTER.**—*St. David's Lodge* (No. 1,147).—The brethren of this lodge celebrated their first anniversary on the 7th inst. The occasion was distinguished by the installation of Bro. Thomas Humphreys as W.M. of the lodge. The brethren assembled at the lodge-room at the Masonic Hall, Cooper-street, at two o'clock for the despatch of business. Bro. Thomas R. Williams, P.M., W.M., in the chair. The attendance of the brethren was more than ordinarily numerous, it having been decided that the festival of St. David should, on this occasion, be celebrated with that of St. John, and that the highest honour should be paid to the distinguished representatives of Wales, retiring from and accepting office in the Manchester St. David's Lodge. The W.M. elect was installed into the chair, according to ancient custom, and this done, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers, the whole business of the lodge being admirably conducted. The proceedings were honoured at the close by the presentation of a Past Master's jewel to Bro. T. R. Williams, which was made by the respected retiring P.M. Bro. Ellis Jones, in felicitous terms, and acknowledged in a most worthy manner by Bro. T. R. Williams, who may, with Bro. E. Jones and Bro. Maurice Jones, be named as having founded this well-managed and efficient lodge. The ceremony having been closed, the members and their friends adjourned to a sumptuous

banquet at the Waterloo Hotel. Amongst those present were:—Bros. T. Humphreys, W.M.; T. R. Williams, Ellis Jones, and Maurice Jones, P.M.'s; W. Conway, S.D.; J. D. Jones, J.D.; R. Jeffreys, Treas.; D. Rowland, Sec.; C. H. Evans, I.G.; J. L. Figgins, P. Prov. D.C.; J. L. Hine, Prov. S.G.D.; H. Carrig, Prov. G. Supt. of Works East Lancashire; T. H. Baldwin, Prov. G.S.B. Cheshire; E. Simpson, W.M. 615; Bidder, W.M. 1,161; Brocklehurst, W.M. 204; Hodgson, W.M. 44; Sillon, W.M. 633; Ribley, W.M.; Alexandria; Barker, P.M.; Nathan, P.M.; Captain Hardy, J.W. 645; Drs. Mathews and Parkers, Alderman Collinge, Urias Bromley, Dr. J. S. Davies, W. Gardner, P.M., Evan Williams, J. Davies, M. Roberts, Evan Roberts, S. Aldred, &c.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to in excellent speeches, intermixed with good harmony and patriotic feeling, which rendered the evening a most pleasing one. With special reference to Wales, Bro. T. R. Williams, P.M., informed the brethren that the Provincial Grand Master of North Wales and Shropshire, Bro. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, *Bart.*, had promised to attend. He had pledged himself about five months ago that he would be present at the installation of the Worshipful Master of the St. David's Lodge, but as charity was the first and ought to be the ruling power in Masonry, Sir Watkin always made it a point of being at the Welsh Charity Schools in London, which always had their anniversary on the 1st of March, and in consequence of the 1st of March falling this year on Sunday, they, like themselves, were then celebrating St. David's Day. He was glad to inform them Sir Watkin was one of the most liberal promoters of that charity, and a more worthy man and Mason, he believed never lived. The worthy P.M. then proposed the principal toast of the evening, "The Health of the Worshipful Master," remarking that he could not speak for long years as another brother present had done; but he had known Bro. Humphreys now about ten years, and he had quite satisfied him that if he had known him for thirty years, he should not have known more of his good qualities than he had in the last ten years. They did not require to know a man twenty or thirty years to find out his good qualities, and since he had known Bro. Humphreys he was able to bear the highest testimony to his good qualities, and could say they had done themselves honour by electing as their Master for the next year "the right man in the right place." Congratulating the W.M. on the efficient and feeling manner in which he had discharged the lodge duties, and the able and courteous manner in which he presided over the banquet, Bro. Williams proposed the health of the W.M., wishing him long life and prosperity.

The toast having been most cordially responded to,

The W. Master rose, and in returning thanks, said he felt most grateful to Bro. Williams for the kind manner in which he had been pleased to propose his health, and the brethren for the very handsome manner in which they had received the toast. The majority of the company knew perfectly well he was placed that evening in, he would not say a novel, but rather an anomalous position. He felt the honour they had conferred upon him to be as great as it was unexpected, and he could unfeignedly assure them that the day had been a happy one to him, as it had given him the opportunity of meeting with so many brethren on their anniversary day. The W.M. eloquently alluded to the objects of Freemasonry, the high character won by the St. David's Lodge in its first year of existence, and expressed his determination to do his best for it, feeling that he should be doing a gross injustice if he did not make more than an ordinary effort to fulfil the trust that had been reposed in him.

Bro. Ellis Jones, P.M., most ably proposed "The Masonic Charities," and was followed by other brethren in warm support of the same. The brethren separated at ten o'clock in peace, love, and harmony.

We have already paid a compliment to the brethren of the St. David's Lodge, and we have like pleasure in stating that the lodge's hospitalities, so worthily presided over by Bros. Humphreys, W.M., and W. Conway, S.D., in the vice-chair, were alike a credit and an honour to all.

#### LANCASHIRE (WEST).

**PATRICROFT.**—*Consecration of the Bridgewater Lodge and Installation of the W.M.* (No. 1,213).—This interesting ceremony took place at the Bridgewater Hotel on Saturday, the 7th inst., at two o'clock in the afternoon. The Prov. G.M., Sir Thomas G. Fermor Hesketh, Bart., M.P., deputed W. Bro. J. H. Young-

husband, P.M., P.Z., and P. Prov. G.D., to perform the ceremony. The consecrating officer was assisted by Bros. H. S. Alpan, Prov. G. Sec.; Dunkley, P. Prov. G. Chap.; Captain Mott, Prov. G.S.B.; John Bowes, Prov. G. Reg., Cumberland and Westmoreland, as S.W.; Baldwin, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., as I.W.; Bros. D. Finney, S.W. 14S; J. Robinson, I.G. 14S; W. S. Hawkins, 14S; and about 30 other brethren. After the conclusion of the ceremonies, which were ably rendered, the brethren were entertained at a splendid banquet provided by the W.M. Bro. James Parr, Jun. After the cloth was withdrawn, some excellent speeches were made, enlivened by excellent music from Liverpool brethren. In responding for East Lancashire, Bro. Hinc, Prov. G.W., drew attention to the very liberal support the great central charities in London received from his province as compared with West Lancashire, and hoped the two provinces would always try to rival one another in doing good. Bro. Younghusband showed most conclusively that West Lancashire compared favourably with East Lancashire. She did not send her boys and girls to London, but educated them herself. The West Lancashire Education Institution had educated hundreds of boys and girls, had now thirty-five on the foundation, and besides an ample revenue above £7,000 funded property. A very pleasant afternoon's proceedings was brought to a close with the Tyler's toast.

#### OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD—(*Churchill Lodge*, No. 478).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 6th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Alfred-street, Oxford, when a large number of brethren assembled. The W.M., Bro. Victor A. Williamson, P.G.W., proposed that the sum of £3 3s. be given from the funds of the lodge to the Palestine Exploration Fund, which being seconded by the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Alderman Spiers, was carried unanimously. The brethren then proceeded to ballot for a W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. the Earl of Jersey, S.W., was elected to fill the office. Bro. Alderman Spiers was re-elected Treas., and Bros. Stephens and Nerwood, Tylers. Three brethren were proposed as joining members; and W. Roche, Esq., of Christ Church; G. A. Beecroft, Esq., of Christ Church (son of the Member for Leeds); and C. G. Browne, Esq., B.A., of Balliol College, were proposed as candidates for initiation. The brethren adjourned to the banquet, where, under the genial presidency of the W.M., a most agreeable evening was spent.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### AYRSHIRE.

TROON.—(*Navigation Lodge*, No. 86).—The 116th anniversary of this lodge was celebrated by the brethren dining together in the Commercial Inn, a few nights ago—a festival, to which sister lodges were invited, being held in the same place immediately after dinner. At the former meeting the chair was filled by the R.W.M., with the Wardens as croupiers; and the company numbered about forty, all of whom expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made for their comfort by their obliging hostess.

The communication which followed was under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. Andrew Auld, whose maiden effort to personify the ancient royal occupant of the Orient was creditable alike to himself and to the lodge. The time chosen by Bro. Imrie for declining re-election to the post which he had so long and honourably filled is most opportune, and the circumstances under which the Past Master's chair comes to be occupied by Bro. Auld are creditable to all concerned. In relinquishing the "highest badge" in No. 86, Bro. Imrie has left the lodge in a position of unparalleled prosperity. Its finances are strong, its membership numerous, its fame for Masonic charity wide-spread, and its position as a good-working lodge now consolidated. The unanimity that has for a series of years characterised its action, and the efficiency of its officers have in a high degree contributed to place No. 86 in the honourable position it now occupies; and in the appointment of Bro. Auld to the Mastership the brethren have shown a determination to sustain unimpaired the prestige of the lodge. Judging from his antecedents as occupant of some of the lesser chairs, and from a consideration also of the ability and personal worth of his colleagues in office, Bro. Auld is not by any means likely, in his direction of the lodge, to disappoint the hopes of those by whose suffrages he

now wields the mallet. That his tenure of office may, if not as long, be at least as pregnant with good results to the lodge and satisfaction to himself as was that of his immediate predecessor, is, we are sure, the wish of every one interested in the success of Troon Navigation.

Of the adornment of the lodge room it may suffice to say that the good taste, which for many years has characterised the efforts of the brethren in charge of this department of lodge labour was observable on the present occasion: the walls bore several beautiful models in naval architecture, interspersed with ships' ensigns, statuary, evergreens, &c., while the purely Masonic belongings of Navigation were so disposed as to display their beauties to the best advantage—all was in harmony, from the rough stone in the north-east angle of the lodge to the cube in front of the Orient. Associated with Bro. Auld in his occupancy of the dais were Bros. Imrie, P.M.; Fergusson, D.M.; the Rev. John Sime, of Dundonald, Chap.; Lockhart, P.M.; Montgomerie, Treas.; and Black, Sec. Crossing to the south we found the Ionic column upheld by Bro. S. Clark, in which duty he was aided by the sons of No. 86, who had assembled in considerable strength. Supreme in his own territory the recumbent monarch of the west (represented by Bro. McNeillage) watched with interest the approach of the golden orb towards the western horizon, giving the while due response to the mandate from the east that had for a time ignored his rule in favour of his less powerful neighbour. The experience of Bro. Mournay gave effect to the well-timed attention paid to the guests by the deaconrie; while in the prompt and oft-recurring replenishment of the loving-cup the services of the Stewards (Bros. McLeod and Boyd) were all that could be desired, as was also the vigilance of Bro. Orr in keeping the profane at a respectful distance from the outworks of the mystic retreat.

The guests of the evening were the brethren composing the deputations sent by Mother Kilwinning, headed by Bro. Dr. Andrew; St. Andrew, Kilmarnock, led by its Master, Bro. Buchanan; St. James Kilwinning, Tarbolton; St. Andrew, Irvine; St. Barnabas, Cumnock; and Neptune Kilwinning Ardrossan (Bro. H. Boyd). Bro. D. Murray Lyon, one of the G. Stewards in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and P.G.S.W. of Ayrshire, was also present; and among other visiting brethren we observed Bro. Capt. Withwall (of the barque *England* of Bristol), Royal Clarence, Bristol, No. 68, who returned thanks for the Grand Lodge of England.

The toasts were appositely introduced by Bro. Auld; and the deputations, through their respective heads, paid the usual compliments to the several officers of No. 86. "The Chaplain" was entrusted to the representative of the Grand Lodge, who prefaced the toast by showing how in the olden time the Craftsmen of Scotland, both before and after the Reformation, contributed of their lodge funds toward the upholding of the ordinances of religion; that in the present day clergymen of almost every denomination of Christians were to be found participating in the work of Freemasonry; and that considering Bro. the Rev. Sime's Masonic antecedents in the capacity of one of the Mother Kilwinning Chaplains, and his position as the respected Minister of Dundonald, the Troon Lodge was highly favoured in having for its Chaplain one so well qualified for that office.

The toast was received with great enthusiasm, and was duly acknowledged by Bro. Sime, who thanked Bro. Lyon for his allusion to the religious tendencies of the Scottish Craft at a period anterior to the Reformation, as affording him an opportunity for repudiating the foul charges which the Roman Catholic Church now preferred against Freemasonry. The Order was indeed a secret society, but its principles were those of Christianity itself, and its loyalty to the constituted authorities was beyond question. After referring to the devotion to religion shown by the joint labours of the clergy and the Craft in the erection of those cathedrals and abbeys where for centuries the worship of God was wont to be observed by our forefathers, Bro. Sime concluded his very chaste and eloquent remarks by urging the brethren to diligence and perseverance in their labours toward the uprearing of that spiritual temple whose builder and maker is God.

The unfurling of the lodge colours by the brother (M'Fadzean) to whose keeping they are entrusted was the signal for the torchlight procession through the principal streets of the town—a feature in the night's proceedings which seems to be greatly appreciated by the townspeople, who turn out in great numbers to witness the marching and counter-

marching of the mystic brotherhood to the inspiring strains of the old Kilwinning band. Returning to the hall, the business which had brought the lodge ordinance into request was for a brief season resumed with a zest peculiar to the sons of the presiding lodge—the communication, one of the most successful ever held in Troon, being adjourned at a seasonable hour.

#### GLASGOW.

##### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

###### *Visitations and Inspections of Private Lodges.*

LODGE GLASGOW ST. JOHN (No. 3<sup>d</sup>).—This lodge, at its meeting on the 3<sup>d</sup> inst., was visited by a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, consisting of R.W. Bros. Thos. Baker, Prov. G.S.W.; Jas. Steel, Prov. G.J.W.; W. Smith, Pro. G. Sec.; and other Prov. Grand office bearers. The lodge books, &c., having been duly inspected, the deputation entered the lodge and was received with the customary honours. The business before the lodge on this occasion was very heavy, *t oo* heavy, we should be inclined to say, judging from the numerous batch of initiates—indeed, quite a squad of Masonic recruits—who were introduced to “light” at this meeting, presided over by the present esteemed R.W.M. Bro. Ramsay. During the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Donaldson, Prov. G. Dir. of Music, presided at the harmonium, and his rendering of Bro. Buchan’s lodge music added materially to the impressiveness of the ceremonial, though we must add, with reference to portions of the working (quite apart from the musical feature), we were forcibly struck with the great necessity which exists for uniformity of working in the different lodges the ceremonials of our Order; and that mere theatrical effect is not indispensably necessary to obtain that solemn impressiveness which should ever prevail on such occasions. In the course of the evening Bro. W. P. Buchan brought forward his motion anen a committee being appointed to take the necessary steps to examine into the historical evidence and data relative to the antiquity of the Lodge of Glasgow St. John (No. 3<sup>d</sup>), so that the same may be placed upon a satisfactory and sufficient basis. Bro. Buchan, in introducing his motion, quoted from Cosmo Junius’ “Scotland in the “Middle Ages”—remarks appearing at page 298 of that work, referring to the existence of one of those “enthusiastic fraternities” at the building of Glasgow Cathedral, and the charter of protection it obtained from William the Lion, 1190—to show that St. John’s Lodge had nothing to fear from any investigation into its antiquity. Bro. Walker, P.M., considering we presume, “where ignorance is bliss were folly to be wise,” desired to enter his protest against the proposed committee of inquiry. Bro. Barr proposed as an amendment that, although Bro. Buchan had stated he had discovered mistakes in the translation of the charter, still, as these mistakes had never been discovered before, Bro. Barr argued—but upon what basis of reasoning we are at a loss to understand—that the old translation of the charter should still be held by, it never having been disputed before. Bro. Barr had for a seconder of his amendment Bro. Dr. Moffat. Bro. Park, P.M., said that he considered the translation must be wrong, as King Malcolm III. had no brother named David. However, upon the original motion, as introduced by Bro. Buchan, being put by the R.W.M. to the meeting, it was carried by a large majority. The R.W.M. proposed, and Bro. W. P. Buchan seconded, a motion that this lodge should subscribe a sum of two guineas to the testimonial to the R.W. Bro. Whyte Melville, P.G.M.; the motion was carried unanimously. The R.W. Bro. Steel, Prov. G.J.W., in responding to the toast of Provincial Grand Lodge Deputation, said that he was happy to find the books of the lodge so well kept, that the lodge was in such a prosperous condition, and working so harmoniously.

LODGE GLASGOW KILWINNING (No. 4).—A meeting of this ancient lodge, which continues to prosper under the present respected R.W.M., Bro. James Lillie, was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst., upon the occasion of the visit and inspection by the abovenamed Provincial Grand Lodge Deputation. The chair was filled by Bro. T. A. Broadbent, D.M.; supported by Bros. A. Thorburn, S.M., acting S.W.; J. Bruce, J.W.; R. J. Teale, acting Chaplain; A. R. Wilson, acting S.D.; T. D. Humphreys, Treas.; Bro. I. N. Johnson presiding at the harmonium. A candidate was introduced and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order, the ceremony being impressively worked by Bro. A. Thorburn, S.M. The Deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge expressed themselves as being much

pleased with the efficient manner in which the Treasurer and Secretary kept their books, and complimented the brethren of the Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge upon the steady progress their lodge is making. After the departure of the Prov. G. L. deputation, the acting R.W.M., Bro. Broadbent, delivered to “the last link” a most impressive and eloquent charge, dilating on the beauties of the Order, responsibilities attached to those who enter into it, their duties to themselves, to society, and to the Craft. He also commended to the earnest attention of the newly-initiated brother the three great lights of Masonry. Bro. Broadbent also referred in very feeling terms to the great loss the Craft in this province had sustained by the death of Bro. Sheriff Strathern. The following is a correct list of the present office-bearers of the Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge—Bros. James Lillie, R.W.M.; J. Bruce, S.W.; R. J. Teale, J.W.; Thomas Skinner, P.M.; T. A. Broadbent, D.M.; A. Thorburn, S.M.; John Binnie, P.M.; T. D. Humphreys, Treas.; F. C. Reid, Sec.; the Rev. J. W. W. Penny, D.C.L., Chaplain; J. Steel (Prov. G.J.W.), S.D.

LODGE THISTLE AND ROSE (No. 73).—At a meeting of this old and hard-working lodge, held on the 3<sup>d</sup> inst., presided over by the present popular R.W.M., Bro. Thomas McRobert, the death of Bro. Sheriff Strathern was regretfully alluded to in most feeling and appropriate terms. The Thistle and Rose being the mother lodge of the lamented deceased brother. All business before the lodge was upon this occasion suspended, with the exception of the reception of the abovenamed Provincial Grand Lodge deputation, who pronounced themselves well satisfied with the result of their inspection of the lodge books, &c., which showed that the lodge was in a healthy and prosperous state.

LODGE ST. MARK (No. 102).—This flourishing lodge, which has for some time past been ruled most judiciously by the present highly esteemed R.W.M., the R.W. Bro. Major Barbor, Depute Prov. G.M. of the Middle Ward of Lanarkshire, was honoured on the 2<sup>d</sup> inst. with a visit by a deputation of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Glasgow, consisting of the R.W. Bros. Thos. Baker, Prov. G.S.W.; Jas. Steel, Prov. G.J.W.; W. Smith, Prov. G. Sec.; and other Prov. Grand office bearers, who were received with the customary honours on entering the lodge, after having satisfactorily concluded their examination of the lodge books. The chair of K.S. was upon this occasion, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Major Barbor, very ably filled by Bro. Barradale. Amongst the visiting brethren on the platform we noticed Bros. Capts. McAusland and McCulloch. The Prov. Grand Lodge Deputation before leaving expressed themselves much pleased with the result of their inspection.

LODGE UNION (No. 332).—This prosperous lodge—the present esteemed R.W.M. of which is Bro. James Balfour, Prov. G.I.G., and who, though but a young, is a very accomplished Mason—was visited on the 2<sup>d</sup> inst. by the above-named Prov. Grand Lodge Deputation, who, after having examined the lodge books and found everything quite satisfactory, entered the lodge and were received with the customary honours. One brother was admitted to the mysteries and privileges of our Order, the ceremony being worked in a masterly and impressive manner by Bro. Thos. McK. Campbell, P.M. of the Lodge Clyde (No. 403).

#### IRELAND.

##### THE GEOGRAPHICAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES OF IRELAND.

This subject, which has for some time past been under the serious attention of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, has at length received a solution, in the shape of a report which has just been issued upon the subject, by the Committee of Provincial Grand Lodges, addressed to the M.W. the G.M. and the Grand Lodge of Ireland. We append the report, prefaced by the circular letter in connection with it, issued by the Deputy Grand Secretary.

Grand Secretary’s Office, Freemasons’ Hall, Dublin,  
13th day of December, 1867.

Sir and Brother,—Some months since the Board of General Purposes appointed a sub-committee “To take into consideration the existing geographical arrangement of the Provincial Grand Lodges, with a view to adopting an improved arrangement of them.”



This committee submitted their report at the last meeting of the board, when it was resolved "That Grand Lodge be recommended to adopt this report," which was accordingly done at the meeting of Grand Lodge, on the 5th inst., and it was then unanimously resolved:—

"That the report now read be printed and sent with the proposed new rules to the several Provincial Grand Lodges, and the private Lodges, in the proposed new districts, and that they be requested to take the same into their consideration with as little delay as possible, in order that their report thereon may be in the hands of the Deputy Grand Secretary, on or before Friday, the 28th day of February next, in order that the same be laid before the Grand Lodge, at its meeting in March."

The consideration of the subject was then formally postponed until the meeting of Grand Lodge in March, 1868.

I have therefore the pleasure of enclosing the documents referred to, and of requesting your early attention thereto.

I have the honour to be,

Yours fraternally,

CHARLES T. WALMISLEY,  
Deputy Grand Secretary.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and the  
Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The committee appointed by order of the Grand Lodge, dated 7th June, 1866, to report concerning the Masonic Provinces of Ireland, beg leave to report as follows:—

The committee have carefully considered the subject referred to them, both as regards its general bearing on the Masonic community, and the existing divisions of the kingdom into provinces. They have also inquired into the manner in which the defects of the present system might be obviated by a new arrangement.

They approve, in general, of the system of constituting Provincial Grand Lodges. They deem it conducive to the welfare of the Order; first, by giving the Grand Lodge more effectual control over the Masonic community in distant places, both at home and abroad; secondly, by affording means of honourably and suitably rewarding the zeal and exertions of those who have been most earnest and efficient in the service of the Order, by means of the distinctions of Masonic rank in the Provincial Grand Lodges. It is well known that the advantages which the Order occasionally derives from the aid and countenance of persons of rank and influence is frequently due to the connection formed by such persons with the Masonic Society through the Provincial Grand Lodges; and the system has been conducive, as the committee conceive, in no slight degree, to the power and extension of the Order in England, and the British colonies and dependencies.

The committee having had before them the map of Ireland, and considered the boundaries of the present Masonic provinces both geographically, and with a view to the accommodation of the members of country lodges, as afforded by the existing means of communication, are of opinion,

Firstly, that it would be desirable that the whole kingdom, excepting a metropolitan district in the vicinity of the Grand Lodge, should be divided into Masonic provinces.

Secondly, that the present boundaries should be altered and modified in the manner hereinafter described.

The province of Munster (geographically speaking) contains at present two Provincial Masonic districts—the Masonic Province of North Munster, and that of South Munster, which latter is usually termed "Munster" only. The committee recommend that the province of South Munster should be designated by a line drawn from Youghal along the boundary of the County of Cork to Mitchelstown, Kilworth, Fermoy and Mallow, including all those towns; thence to Killarney (including it), and to Milltown (including it), at the head of Dingle Bay; the seacoast forming the western and southern boundary. They see no reason for altering the established name of that province, hitherto used and approved.

The committee recommend that the province of North Munster should comprise those portions of the Counties of Cork and Kerry lying north of the northern boundary of the southern provinces; also the whole of the Counties of Tipperary, Limerick, and Clare, together with the City of Limerick.

They also recommend that the Counties of Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo and Galway, none of which are at present comprised in any Masonic province, should be constituted a

new Masonic province, to be designated the province of Connaught, and that the Provincial Grand Lodge should meet at Ballinasloe.

Also that the counties of Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, and Wexford, none of which are at present comprised in any Masonic province, should be constituted a new Masonic province, to be called "The South-eastern Province," the Grand Lodge thereof to meet at Kilkenny or Waterford.

That the King's County, the Queen's County, and the counties of Westmeath and Longford, not hitherto comprised in any Masonic province, should be constituted a new province, to be designated "The Province of the Midland Counties," and that the Provincial Grand Lodge thereof should be held at Tullamore, in the King's County.

The committee think that the counties of Wicklow, Kildare, Meath and Dublin, being in the vicinity of the Grand Lodge itself, and which may easily be attended from any part of them, should not be included in any Masonic province, but be under the immediate superintendence of the Grand Lodge.

The committee have had more difficulty in dealing with the northern counties, in which Provincial Grand Lodges exist; they have been actuated by a desire at once to preserve, as far as possible, the rights and privileges of existing Provincial Grand Masters and Lodges, and to provide a remedy for the constant sources of complaint respecting the inconvenience of attending provincial meetings, on the one hand, and the difficulty of enforcing submission to provincial rules on the other. Having investigated this subject with the aid of the R. W. Bro. Tracy, 33°, who long held the office of Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Belfast and North Down, and who from his peculiar means of knowledge as well as from his local experience was well qualified to assist the committee with very valuable advice.

The committee recommend that the counties of Cavan, Louth, Armagh and Monaghan, should be constituted into a new Masonic province, to be designated "The Province of Armagh," the Grand Lodge thereof to be held at Armagh.

And also that the counties of Londonderry and Donegal, and the city of Londonderry, should constitute "The Province of Londonderry," the Grand Lodge still to meet in the city of Londonderry.

Also that the extensive county of Antrim should constitute another and distinct Masonic province (but only one, and not, as at present, separated into two divisions), to be called "The Province of Antrim;" the Grand Lodge to meet at Belfast.

The committee further recommend that the entire county of Down should constitute a separate Masonic province, to be called "The Province of Down;" the Grand Lodge to be held at Downpatrick, thus separating North Down from Belfast.

They further recommend that the counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh should be constituted into a separate Masonic province, to be called "The North-Western Province."

The committee would desire that, except as hereinbefore recommended, no alteration should be made in existing Provincial Grand Lodges or their provinces. They believe that new patents of appointment must, in some instances be granted, should the Grand Master think fit, in the exercise of his undoubted privilege, to reappoint any of the present Provincial Grand Masters; but the committee do not deem it proper or necessary to offer any suggestions on that subject, believing that they and the Order at large may implicitly confide in the wisdom and good feeling of the Noble Grand Master in that respect, as in all others in which the advantage of the Order is concerned.

The committee have, with the aid of zealous and experienced brethren of the Order, framed a new code of Rules for the Provincial Grand Lodges, in which they have endeavoured to obviate some of the causes of complaint before alluded to. They have caused those rules to be printed in slips, for the purpose of facilitating the reading and revision of them, and they earnestly invite the attention of Grand Lodge to them.

Believing, as the committee do, that the speedy settlement of this long agitated question will tend greatly to the good of the Order in general, the committee humbly suggest that if the Grand Lodge shall be pleased to adopt their views as to the general arrangement of the provinces, the final settlement of the rules may be subsequently effected, without any loss of time, as it will take some time to communicate with the Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Masters, and to have the patents prepared—all which may be done during the period which the

committee are advised must elapse before the new Constitutions for Provincial Grand Lodges can be adopted.

All which the committee humbly submit, with their fraternal salutations, to Grand Lodge as their report.

Signed, on behalf of the committee,  
JOHN FITZHENRY TOWNSEND,  
Deputy Grand Master.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS.

### GUERNSEY.

DOYLE'S LODGE OF FELLOWSHIP (No. 84).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Court-place, on the evening of Wednesday, the 4th inst. The brethren present were Bros. Gallienne, P.D. Prov. G.M.; Martin, W.M., in the chair; Guilbert, I.P.M.; Churchouse, P.M.; Smithard, P.M.; Wilcocks, P.M.; Hutchinson, P.M. and Treas.; Colletette, P. Prov. G. Sec.; Gardner, S.W.; Glen-cross, J.W.; Sarchet, Sec.; Millington, S.D.; Parker, I.G.; Turton, Barter, Lucas, Clarke, Bonjourd, Cohen, Nicolle, Abbott, Brown, Stainer, Rowe, and Mauger, Tyler. Visitors, Churchouse, 288; Hunt, S.W. 168; and Thayer, 250. The lodge was opened shortly after seven by the W.M., and the minutes of the preceding lodge having been read and confirmed, the ballot went round for Bro. Rowe, 193; the result was satisfactory, and he was affiliated a member. Bro. Clarke, who was a candidate to be passed to the second degree, was then examined in the usual way. The manner in which he answered the questions put to him was most satisfactory, and convinced all those who heard him that he had given the subjects presented to his notice consideration and study, and he was accordingly dismissed for preparation. During his absence the lodge was opened in the second degree, and on his re-admission he was passed to the degree of a F.C. The lecture on the tracing-board was given by Bro. Gallienne, P.D. Prov. G.M., with his usual ability. The W.M., although so young in his presidential chair, has acquired complete confidence, and gets through his work in a manner which convinces all the brethren of Doyle's that their lodge will not, during his term of office, lose that prestige which for some years past it has enjoyed for its correct and good style of work. It may be remarked *en passant* that the W.M. and the majority of his officers were pupils of that earnest and learned Mason, Bro. Dr. Hopkins, now of 710, during his visit to the island some twelve months ago, when he so kindly, and with so much ability, held a school of instruction for all who would regularly attend, under certain binding conditions. The lodge was then closed in the second degree. Bro. Barter proposed Mr. Tillot and Mr. Tardif as candidates for Freemasonry; the former was seconded by Bro. Smithard, P.M., and the latter by Bro. Nicolle. The lodge was then closed in solemn form and in perfect harmony, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

## ROYAL ARCH.

### METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON CHAPTER (No. 73).—At the Bridge House Hotel, Wellington-street, Southwark, this chapter was held. Comp. F. Walters, P.Z., opened the chapter as M.E.Z., assisted by his principals. Bros. D. Rose, Smith, W. Roebuck, and Irvine being in attendance, they were exalted. Comps. A. Avery, H.; Dr. Dixon, P.Z., as J.; A. D. Loewenstark, S.N., Treas.; M. A. Loewenstark, W.S.; T. J. Sabine as P.S.; J. Trickett Wheeler; F. H. Ebsworth; A. Thompson, and many others. Visitors: C. T. Dorey, H. 176; P. A. Nairne, S.N. 176, Pain, Williams, Barrett, and several others. The chapter was then closed.

CANONBURY CHAPTER (No. 657).—This chapter held the usual convocation on Thursday, the 27th ult. The business of this meeting being the most interesting one of the year, viz., the election of principals, officers, etc. The chapter being duly opened by Comp. W. Watson, P.Z. (who officiated for Comp. Henry Webb, the M.E.Z.), assisted by Comps. W. Ough, J., and Thomas Wercombe, H. Bros. Breary, H. I. Reynolds, Cannon, E. T. Applebee, and Richard Hopkins, having been regularly proposed and seconded at a previous meeting, were balloted for and accepted as fit and proper candidates for exaltation. The ceremony of exaltation was beautifully rendered, and the newly-made companions expressed delight at this addition to

their Masonic knowledge. The companions then proceeded with the election of officers. Comp. W. Ough was chosen M.E.Z., Comp. T. Wescombe, I., and Comp. S. May, H. The other companions elected were H. Cary, S.E.; F. Cox, S.N.; G. Jones, P.S., Decent, Treas.; and Radford, Janitor. The convocation then closed, and an excellent banquet was served in Comp. B. Todd's usual style. Much regret was felt at the absence from the tables of Comp. Todd through illness, and hearty good wishes were expressed for his speedy recovery, the worthy companion alluded to being one of the "old familiar faces" in connexion with this chapter. During the evening a jewel was voted to the present M.E.Z., Comp. H. Webb, as a pleasing recognition of the valuable services rendered the chapter during his year of office. The evening was much enlivened by some good singing from Comps. D. H. Jacobs, Hopkins, etc.

## LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—Chapter of *Elias Ashmole* (No. 148).—The annual convocation of this chapter was held at the Chapter Rooms, Sankey-street on Monday, the 9th inst. In the unavoidable absence of the M.E.Z., Comp. H. B. White, his chair was occupied by Comp. Captain Mott, P.Z., 141, who was supported by Comps. John Bowes, H.; Horatio Syed, E.; Robert Stevenson, P.S.; James Johnson, Janitor; A. H. Beckett, R. Wright, B. P. Coxon, Jos. Robinson, James Hephherd, Thomas Stone, John Stone, David Finney, W. Woods, W. Richardson, W. H. Spring, and W. Mossop. Visitors: Comps. Dr. McGeorge, P.Z. 241; R. Robinson, P.Z. 241; Rev. F. Terry, J. The chapter was duly opened by the acting principals, when the minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. Comp. Hephherd reported that himself and Comp. Finney had audited the Treasurer's accounts, which were duly and regularly kept, and showed a balance in favour of the chapter. The companions below the degree of an installed first principal now retired, and Comp. John Bowes was duly and solemnly installed into the first chair, and afterwards Comp. Robert Stevenson, P.S., was installed into the third chair. The companions having been re-admitted, the following were invested the officers for the ensuing year:—Comps. James Hephherd, Scribe E.; D. W. Finney, P.S.; W. Mossop, Scribe N.; Bowes, Treas.; James Johnson, Janitor. Comp. Stevenson, J., proposed, the M.E.Z. seconded, and it was resolved that the best thanks of the chapter are due and hereby tendered to Excellent Comp. Mott for his able services as Installing Principal, and that the same be recorded on the minutes. Comp. Mott acknowledged the compliment, and said his visits to Warrington were of a most pleasurable character, and that his best services were always at the command of No. 148. The M.E.Z. proposed, and it was unanimously resolved that £5 5s. be voted to the boys' school, to make the M.E.Z. *pro tem* a life subscriber to the institution. There being no further business, the chapter was duly closed. and the Comps. adjourned to the Lion Hotel for tea. After tea, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been given, the Grand Chapter, the Provincial Grand Chapter, the P.Z., M.E.Z., and other toasts were duly and warmly remembered, and the Comps. separated at ten, after spending an enjoyable evening.

## MARK MASONRY.

### YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

SCARBOROUGH.—*Star in the East* (No. 95).—This lodge of Mark Masters was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Scarborough, on the 26th of February last. Bros. J. W. Woodall, W.M., Rooke, P.M.; H. A. Williamson, S.W.; W. T. Farthing, J.W., J. P. Spurr, P.M.O.; R. H. Peacock, M.O.; Garnett, S.O.; Fletcher, J.O.; Martin, Reg.; Chapman, W. Peacock, Jackson; Walshaw, Hardgrave, Groves, Woodcock, Verity, etc. The lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. James Ellis, previously elected, was prepared, admitted, and advanced to the degree of Mark Master. A circular letter from Bro. Meggy, with regard to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, was read, and Bro. Spurr produced a subscription card which he had received from Bro. Binckes, with the same charitable object in view; and he hoped the brethren would follow the example of the W.M., who had already placed his mark thereon. The sum of £10 10s. was then subscribed to purchase a life governorship in that institution. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment at an early hour.

## MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

## SUFFOLK.

## MASONIC CONCERT.

On Thursday evening, the 12th inst., the members of the Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 959), Ipswich, gave their annual concert at the Masonic Hall, Brook-street. As in former years, the admission was strictly confined to members of the lodge and their lady friends.

The lodge-room was devoted to the concert, and this was arranged with elegant flags and banners pertaining to the various degrees of the Order. The vocalists took up their position on the dais at the east end.

The banqueting-room was most tastefully arranged with flowers in pots, which were placed on side tables round the room. The effect of this room when lighted was very brilliant and pleasing. In this room, between the first and second parts, the company assembled and partook of light refreshment.

The musical arrangements were under the sole direction of Bro. William Norman. The *artistes* engaged were Miss Mabel Brent and Bros. Theodore Distin and G. T. Carter. The concert was of a miscellaneous character, and all the music secular. In previous years the first part of the programme consisted of sacred music, but it was thought by the committee that the proposed alteration would not render the concert less attractive. In our opinion the programme was in every way suited to the occasion, and no previous concert could have afforded greater pleasure and gratification.

As each lady entered the concert-room she was presented with a handsome perfumed programme, prepared by Bro. Westgate.

Bro. Norman, P. Prov. G. Org. Norfolk, presided at the pianoforte.

Miss Brent has a very pleasing soprano voice, and before the close of her first song she had become a favourite with her audience. Her best song of the evening was the Scottish air " 'Twas within a mile of Edinburgh,". In reply to an encore she gave "Home, sweet Home," which was very finely and feelingly rendered. Bros. Carter and Distin were in fine voice, and their songs were so well selected as to ensure a large amount of applause, and afforded unlimited gratification. In the second part Bro. C. J. Cooke executed the "Carnival de Venice" on the violin in a brilliant manner, which was loudly and deservedly applauded.

The brethren first appeared in Craft clothing, and at the second part assumed the R.A. degree. The ladies, in going from the Banquetting-hall to the Lodge-room, prior to the second part, passed under the Arch of Steel, the brethren appearing in the K.T.'s dress.

About 120 were present, and the ladies especially appeared thoroughly to enjoy the evening, which was one of considerable pleasure and gratification.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, CITY.—The friends of this excellent institution will learn with much pleasure that N. de Rothschild, Esq., M.P., has consented to preside at its forthcoming anniversary festival, date and particulars of which will be shortly announced. The committee confidently anticipate in connexion therewith a large augmentation of the funds of the charity, which have become very much reduced in consequence of the crisis of 1866, and the subsequent depression in the commercial world. No reduction has, however, taken place in the number of patients relieved; the number for 1867 being 78,997 against 74,869 of the previous year. The peculiar characteristics of this hospital are that, it is entirely *free*. No letters of recommendation are needed. Sickness and poverty are the only qualifications necessary to insure a speedy participation in its benefits. It is unendowed, and dependent *entirely* upon the voluntary contributions of the benevolent.

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE BRIGHTON "TURKISH BATH."

On Monday, 2nd inst., the above ceremony was performed by the chairman of the company, Bro. W. H. German, Treas. 811, in the presence of several ladies and gentlemen, among whom were Bros. R. Rugg, 273; W. R. Wood, P.M. 315, 811, &c., Prov. J.G.W. Sussex; Dr. Pearce, 811; Dr. Bryce, P.M.; T. J. Sabine, W.M. 73 (secretary to the company); Govtly, J.D. 811 (the architect); Freeman, W.M. 732, P. Prov. J.G.W. Sussex; J. G. Marzetti, &c.

The attendance at the ceremony was confined to the directors, officials, and a few personal friends.

Bro. W. H. German, after having proved the stone fairly and squarely set in its proper place at the north-east corner of the ground, made a few remarks to those assembled, observing that it was originally proposed to lay the foundation stone with some amount of ceremony; but, after many discussions, it was finally arranged to do the work quietly and privately. The directors had honoured him with the important duty of laying the foundation stone of their intended building—important, from the fact that Brighton, the oft-boasted Queen of Watering-places, had nothing of the kind, either as an attraction for her visitors or as a health-assistant to the many other hygienic resources of the town; and he was satisfied that the building would be not only a great ornament to Brighton but of very great utility to the medical profession residing here, many of whom were shareholders, and several of whom were then present, testifying to the great interest they took in the work which had been so favourably begun. Bro. German concluded by saying that he was sure that Bro. Dr. Bryce, whose eagerness to get the bath established in Brighton was only equalled by his experiences of its uses both at home and abroad, would be glad to address them.

Bro. Dr. Bryce said he always considered honour should be given to those to whom honour is due, and that was to the chairman and directors of this company, who had so skilfully brought the company to the present position it occupied in the town. Nearly two years were spent in overcoming obstructions to the company being established; however, that piece of ground was ultimately chosen, and all who saw it were impressed with its peculiar adaptation, its shape and extent, to the purpose required. Everyone who would take the trouble to compare this site and the plans of the building they were erecting on it, with those so-called "Turkish Baths" which had used, and, to some extent, abused, the name in Brighton some years ago, would agree with him in saying how totally and how thoroughly they had failed, in consequence of their imperfections and their want of comfort, convenience, and working efficiency. He took a pride in the work in hand, regarding the establishment of the bath as a new era in the attractions of the town; and he most sincerely believed that to the shareholders it would prove a remunerative undertaking.

The directors and a few friends (including Bro. Alderman Hallet, 732, the Mayor of Brighton), then adjourned to luncheon at the White Horse Hotel, East-street, the expenses of which were defrayed by the directors themselves, and not out of the funds of the company.

The cloth having been removed, Bro. German, the chairman, said it was only proposed to drink three toasts—"The Queen, the Head of the Nation;" "The Mayor, the Chief Magistrate of Brighton;" and success to the undertaking really and earnestly commenced to-day—"The Turkish Bath."

The Chairman then gave "The Queen," which having been duly honoured,

Bro. Dr. Bryce, in proposing "The Health of the Mayor of Brighton," said they were to-day favoured with the presence of the Mayor, a gentleman of whose position and influence they felt proud, and who, by his presence there that day, had evinced the interest he took in any

undertaking for the good, the improvement, or the embellishment of the town, or the healthful recreation of its inhabitants or visitors. How well he had performed the varied and often onerous duties connected with his high municipal position was best proved by the fact, that the Town Council of Brighton had selected him as Mayor a second time. Recurring to the new undertaking, Bro. Dr. Bryce said it had not been suppressed, but only retarded, by the depression which had so long prevailed in every commercial circle. Three years ago the Bath was viewed with apprehension; two years ago with doubt; but at the present time it was welcomed by the medical profession and generally by the inhabitants. It afforded him much personal pleasure to be identified with it; to be able to assist in putting on it the stamp of credit and the stamp of success. They were assured and indeed guaranteed by the contractors, men eminent in the building trade (Messrs. Cheeseman and Co.), that the Bath should be ready for public use by the 1st of September, and on that day he hoped they should for the first time receive the public.

The Mayor then briefly replied, stating that it was at the earnest request of his friends, Bros. W. R. Wood and H. N. Goulty, that he was with them to-day. In his own mind he had no doubt whatever that a Turkish Bath, properly constructed, properly fitted, and properly carried on, would pay well, and prove remunerative to those who had embarked their capital in it. It was not at all unlikely that the two inefficient, and, therefore, ineffectual, attempts which had been made in Brighton to establish a Turkish Bath had caused them much difficulty, and had placed in the way of their making more rapid progress many obstructions; and had also given rise to some prejudice. He was sure the building would be, architecturally, an ornament to Brighton, from the design having been furnished by Bro. H. N. Goulty, whose skill, as displayed in other buildings of the town, proved him to be an able architect. He concluded by stating that it always afforded him a pleasurable satisfaction to be the means of forwarding the interests, of hastening the progress, and of assisting to establish any institution, be it public or private, which was calculated to prove a benefit to the town and an attraction to visitors.

Mr. Maitland next proposed "Success to the Turkish Bath;" and, in doing so, referred to its antiquity, and to its use among the ancient Romans. The Turkish Bath had always been of valuable assistance to the medical profession, and no member of that body need fear its rivalry.

Bro. Dr. Bryce briefly replied to the last toast, and said the whole affair, the freehold ground, the building, and its perfect equipment, would be obtained for £9,000; and he had no doubt, when they met the shareholders that day twelvemonths, they would be able to give a good account of the important responsibility under their care.

Several other toasts were subsequently proposed.

#### HAR MAJESTY'S THEATRE AND BRO. S. MAY.

An adjourned meeting of the May Testimonial Fund Committee was held on Monday last at the George Tavern, Aldermanbury, Bro. John Udall, P.G.D., in the chair. Several amounts were announced, and the accounts gone into respecting the late benefit at Drury-lane Theatre, but, from the number of tickets yet unaccounted for, the net result could not be declared till next meeting. Arrangements were made for one or more benefits at other places of amusement, and the meeting was adjourned to next Monday, the 23rd inst., at four o'clock, at the same place. Donations continue to be received by Bro. F. Ledger, Treasurer, *Era* office, Catherine-street, Strand; Bro. T. Beard, Hon. Sec., 10, Basinghall-street; and by the Committee.

#### MASONIC LIFEBOAT FUND.

Further subscriptions received:—£2 2s. from Bro. J. N. Sharp, Britannic Lodge, No. 33, per Bro. William Smith, C.E.

#### MEETINGS OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>, 1868.

Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.—Geographical Society, at 8<sup>1/2</sup>. Paper to be read:—"A journey to Shasa and the Source of the Brahmaputra." By a Pundit, under the direction of Captain T. G. Montgomerie, R.E.

TUESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup>.—Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>th</sup>.—Society of Arts, at 8.—Geological Society, at 8.

#### METROPOLITAN LODGE MEETINGS, etc., FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>, 1868.

MONDAY, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.—Lodges:—Royal Somerset House and Inverness, 4, Freemasons' Hall. Castle Lodge of Harmony, 26, Willis's Rooms, St. James's. Old King's Arms, 28, Freemasons' Hall. Unity, 183, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Tower Hamlets Engineers, 902, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Chapter:—Robert Burns, 25, Freemasons' Hall.

TUESDAY, March 24<sup>th</sup>.—Lodges:—Tuscan, 14, Freemasons' Hall. Moira, 62, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Prudent Brethren, 145, Freemasons' Hall. Industry, 186, Freemasons' Hall. Israel, 205, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Prince of Wales, 259, Willis's Rooms, St. James's. Southern Star, 1,158, Montpelier Tavern, Walworth. Urban, 1,196, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell.

WEDNESDAY, March 25<sup>th</sup>.—Grand Stewards Lodge, public night. Lodges:—Antiquity, 2, Freemasons' Hall. Mount Moriah, 34, Freemasons' Hall. United Pilgrims, 507, Horns' Tavern, Kennington-park. Prince Frederick William, 753, Knights of St. John's Hotel, St. John's-wood. High Cross, 754, Railway Hotel, Northumberland-park, Tottenham. Temperance in the East, 898, Private Assembly Rooms, 6, Newby-place, Poplar.

THURSDAY, March 26<sup>th</sup>.—Gen. Com. Female School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4. Lodges:—Neptune, 22, Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Peace and Harmony, 60, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Prosperity, 65, Masons' Arms Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street. Grenadiers, 66, Freemasons' Hall. Shakespeare, 99, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Victoria, 1,056, George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Buckingham and Cuan-dos, 1,150, Freemasons' Hall. Chapters:—Domestic, 177, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Lily of Richmond, 820, Greyhound, Richmond, Surrey.

FRIDAY, March 27<sup>th</sup>.—Lodges:—House Com. Boys' School at 3. Lodges:—Universal, 181, Freemasons' Hall. Jerusalem, 197, Freemasons' Hall. Fitzroy, 569, Head Quarters of the Hon. Artillery Co., London. Royal Alfred, 760, Star and Garter, Kew-bridge. Finsbury, 861, Jolly Anglers, Bath-street, St. Luke's.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

R. B. (Totnes).—Letter received, which shall have our attention.

J. P. P. (Liverpool).—Copy to hand with thanks. Shall receive attention in our next.