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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1869.

THE MARK DEGREE.

By REITAM.

In the MAGAZINE, page 284, I have read the article, "English Mark Lodges" by "Crescent," with a considerable amount of interest and attention, but I must confess my inability to follow the thread of his argument in favour of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and his animadversions on the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland.

I must protest against the Grand Conclave of K.T. being dragged into the question, to form a precedent for the recognition of the Mark Degree.

The K.T. is a non-Masonic degree altogether, and the Mark is recognised by the G.L. of Scotland, as a part of the second or F.C. degree. If the Grand Lodge of England in the plenitude of their wisdom, decline to do the same thing, it is their fault, and our misfortune, and we, as brethren, desiring to uphold pure and legal Mark Masonry, cannot be blamed, if we desire to work under a warrant from the only recognised and legal governing Masonic Body in Great Britain who has, at the present time, charge of this most interesting and ancient degree, and this body we believe to be, the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, and not the Grand Mark Lodge; I myself, believing as I do that the Mark Degree is an essential part of pure and Ancient Freemasonry could not in justice to my own conviction receive the degree from a body who is not recognised by those Grand Lodges, who are the rulers of the Craft, and I am pleased to say, I am not alone in my opinions.

However, let me assure "Crescent," that there

are several lodges holding warrants from Scotland, in this country. He is evidently ignorant of this fact, as he enquires, if any such still exist.

One of these, the St. John's Lodge of Bolton, No. 2, at present numbers on their roll about one hundred and sixty members, and last year advanced thirty to this degree.

The Joppa, Birkenhead, No. 5, advanced twenty in the same time, while the youngest of all, the St. Andrews, Manchester, No. 22, was consecrated on May 27th 1869, and has, from that time to the present, (not quite five months), admitted thirty members into Mark Masonry.

"Crescent's" reason for the non-recognition of the G. Mark Lodge by the S.G. Chapter of Scotland, is too paltry to be answered, and I leave it to his own good taste to withdraw the imputation.

In Scottish Masonry, the Royal Arch is not acknowledged as in any way connected with Ancient Freemasonry. In this view Scotland is supported by every other country in which the R.A. is worked. England alone being the exception that proves the rule. We are well aware the R.A. Degree, was an invention of the schismatic party, who called themselves Ancient Masons, and separated from the Grand Lodge of London in 1739, and continued working as a separate and distinct governing body till 1813, when the schism was healed, and the Grand Lodges united.

In this union, the Ancient Laws, as well written as traditional, were taken, as the basis, and the spirit that influenced the organization of 1717, was recognised.

The announcement was made that pure and Ancient Masonry consisted but of three degrees, viz., E.A.P., F.C., and M.M.

Unfortunately the Ancient Masons made it a *sine quâ non* of their union, and the G.L. conceded to them, that, as they must necessarily abandon their rite of seven degrees, there should be a recognition of a division of the M.M. degree as practised by the Ancient Masons and taught, as a supplementary portion of this degree, under the name of *Royal Arch*.

Dr. Emmanuel Rebold, says, "this was an act of feebleness on the part of the G.L. of London, which has destroyed in a great degree, the unity and basis of true Masonry, as it had been practised by that body, up to that time, with a laudable firmness."

Such being the case, there is no official recog-

dition of the Grand Chapter of Scotland by the Grand Lodge, but the present M.E. First Principal, the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., as also the M.W.G.M. of Scotland.

However, should "Crescent" feel inclined to establish an English R.A. Chapter in Scotland he is welcome to try, but let him remember the Scottish motto *nemo me impune lacessit*.

Personally and individually, I have the greatest possible respect and admiration for the zeal and earnestness of the G. Mark Lodge of England, and when the happy day of reconciliation and union arrives, and when I can conscientiously enrol myself under their banner, they will find me, an humble, obedient and zealous brother.

Straws tell us which way the wind blows, and from certain indications in the Masonic atmosphere, I fancy a move in the right direction is being thought of. Whether these "tender leaves of hope," will ever blossom, we know not, but *dum spiro spero*.

"Crescent" concludes by saying, "Let us urge the Scottish Mark Lodges in England, if any such still exist, to hasten to change their warrants, before it is too late and they find themselves left out in the cold." The italics are mine.

Now, in the name of common sense, what does "Crescent" mean by this threat, for threat assuredly it is. We cannot crave for recognition from the G. Mark Lodge, for we, it is, who do not acknowledge or visit them, and they are already *tabooed*.

Whatever may be the meaning of this sybilline warning, of which I must confess myself totally ignorant, should we be ever "*left out in the cold*," I trust we shall be enabled to bear with equanimity the doom of frozen out Mark Masters.

MASONIC CELESTIAL MYSTERIES.

By Bro. HENRY MELVILLE.

PAPER II.—SECOND SERIES.—LABOR OMNIA VINCIT.

It is admitted that the tribes of the children of Israel set up ensigns for signs,* and that the symbols on these ensigns were the pictured constellations of the Zodiac. There are four standards enumerated in Numbers: that of Judah in the east, of Ephraim in the west, of Reuben in the south, and Dan in the north. Celestially they

* Psalms, 74-4.

denote the equinoxical and solstitial points on the ecliptic, and which are called the cardinal points.* "Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch his camp by his own standard with the ensigno their father's house; and on the east side towards the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch".† The east side towards the rising of the sun does not indicate any particular spot on the earth, for the sun rises in the east perpetually throughout the interminable circle. In like manner the sun to our earth is always vertical, or, in Masonic words, the sun is ever on the meridian. It is different in the heavens. There the cardinal points, as described, are fixed—there the sun rises in the east only once a year, and that is at the moment he passes over the line at the vernal equinox—there then at the equinox is to be the standard of Judah, or Nisan, or Aries—Nisan means "standard," and it is the first month of the sacred year of the Jews.‡ "In the first place went the standard of the camp of the children of Judah."§

Lions, it need scarcely be repeated, constitute symbols of the royal arms, yet it is not supposed the animals were aborigines of any portion of Great Britain. That there are celestial lions is most certain. In order to test the efficiency of the Masonic keys and laws, it will be expedient to explain celestially the most important passages in the Scriptures where *practical interpretation* can be given of lions. The reading shall be according to the laws placed in the hands of the Grand Registrar, Bro. M'Intyre, who declared in writing that what Masonic matters he examined were accurately pointed out by those laws. The Biblical references to the lion exceed one hundred, and to give the interpretation of each passage *seriatim* would be tedious, but any brother desiring explanation of any reference not here elucidated shall have the celestial interpretation *given* to him when he makes application.

There was a young lion in the house or sign of Judah.|| That as explained is Aries, and it is thus confirmed: "Judah is a lion's whelp; he couched as a lion, and as an old lion, who shall rouse him up."¶ "Behold, a young lion roared against Samson, and the spirit came upon him mightily, and he rent the lion as he would have

* Numbers, 2, 3, 10, 18, and 25. † Numbers, 2, 2, 3.
‡ Esther, 3, 7. § Numbers, 0, 14.
|| Hosea, 5, 14. ¶ Gen. 49, 9.

rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand."* Samson, be it remembered, means "sun," and the sun rises in his strength in Judah's Aries, and there Samson slew the young lion. The Ninevite

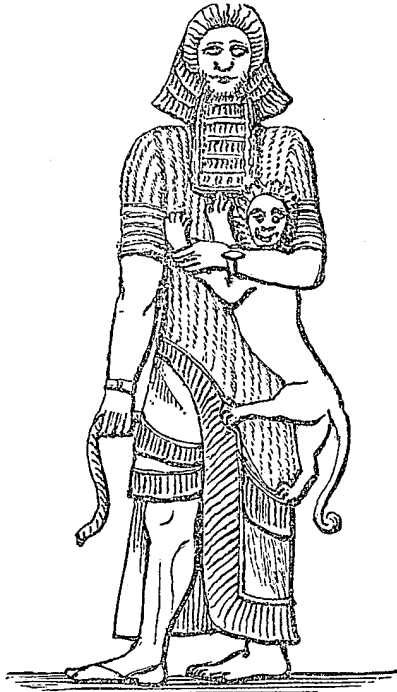


Fig. 1.

records show us the figure of Samson or Hercules strangling the young lion. The Greeks also represent Samson or Hercules in like manner, and he certainly has nothing in his hand; but as the club is introduced, he might have used it in the conflict, had he so desired. The young lion being



Fig. 2.

* Judges, 14, 5-6.

killed, it ascended to heaven with the *scarabæus* and other objects, and there it is as Leo Major. It will presently be explained that Leo Major and Leo Minor cover the Gemini, Castor and Pollux, and in the astronomical Gemini is a lion's skin with Orion; thus these two brothers may be allegorically called lion-like men, and Benaiah "slew two lion-like men; also, he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day."* The snow would indicate winter, and there at the winter solstice is Samson or Hercules with the lion's skin as covering to keep him warm, the brilliant of which skin is Algothi. The kid that Samson the Sun would have rent had he been with it is Lambda, the evening Passover lamb, heretofore fully described, and, as stated, this lamb is at AR 76° 36', opposite which precisely is Algothi at AR 256° 36'. So the sun rising at either position would be sun set to the opposite. "Behold, the lion of the tribe of Juda, the root of David hath prevailed to open the book." It must be noticed that "Juda" is here mentioned, and not "Judah"—they are precisely opposite to each other. As seen, Judah is Aries, and is the Sabbatical month of the civil year, whereas Juda or Judas is Libra, and there is Algothi in Libra the Sabbatical month of the sacred year. "Judas, called Maccabeus, was like a lion."† In the Masonic certificate—Irish—on the right side is a globe, the sub-divisions, being visible, denote light. Alongside the globe are two volumes—the Old and New Testament generally bound together—"and no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look therein."‡ On the opposite side of the certificate is another globe, representing utter darkness and the heavenly book is open, and there, in Tishree (libra) it is sunset and night—there is Hercules or Sampson, the lion of the tribe of Juda, the root, as will be explained, of David opposite. The lion has proceeded to open and read the book, and to loose the seven seals, when the heavenly brethren assemble to open their lodge. And here is the Apprentice Mason exalted as in olden times. It is taken from Montfaucon's Antiquities, plate 115, vol. 1.

Mythological Apollo is derived from theological David. Both were celebrated harpists and singers of sacred songs. In the second Vase Room of the British Museum is a picture said to have been dug up among the ruins of Pompeii. The public

* I. Chron., 11-22. † I. Mac., 3, 4. ‡ Rev., 5, 3-4-5

are seriously informed that it represents Apollo in the house of Castor and Pollux. This a very fair classic hoax, because Apollo is the Egyptian Castor, and celestial charts generally name Alpha the Gemini Castor vel Apollo, so that Apollo of Pompeii and Apollo of heaven are always at home in the house of Castor and Pollux, but they are

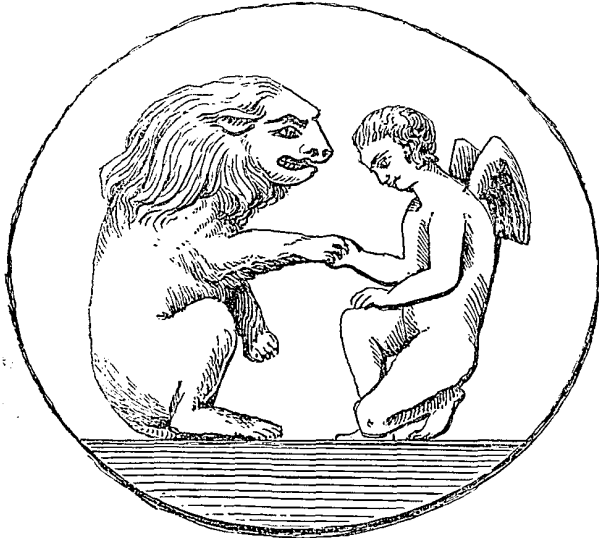


Fig. 3.

not always in the Gemini, because all astronomers from time immemorial have placed the type of the Gemini on the pictured sign Taurus, and in Taurus is the shepherd hitherto interpreted, with the lamb, with his arm,* and Raguel, the shepherd of God.

Castor then with his harp personates David, to whose house there is a key "that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth."† Thus was it written to the Church (*Capella in Auriga*) of Philadelphia, which means "brotherly love," for which Castor and Pollux were very celebrated. The key of the house of David is to be laid upon Eliakim's shoulder so "he shall open and none shall shut, and he shall shut and none shall open."‡ Who Eliakim was is not mentioned. What is meant by the key being placed on his shoulder, and not in his hand, or in his belt, where warders are supposed to carry such implements? Terrestrially keys on any man's shoulder could not work so as to open and shut doors of a house, but celestially it would be otherwise. Eliakim means "resurrection, or strength;" in other words, Samson or Hercules, and his right shoulder is

with Algothi, the lion of the tribe of Judah—this is the root of David opposite—this is the Rock Peter of the New Testament, who has power to "bind on earth and in heaven, and to loose on earth and in heaven."* From this celestial Peter of course, came the Papal keys, one of which opens and shuts the bottomless pit—Hiram Hercules is he "that liveth and was dead, and hath the keys of hell and death."† The Masons select the shoulder of the apprentice on which to lay their key, the triple tau, the government shall be upon his shoulder§; but, as before explained, the Papal and the Masonic keys, though they are somewhat differently constructed, serve exactly the same purpose, and the Masonic motto will suit either—"Nil nisi clavis deest." Algothi of $256^{\circ} 36'$, as so often stated, has the lambs opposite at $76^{\circ} 36'$, and there is Raguel, the shepherd, and Capella, and there in Taurus is the type of the Gemini. Samson or the lion of the tribe of Juda with his shoulder advancing one sign or 30 degrees will reach 286° on old Christmas Day, the 6th of January; and by so doing the opposite sign Taurus, in which, as just stated, are the lambs and Raguel at 76° , will be advanced a sign or 30 degrees on to 106° . And there is the pictured sign Gemini, the Alpha of which is David vel Apollo, who thus, with Capella, and the lambs and Raguel, becomes allegorically "the shepherd." Alpha of the Gemini *must, therefore, interpret what David does with the sheep and lions, &c., or there is no truth in celestial Masonry.* The movement of the shoulder of Hiram Hercules has opened the house of David by placing the astronomical type of the Gemini on the pictured sign Gemini. Shutting the house would be the reversed motion, placing Cancer on the Gemini.

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE AND OPERATIVE FREEMASONRY.

By Bro. W. P. BUCHAN.

While studying this subject, my attention has been so much taken up lately with the following remarks of James Ferguson, Esq., *M.R.I.B.A.*, as contained at page 659 et seq. of vol. 2nd of his "Illustrated Handbook of Architecture" pub. 1855, that I make bold to quote them, they are of

* Matt. 16, 19 Barjona, "son of a dove," see Columba opposite.

† Rev. 1, 18 and ch. 9, 1.

‡ Isaiah, 9, 6.

* Isaiah, 40, 11.

† Rev. 3, 7.

‡ Isaiah, 22, 22

course so infinitely better than anything I could hope to say on the matter that I beg to be allowed to give his own words. It is only by studying first class work such as his, that we Freemasons can hope to arrive at the true history of our Order; and as many brethren have never seen Mr. Ferguson's work, they will, I am sure, be highly gratified as well as edified with the valuable and interesting quotations given, I merely insert the dates and add a foot note or two.

CHAPTER VIII.

FRANKISH ARCHITECTURE.

Contents.

Historical Notice.—*The Pointed Arch.*—*Freemasonry.*—*Mediæval Architects.*

FRANKIA.

"The architectural history of the central or Frankish province is widely different from that of any of those we have yet examined. It is true Paris was nominally the capital of France, and in the time of Charlemagne had been the centre of a great and powerful empire. His reign, however, seems to have been the last expiring efforts of a previous civilization, rather than the foundation of a new and progressive state of affairs. After his death a period of anarchy ensued; and what with the weakness of the kings, the disorganization of the people, and the ravages of the Northmen and other barbarians, no part of France was in a less satisfactory position for the cultivation of the arts of peace than that which might have been expected to take the lead in all. Thus, while the very plunder of the central province enabled the Normans to erect and sustain a powerful state on the one side, and to adorn it with monuments which still excite our admiration, and the organization of the monks of Burgundy on the other hand, enabled them to cultivate the arts of peace to an extent hardly known before their time in Northern Europe, Central France remained incapable even of self-defence, much more of raising monuments of splendour and art.

"There are no doubt buildings in the round Gothic style in this province, but they are few and insignificant, compared with those we have been describing, either in the South or in Normandy and Burgundy. Even in Paris the great church of St. Germain des Près, the burial place of the earlier kings, and apparently the most splendid edifice of the capital, was not more than 50ft. in width by 200 in length, before the rebuilding of its chevet in the pointed style, and possessed no

remarkable features of architectural display. St. Geneviève was even smaller and less magnificent; and if there was a cathedral, it was so insignificant that it has not been mentioned by any contemporary historian.

"Several of the provincial capitals had, probably cathedrals of some extent and magnificence. All these, however, were found so unsuited to the splendid tastes of the 12th and 13th centuries, that they were pulled down and rebuilt on a more extended scale; and it is only from little fragmentary portions of village churches that we learn that the round Gothic style, was really at one time prevalent in the province, and possessed features according to its locality resembling those of the neighbouring styles. So scanty indeed are such traces, that it is hardly worth while to recapitulate here the few observations that might occur on the round Gothic styles as found within the limits of the province. The church of St. Remi at Rheims ought perhaps to be treated as an exception to this assertion; it has, however, been so much altered in more modern times as almost to have lost its original character. It nevertheless retains the outlines of a vast and noble basilica of the early part of the 11th century, presenting considerable points of similarity to those of Burgundy.

"This state of affairs continued down to the reign of Louis le Gros, 1108-1136, under whom the monarchy of France began to revive. This monarch by his activity and intelligence, restored to a considerable extent the authority of the central power over the then independent vassals of the crown. This was carried still further under the reign of his successor Louis le Jeune, though perhaps more was owing to the abilities of the Abbé Suger than to either of these monarchs. He seems to have been one of those great men who sometimes appear at a crisis in the history of their country, to guide and restore what otherwise might be left to blind chance and perish for want of a master mind. Under Philip Augustus, the country advanced with giant strides, till under St. Louis (Louis IX. obt. 1271) it arrived at the summit of its power. For a century after this it sustained itself by the impulse thus given to it, and with scarcely an external sign of that weakness which betrayed itself in the rapidity with which the whole power of the nation crumbled to pieces under the first rude shock, sustained at Crecy (1346) from the hand of Edward III.

"More than a century of anarchy and confusion followed this great event, and perhaps the period of the English wars may be considered as the most disastrous of the whole history of France, as the previous two centuries had been the most brilliant. When she delivered herself from these troubles, she was no longer the same. The spirit of the middle ages had passed away. The simple faith and giant energy of the reigns of Philip Augustus and St. Louis were not to be found under Louis XI. (1461 to 1483) and his inglorious successors. With the accession of Francis I. (in 1515) a new state of affairs succeeded, to the total obliteration of all that had gone before, at least in art.

"The improvement of architecture, keeping pace exactly with the improved political condition of the land, began with Louis Le Gros, and continued till the reign of Philip of Valois, (1328 to 1350). It was during the two centuries comprised within this period that the pointed architecture was invented, which became the style, not only of France, but of all Europe during the middle ages; and is, *par excellence*, the Gothic style of Europe. The cause of this pre-eminence is to be found partly in the mere accident of the superior power, at the critical period, of the nation to which the style belonged, and also because it was found the most fitted to carry out certain religious principles and decorative notions, which were prevalent at the time, and which will be noted as we proceed.

"The style, therefore, with which this chapter is concerned is that which commenced with the building of the Abbey of St. Denis by Suger, A.D. 1144, which culminated with the building of the Ste. Chapelle of Paris by St. Louis 1244, and which received its greatest amount of finish at the completion of the Choir of St. Ouen, at Rouen, by Mark d'Argent, in 1339. There are pointed arches to be found in the central province, as well as all over France, before the time of the Abbé Suger, but they are only the experiments of Masons struggling with a constructive difficulty; and the pointed style continued to be practised for more than a century and a half after the completion of the Choir of St. Ouen, but it was no longer the pure and vigorous style of the earlier period. It resembles more the efforts of a national style to accommodate itself to new tastes and new feelings, and to maintain itself by ill-suited arrangements against the innovation of a foreign style which was

to supersede it, but whose influence was felt long before its definite appearance.

"The sources from which the pointed arch was taken have been more than once alluded to in the preceeding pages. It is a subject on which a great deal more has been said and written than was at all called for by the real importance of the question. Scarcely anything was done in pointed architecture which had not already been done in the round-arched styles. Certainly there is nothing which could not have been done, at least nearly as well, and many things much better, by adhering to the complete instead of the broken arch. The coupling and compounding of piers had already been carried to great perfection, and the assignment of a separate function to each shaft was already a fixed principle. Vaulting, too, was nearly perfect, only that the main vaults were either hexaparite or 6-celled, instead of quadripartite, as they afterwards became; an improvement certainly, but not of much importance. Ribbed vaulting was the greatest improvement which the Mediæval architects made on the Roman vaults, giving not only additional strength of construction, but an apparent vigour and expression to the vault, which is one of the greatest beauties of the style. This system was in frequent use before the employment of the pointed arch. The different and successive phases of decoration were also one of the Mediæval inventions which were carried to greater perfection in the round Gothic styles than in the Pointed. Indeed, it is fact, that except window tracery, and perhaps pinnacles and flying buttresses, there is not a single important feature in the Pointed Style that was not invented and currently used before its introduction. Even of windows, which are the important features of the new style, by far the finest are the circular or wheel windows, which have nothing pointed about them,* and always fit awkwardly into the pointed compartments in which they are placed. In smaller windows, too, by far the most beautiful and constructively appropriate tracery is that where circles are introduced into the heads of the pointed windows; but after hundreds of experiments and expedients, the difficulty of fitting these circles into spherical triangles, and the unpleasant form

* Are not these large single circular, or rose windows, placed in west end or transepts, things *per se*, and emblems of infinity? They are glorious in their position, but if repeated along the aisles, they might be too common then, and not have the same effect.

to which their disagreement inevitably gave rise, proved ultimately so intolerable, that the architects were forced to abandon the beautiful constructive geometric tracery for the flowing or flamboyant form; and this last was so ill-adapted to stone construction, that ultimately the method was abandoned altogether. These and many other difficulties would have been avoided had the architects adhered to the form of the unbroken arch; but, on the other hand, it must be confessed that the pointed forms gave a facility of arrangement which was an irresistible inducement for its adoption; and especially to the French, who always affected height as the principal element of architectural effect, it afforded an easy means for the attainment of this object. Its greatest advantage was the ease with which any required width could be combined with any required height. With this power of adaptation the architect was at liberty to indulge in all the wildness of the most exuberant fancy, hardly controlled by any constructive necessities of the work he was carrying out. Whether this was really an advantage or not, is not quite clear. A tighter rein on the fancy of the designer would certainly have produced a purer and severer style, though we might have been deprived of some of those picturesque effects which charm so much in Gothic cathedrals, especially when their abruptness is softened by time, and hallowed by associations.* We must, however, in judging of the style be careful to guard ourselves against fettering our judgment by such associations. There is nothing in all this that might not have been as easily applied to round as to pointed arches, and indeed it would certainly have been so applied had any of the round-arched styles arrived at maturity.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERIES.

Can the Master of a lodge make a motion or proposition from the chair?—R. W. M.—[Yes.—Ed. F. M.]

May a Master or a lodge vote on any question before the lodge?—R. W. M.—[Certainly; he may exercise his privilege of membership.—Ed. F. M.]

* Somehow, from their construction even, is there not, however, a spirituality and heaven-directing idealism about our pointed cathedrals which round-arched edifices want?

DIFFUSION OF FREEMASONRY.

An interesting example of the diffusion of Freemasonry over the surface of the globe was recently seen in your front page. An Englishman went to Constantinople in the public service, he was there admitted into Freemasonry. A daughter was born to him in that distant city. After various ups and downs of life and travels, he died prematurely in the city of Teheran, in Persia, not entitled to a pension. His daughter is elected at the head of a list of candidates into that valuable institution, the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and will in London receive a sound education.

Brethren abroad sometimes grumble about their dependence on a Grand Lodge in London, but its organization is available to them in every part of the world, and particularly to all poor and distressed brethren.—PEREGRINUS.

"SPECULATYF," ITS MEANING (pp. 251, 285, & 329).

I do not intend to quarrel about the meaning of the word "speculatyf," for it is quite unnecessary; and, although the word occurs in 1440, it does not follow that it was known in 926, neither does it follow that its current meaning in 1869 was the same as in 1440. First prove, if you can (but I am afraid you can't), that our *speculative* Masonry existed before last century, before you reckon who was or who was not initiated into it. I shall always be ready to bow to real evidence, and acknowledge a mistake whenever it is *proved*, or I perceive I have made one.—W. P. BUCHAN.

THE BUILDING FRATERNITIES.

At page 329 "A Masonic Student" says, "Bro. Buchan is in complete error when he says the 'era of building fraternities was in the 12th and 13th centuries.'" Well, if I be wrong, I sin in good company, as per the remarks of Professor Cosmo Innes, page 297 of his "Scotland in the Middle Ages," published in 1860; also of James Ferguson, Esq., in his work published in 1855, in which, page 667, he speaks of "the glorious period of the 13th century," and, he goes on to say, "Not even the great Pharaonic era in Egypt, the age of Pericles in Greece, nor the great period of the Roman empire, will bear comparison with the 13th century in Europe."

Before the war of independence in Scotland, many noble churches were built there; but after that time—end of 13th century—they were backward. So in France, the war with England hurt it; but, as I have sent to the *Magazine* an article upon "Gothic Architecture and Operative Freemasonry," I beg to refer "A Masonic Student" to it for further remarks. However, as to the recommendation to read "Mr. Hope's Essay on Architecture," I have examined it to-day (2nd edition, 1835), and, for the time it was written, it is very good; but it is too old. We have many authors *since then* who have been able to correct Mr. Hope's mistakes; consequently, I would recommend "A Masonic Student" to get some more recent and standard work to quote from. Mr. Hope places Germany as the pioneer of Pointed or Gothic Architecture; whereas, we now find it came *after* both France and England. Mr. Hope's *speculations* were based upon wrong data; hence his mistakes.—W. P. BUCHAN.

LOOSENESS AS TO DATES (pp. 286 & 330).

Bro. J.A.H. has written to me, and I understand how the mistakes occurred, and am quite satisfied.—W.P.B.

BURGH RECORDS (330).

I am sorry to have to knock down the fine "castle in the air" which our esteemed brother, "A Masonic Student," has been building up at page 320 in regard to the Knights Templar being Freemasons, &c. Turn to page 250, September 25th, and it will be seen that the Templars "joined the gild in order to have *liberty to trade*;" that is, they joined the merchant gild, not the Mason Craft. They did not want to work as handicraftsmen; they wished "to intromet with merchandise." Moreover, as I have already shown and quoted the law, a man could not be a craftsman and a merchant at one and the same time; he had to be either the one or the other; and the merchant gild always thought themselves above the trades guilds or handicrafts.—W. P. BUCHAN.

BRO. W. J. HUGHAN AND FREEMASONRY.

Will Bro. Hughan kindly say what *he meant*, or what he *referred to then*, when at page 289 he said, "Masonry was practised as a secret society, and on a *different basis* to any other trade incorporations or guilds?"—W.P.B.

TRADE SECRETS.

As Bro. Buchan and other of your correspondents doubt about trade signs and grips in the middle ages, I refer them to the fact that at the Council of Avignon, in 1326, the system of secret signs and tokens of trades was then so developed as to be condemned, so that the Popes of the last century were not the first assailants. The curious matter on this is quoted from the History of Davington, p. 58, in "Notes and Queries," 4th Series, iv., Oct. 16, 1869, p. 310. The craftsmen are accused also of electing a Major, or Master, to whom they all swore obedience. Quotations:—

Conciliu, edition of Mansi, in folio, at Venice, 1782, ch. xxv., col. 763.

Ducange, Dictionary of Low and Mediaeval Latin, word Fabricato.

History of Davington, as above.

Notes and Queries, as above.—OBSERVER.

LANDMARKS.

The investigation of the history of Freemasonry, or, as it is now called, Masonic Archaeology, will throw some light on the question of landmarks, superstitiously believed in by some, and apparently very little believed in by Grand Registrars and other lawyers, who rule the Craft, as they administer their version of the text of the Book of Constitutions without reference to landmarks.—P.M.

MAGUS; OR, THE MAGI.

The Asiatic rendering of this word signified a *consecrated man*, or one devoted to the worship of God, and is similar to the Hebrew word Nazarene, or the Hindoo, Samaneen. Consequently, the signification of the word *magic* was no doubt originally intended for the practice of worship, and the *magi* were those wise men who devoted themselves to research into the hidden mysteries of science, and to contemplation and worship.—REITAM.

THE SYBILLINE LEAVES.

The ancient name given to those women who pretended to have a divine inspiration and a knowledge of future events was *Sybil*. The most celebrated were the Sybils of Ionia and Italy. It was this last who sold the books or sybilline leaves to Tarquinius Superbus (the elder Tarquin). It was stated that these books contained all the future of Rome. Tarquin deposited them in the Capitol and confided them to the care of two priests, named Duumviri; these afterwards initiated 13 more, who carefully guarded the sacred records. At the burning of the Capitol in the time of Scylla, these leaves were destroyed. It is supposed that these oracles had their origin from the Essenian priests, from whom some authors have considered the secrets of Freemasonry are derived.—REITAM.

ST. JOHN, THE PATRON SAINT OF MASONS.

In confirmation of Bro. Buchan's remarks in a late number of the *Magazine*, I have much pleasure in quoting a paragraph from Bro. Rebold, Past Deputy of the Grand Orient of France, and a recognised authority on all subjects connected with the Craft:—

"In those days (*i.e.*, the Middle Ages) it was customary to dedicate and consecrate to some saint every erection intended for the worship of God, and, with the like idea, all the corporations of artists, artisans, and trades chose patron saints. The Freemasons chose St. John the Baptist for theirs, because his feast fell on the 24th June, the date of the summer solstice.

"This day had always been celebrated by the peoples of antiquity, and by the Masous since the foundation of their fraternity, as the period of the year when the sun, having attained its greatest height, nature is clothed and disports herself in the greatest abundance of her richest products. As successors of the ancient colleges of the Romans, the Freemasons of England conserved these cherished feasts; but, not to come in conflict with the dominant clergy, they were obliged to give their celebration a name not calculated to give offence. It was on this account they were known, not exclusively by the name of Freemasons, but often as the Fraternity of St. John, and on the Continent almost exclusively as St. John Brothers, or the Brothers of St. John."

Without giving any opinion on the above, I can only say, "*Si non e vero, e ben trovato.*"—REITAM.

A STRANGE STORY.

Through the kindness of Bro. S. Percy, P.M. 317, 1,005, I am enabled to present the following paragraph to your readers; it is extracted from a Californian paper, and, I am given to understand, is well authenticated. I have no doubt it will be of interest.—REITAM.

"The first Masonic funeral that ever occurred in California took place in the year 1849, and was performed over the body of a brother found in Bay of San Francisco. An account of the ceremonies states that on the body of the deceased was found a silver mark of a Mason, upon which were engraved the initials of his name. A little further investigation revealed to the beholder the most singular exhibition of Masonic emblems that was ever drawn by the ingenuity of man on the human skin. There is nothing in the history or the traditions of Freemasonry to

equal it. Beautifully dotted on his left arm, in red and blue ink, which time could not efface, appeared all the emblems of the Entered Apprenticeship. There were the Holy Bible, the square and compass, the twenty-four inch gauge and common gavel. There was also the Masonic pavement, representing the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple, the indented tessel which surrounds it, and the blazing star in the centre. On his right arm, and artistically executed in the same indelible liquid, were the emblems pertaining to the Fellow Craft degree, viz., the square, level, and the plumb. There were also the five orders of architecture—the Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite. In removing the garments from his body the trowel presented itself, with all the other tools of operative Masonry. Over the heart was the pot of incense. On the other parts of his body were the bee-hive, the "Book of Constitutions," guarded by the Tyler's sword, the sword pointing to a naked heart, the All-seeing eye, the anchor and ark, the hour-glass, the scythe, the 47th problem of Euclid, the sun, moon, stars, and comets, the three steps emblematical of youth, manhood, and age. Admirably executed was the weeping virgin, reclining upon a broken column, upon which lay the 'Book of Constitutions.' In her left hand she held a pot of incense, the Masonic emblem of the immortality of the soul. Immediately behind her stood winged Time, with his scythe by his side, which cuts the brittle thread of life, and the hour-glass at his feet, which is ever reminding us that our lives are withering away. The withered and attenuated fingers of the Destroyer were placed amid the long and gracefully flowing ringlets of the disconsolate mourner. Thus were the striking emblems of mortality beautifully blended in one pictorial representation. It was a spectacle such as Masons never saw before, and, in all probability, such as the fraternity will never witness again. The brother's name was never known."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

CELESTIAL MYSTERIES.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Bro. Evans, of Hobart Town, remarks that the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge does not allude to the origin of Freemasonry; that either the order really possesses a history or it does not; that, if it does, then unquestionably historical landmarks must exist somewhere by which its pretensions to antiquity can be established. The name of the original rulers and patrons of the Order should be known, and there should be an original plan and structure, &c.

When an aspirant is initiated he promises not to write or print anything directly or indirectly relating to Masonry. The words required of him are remarkably vigorous, and mean what they imply; or, if they do not, why are they allowed to be continued. When Masons ruled the world the oath was strictly enforced, and it was almost impossible for a brother to publish anything that was forbidden, and, even if he did so, it was of no avail, for the higher orders

were compelled to destroy all records that related to Masonry unless written or printed in the celestial language, a language perfectly unintelligible to the uninitiated. There are thousands of these celestially written works preserved in libraries, all of which can be read *and understood* by masters of the science. From what can be gathered from these records, Masonry flourished prior to the 16th century; that during the 17th it dwindled and became interwoven with astrology. The sciences confounded, seem to have remained passive for a time, when about the 18th century operative Masonry broke forth into existence. Modern Masonry has certainly nothing to do with astrology, but it assuredly has some connexion with astronomy, that is if the Grand Registrar's certificate is any authority. Thus Masonry is derived from the heavens, or the heavenly figures have been made to correspond with the Masonic ritual—one or the other! The celestial figures are said to be the invention of Ptolemy, and he died some years before Anno Domini commenced; so Masons must decide for themselves about antiquity.

In 1751 there was an evident endeavour to re-establish ancient Masonry. According to the old style—that is of the dark ages—Easter Day was dependent on the full moon at the vernal equinox, or the 21st of March. Easter Day in 1751 was still dependent on the full moon of the 21st March, as the prayer-books will prove; but the equinox, instead of being on the 21st March, had, owing to precessional motion, been driven back to the 10th of March. So no correct celestial atlas could be constructed, and consequently complex calculations were required to elucidate Masonic combinations. In 1752 the Act of Parliament introduced what is called the new style, but which in reality was re-introducing the very old style, as the Act itself explains. It sets forth that at the Convocation of Nice the vernal equinox was on the 21st March, and for reasons given it was desirable it should be as it was at the time of the Convocation. The law then ordains that the Calendar for the future shall be so regulated as to perpetuate the 21st of March as the day of the equinox. Atlases, therefore, properly constructed for the Nicean period (A.D. 325), for the year 1752, and for subsequent years must be all alike, and with them the celestial Masonic mysteries can be easily interpreted.

How could the Grand Lodge *print and publish* the history of Masonry when it would have been death for any one to have *written* the history. The officers of the Grand Lodge individually know nothing more of Masonry than do W.M.'s generally. The Grand Lodge is merely the executive of the Order, not the initiative, for there is no initiative, as Masons are beginning to find out. It was the duty of the executive rulers, whether they were called Cardinals, or Knights of Malta, or convocations of W.M.'s, to enforce the obligations and to punish those who evaded the provisions, and not to teach the knowledge to the brethren.

As to the original rulers of Masonry, what more can Bro. Evans require than to be reminded that the original rulers were *Sol* in *Omon* at the Convocation of Nice, and the celestial hosts were the landmarks, and "Remove not the ancient landmarks which thy fathers have set," for cursed be he that removeth his

neighbour's landmark, and all the people shall say Amen. Nice—Nise—Nisan!—the 21st is the vernal equinox!

Yours fraternally,
HENRY MELVILLE.

SCOTTISH LODGES.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—If J.A.H. will take the trouble of again referring to the latter portion of my communication, he will see I *did not* "admit that I never even heard of a certain part of the O.B.;" on the contrary, I said, "I cannot *dispute* at present" that the St. Clair Lodge, Glasgow, swears a *profane* to exclude from the Order lame men, etc. But I know the Grand Lodge of Scotland does not exclude such. I am aware such injunctions were given in the ancient charges, but, to meet the altered circumstances of speculative Masonry, these injunctions have been pronounced obsolete, and several Grand Lodges have decided that such admissions are both justifiable and legal. J.A.H. does not seem to notice the former and principal part of my letter, unless "I spoke of what I knew, and testified to what I had seen," refers to it; if so, he will greatly oblige by giving the number of the lodge or lodges whose *ordinary* practice is to make a profane a full-fledged Master Mason in one evening.

Yours fraternally,
R.W.M.

THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Now that Bro. Melville has died out here, it is refreshing to find that his disciples at the antipodes are not defunct, and that Bro. Evans, of Hobart Town, firmly believes that events, theological, mythological, and historical, have been compiled from the objects delineated in the Celestial Atlas. Bro. Melville made a very false step when he left such believers in Tasmania to peril himself among the doubters at home. Theology, mythology, and history are learnedly mixed up together and derived from the same fount.

Bro. Evans, however, asks a question not yet solved by the Celestial Atlas: how it is that the editors and publishers of the Book of Constitutions have not given an account of the origin of Freemasonry? I apprehend it is for a very good reason, that they now think they do not know and wait to be informed. Time was when they believed what is published in the Calendar, that St. Alban was the proto-martyr and the proto-Mason of England. Luckily they are now ashamed to believe this, and there will be no harm in waiting until we know with some degree of safety what to believe. In the meanwhile, Freemasonry will not be less good.

Yours fraternally,
P.M.

MASONIC DISCIPLINE.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—I regret that the letter of "Crux," which appeared in your number of Sept. 11th, should not have been answered sooner, but as

several thousand miles have to be traversed before your *Magazine* reaches me, delay in reply is unavoidable.

I must express my surprise and sorrow that my courteous article should have made "Crux" so angry, and I must say that I think he is inconsistent; he invites other brethren to give their assistance, and then is annoyed at anyone else daring to suggest other modes for arriving at the same end. As to "dragging behind," instead of "pushing behind," if my partner in the shafts be taking a downhill journey, or the wrong road, it may be the most useful thing to do. As to a breach of "press etiquette," in writing an article on the same subject as "Crux," I confess I was not aware that a subject was closed for ever because one writer had indited an article thereon. Such a title as a "Masonic Discipline" is public property, like such titles as "The Irish Church," "The State of Europe," &c. May I not write an article, if so disposed (which I decidedly am *not*), on "Masonic Celestial Mysteries?" May not an article appear under the heading "Grand Lodge." Again, what does it matter whether I am, or am not, "accustomed to literary labours?" I am, at all events, accustomed to Masonic labours, and therefore my opinion may be worth hearing. It is also possible that "Crux" may, in this, as on other points, be mistaken.

"Crux" says that I have "overlooked the fact that a brother cannot be a Master till he has served one year as Warden." This is an error: I have never thought otherwise; but in whatever "Crux" graduated, it could not have been logic, for he goes on to say, "consequently either the S.W. or J.W., in a properly regulated lodge must become the W.M.!" Why? There may be twenty brethren in the lodge who have served the office of Warden; all the P.M.'s must have done so, and there may be many Past Wardens who have never obtained the chair, and all these are eligible, as well as the S.W. and J.W. of the year. As for the examination for certificates of efficiency, I do not see that it matters much whether it be in a college by a board of examiners, Grand Lodge of Instruction, or what "Crux" will see by my subsequent articles, that I suggest something not very different; but a plan to be useful must be practicable, and, though London brethren could easily attend and pass, the Craft generally could not and would not.

I am not stating what I would do, for I should take the earliest opportunity of passing; but of the chance of the plan being successful, and unless you made it a *sine qua non* that a candidate for the chair should possess a certificate, brethren would not see the use of travelling long distances to obtain it. How could brethren from Cornwall, Northumberland, Wales, and the Colonies attend this London Lodge of Instruction till perfect, and then pass? I think the plan suggested by me at page 203 would be more useful.

As but few brethren would have an opportunity of passing, it is probable that but one brother in a lodge might have done so, whilst the lodge desired some other brother for Master. "Crux's" logic turns this into a statement that "the fact of his having shown himself thoroughly qualified *would render him* undesirable." Let me remind "Crux" that *post hoc* need

not necessarily be *propter hoc*. If the brother were desirable in every other respect, his certificate would, of course, be an extra argument in his favour, but fluency in ritual is not the only, nor the most important qualification for a W.M.—temper, tact, sobriety, good moral character, &c., are more essential. If all can be combined, so much the better.

It is satisfactory to find that "Crux" does not single me out, but disposes of his other correspondents in an equally summary and dictatorial manner. A little good natured badinage about Bro. Morris and his 142 degrees brings down on the brother a curt rebuke, not to "render his effusions ridiculous." I quite agree that the salute of the degree in which the lodge is open, is all that should be given, else why should not the Craft signs be given at the opening of a chapter, the R.A. being only the completion of the M.M. degree? As to brethren who have been present from the first having gone through the signs of the lower degrees, they only did so in appearing to order, and the brother entering gives the sign as a salute, and not to prove himself. If not known he would be proved outside.

Another brother is told of his grammatical blunder in thinking that "immediately" could refer to place as well as time. Will "Crux" kindly inform us what his derivation of the word is, and why it should not be used as much for place as for time? "Immediately adjacent," "immediately outside," in the "immediate vicinity," &c., are, in my opinion, expressions both English and grammatical. The word is sometimes used to express proximity of interest; thus, this rebuke being given to H. M. G., does not immediately concern me.

Let me assure "Crux" that I am quite ready to give reasons for any assertions I make; that we both desire the same end, namely, more efficient instruction and greater uniformity in working. No plan is likely to be adopted without discussion and modification. It is only by getting the ideas of many leading Masons that we can hit on a plan likely to be acceptable to the Craft at large, and "Crux" should be glad to find others who, like himself, take so great an interest in the subject as to write at length, and generally so admirably, upon it. In fine, let him remember that he who first loses his temper has not *always* the best of the argument, and that it is quite possible to state our different ideas without "doing battle à l'outrance," as he opens his letter with a statement of his readiness to do.

Yours fraternally,

CRESCENT.

MR. JOHN TOWERS has written a pamphlet to disprove a prevalent notion that musicians are short-lived. He produces an array of facts, and gives in tabular form the ages at which many musicians have died; and finally endeavours to prove that the average of their ages is 62. If this be the case, the profession of music must be an extraordinarily healthy one; but we can scarcely conceive how he arrives at this conclusion, unless he can obtain the ages of *all* the musicians who have died. Taking eminent names, no doubt it would appear so. Amongst many veterans, he mentions one who has held the post of organist at All Saints, Hertford, for 77 years, being now in his 91st year.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

** All communications to be addressed to the EDITOR, at No. 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MASONIC MEMS.

EDINBURGH.—An emergency meeting of the St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 48, was held on Monday, the 18th inst., for the purpose of initiating His Highness Prince Rhodocanakis, of which detailed particulars will be found in another column.

At the meeting of the Robert Burn's Lodge on Monday next, at Freemasons' Hall, three candidates will be initiated, two brethren will be proposed as joining members, and one brother will be raised.

THE brethren of St. Paul's Lodge, Cape of Good Hope, solicit assistance in enabling them to get up a bazaar, to be held on Dec. 7, 1869, in aid of the funds for the erection of a lodge; as for want of a suitable building they have been much inconvenienced and hindered in their work. Donations of any kind will be thankfully received and faithfully applied, and if sent to Bro. Spencer, of Great Queen-street, will be forwarded at once.

PORTRAITS of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., C.C.B., M.W.G.M. Mason of Scotland, can now be obtained at this office, price 3s. 6d each. Copies, with ornamental border and Masonic emblems printed in gold, on large size paper, can be had, price 10s. 6d.

BRETHREN are reminded that the Lodge Music published in several issues of the MAGAZINE has been re-published in a convenient form for Lodge use, price 2s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—On Monday, 19th inst., the brethren of this lodge met in goodly numbers at the Bridge House Hotel. Bro. Rose, W.M., presided and initiated Mr. Walter Endors, passed Bro. Wilkins, and raised Bros. Herbert, John, Brirner, and Williams. Bro. Sabine, P.M., announced that he had accepted the office of Steward for the festival of the Benevolent Institution in January next, and appealed to the brethren for subscriptions to his list. Notices of motion was given that £10 be given out of the funds of the lodge in aid of the Male Fund.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 140).—The first meeting of the season was held at the Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich, on the 20th inst. Bro. E. W. Pool officiated as W.M. in an able manner. Mr. Charles Jardine was balloted for, unanimously approved, and initiated, the charge being impressively delivered by Bro. Hubbuck, P.M. The death was announced of Bro. Ryder, the oldest member of the lodge. Bro. Hubbuck delivered an eloquent eulogium upon the character of the departed brother, and moved that an address of condolence be forwarded to the widow, which motion was carried with every mark of deep respect. The lodge was in mourning on the occasion. The business concluded, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

LODGE OF TEMPERANCE (No. 167).—On Thursday, 21st inst., the first meeting of the season was held at the White Swan, Deptford, under the presidency of Bro. J. D. Woodland, W.M. There was but little business before the lodge. A candidate for initiation was proposed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, during which Bro. Littlecot offered to represent the lodge as Steward at the Festival of the Benevolent Institution, and Bros. Wingfield and Tibbals urged the brethren to supplement his list with liberal contributions.

LODGE OF CONFIDENCE (No. 193).—This lodge held its regular meeting at Anderton's Hotel on Monday, the 11th inst. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. B. D. Kershaw, supported by Bros. Robert Lee, S.W.; Williams, J.W.; Rogers, Sec.; and several other brethren. The business of the evening was to initiate Messrs. Herman Mornbert, Julius Metzler, Frederick J. Bennet, Thomas Heath, and E. E. W. Fitzian. One brother was raised, and, there being no other business, the brethren adjourned to the banquet.

BEADON LODGE (No. 619).—On the 20th inst. the brethren of this lodge met at the Greyhound, Dulwich. The W.M. Bro. Alfred Avery, presided, and in an excellent style passed Bro. W. J. Edwards, and raised Bro. Barret, *M.D.* A brother offered his services to the lodge as Steward for the April Festival of the Royal Benevolent Asylum, which was accepted. The lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (No. 862).—On Monday, 18th inst., this lodge met at Anderton's Hotel. Bro. Davis, W.M., occupied the chair, supported by the following:—Bros. Henderson, P.M.; W. F. Smith, P.M.; Weaver, S.W.; S. Davis, J.W.; Quinton-Dix, J. D. Taylor, T. Kyston, E. Kerry, G. Payne, and H. Massey, P.M., 619. Bro. James Weaver was elected as W.M. for the ensuing year. Bros. Thompson and Gilbert were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary, and in consideration of their services to the lodge it was proposed and carried that they be allowed a free visitor at each meeting of the lodge. A P.M. jewel was voted to the retiring W.M. During the evening Bro. Schinelsburg was passed, and Bro. Voight raised.

PROVINCIAL.

CHESHIRE.

EGREMONT.—*Consecration of the Warren Lodge (No. 1,276) and Installation of the W.M. designate.*—A new lodge, called the Warren Lodge, intended to be held at the Workmen's Institute, Tobin-street, was consecrated on Friday, the 22nd inst. In the absence of Bro. the Right Hon. Lord de Tabley, R.W. Prov. G.M. of Cheshire, Bro. Capt. Cope, Past G.S.B. of England and Prov. S.G.W. of Cheshire, performed the ceremony. Among the brethren present were—Bros. Henry Bulley, Prov. J.G.W.; J. P. Platt, P. Prov. J.G.W.; E. H. Griffiths, Prov. G.S.; William Bulley, P. Prov. G.J.D.; John Twiss, Prov. G. Org.; James Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., West Lancashire; Robert Wylie, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers., West Lancashire; J. H. Johnston, Prov. G. Steward; Joseph Sillitoe, Prov. G. Steward; Capt. W. C. Bathgate, 48; R. Williams, 1,094; J. T. Lea, P.M. 605; J. W. Baker, P.M. 220; Healing, P.M. 249; R. Wilson, P.M. 241; T. Shepherd, P.M. 1,035; H. Thornton, W.M. 1,182; Edward Friend, P.M. 1,013; J. B. Robinson, P.M. 1,013; Chesworth, W.M. 724; Cain, S.W. 724; J. C. Baker, Sec. 241; Bros. Speck, J. J. Knight, James Thompson, Halton, Purell, and Nash, 241; Wensley, 823; Pemberton, S.W. 1,264; Williams, 605; Ball, Prov. G. Tyler, West Lancashire, and others, numbering upwards of 50 brethren. The warrant having been read, the ceremony was proceeded with in due form, after which the following brethren were invested as the first officers of the lodge:—Bros. C. H. Hill, W.M.; James F. Jones, S.W.; Matthews, J.W.; W. P. Mills, Treas., and Bro. C. Dilworth, Sec. Twenty-one brethren were proposed as joining members and three candidates for initiation, so that the lodge will start at its first regular meeting with 35 members and every prospect of a steady increase. After the lodge was closed an excellent banquet was served at Stoke's Hotel, Seacombe, attended by all the provincial officers and a numerous company of the brethren, who cordially united in wishing prosperity to the new lodge. Bro. Hill, W.M., ably occupied the chair.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

CARLISLE.—*Union Lodge (No. 310).*—A festival meeting of this lodge (at which the wives, daughters, and female friends of the members were invited) was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst. After the repast the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the evening's enjoyment was enhanced by the vocal abilities of several of the brethren. The chair was ably occupied by Bro. Johnston, the W.M., and there were present Bros. Slack, G. Hayward, F. W.

Hayward, Murray, Robson, Melbourn, Woodhouse, Roberts, Blacklock, Somerville, Barnes, J. E. Haddon, Elson, Weatherall, and several others, the most of whom were accompanied by their wives and daughters. The company separated at a late hour, having expressed themselves highly delighted with the evening's entertainment.

ESSEX.

COLCHESTER.—*United Lodge (No. 697).*—The regular meeting of this lodge took place at the George Hotel, on Friday, the 8th inst. Present:—Bros. Newman, W.M.; G. H. Ray, Sec. *pro tem.*, S.W.; J. S. Smith, J.W.; Calthorp, S.D.; Eustace, J.D.; Rix, Treas.; Fruin Woodland, P.M.; Piper, Saunders, and Jenkinson. Visitors: Bros. Clubb, Miller, T. R. Quilter, W.M., 51. The lodge was opened in due form in the first degree, and the summons convening the meeting was read. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. Sergeant Samuel Dunn, of the 53rd Reg., was proposed as a candidate for initiation. The ballot proving unanimous, he was initiated, and the lecture in the first degree was most ably delivered by Bro. J. S. Smith, J.W. It was proposed that Bro. G. King, P.M., having retired from the lodge on account of ill-health, be received as a member on the commuted list. Bro. Bro. Jenkinson was also received as a member on the commuted list. Nothing further having been offered, the lodge was closed in peace harmony, and brotherly love.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

BLACKBURN.

Laying the Foundation-stone of the Rifle Volunteer Barracks.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Blackburn, on Saturday, the 2nd inst., by virtue of a dispensation from the R.W. Prov. G.M. of East Lancashire, for the purpose of meeting and assisting the R.W. Bro. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Past G.W. of England, and other distinguished brethren, to lay the foundation-stone of the Rifle Volunteer Barracks, Canterbury-street.

The Craft mustered in large numbers, the following lodges being represented by an aggregate of 104 brethren, exclusive of Prov. G. Officers:—Bristol, 103; Burnley, 126; Haslingden, 215; Cheltenham, 246; Keighley, 265; Blackburn, 269; Clayton-le-Dale, 316; Clitheroe, 369; Over-Darwen, 381; Hanley (Staffordshire), 418; Accrington, 462; Worksop (Notts), 389; Workington (Cumberland), 962; Manchester, 999; Cocker-mouth (Cumberland), 1,002; Burnley, 1,064; Rochdale, 1,129; Accrington, 1,145.

The lodge was opened in due form, at 2.30 p.m., in the first degree, Bros. Thomas Clough, P.M. & 345 acting as W.M.; James Spencer, W.M. 269, as S.W.; and John Rigby, W.M. 345, as J.W. It was then opened in the second degree, and immediately afterwards in the third degree, after which the W.M. called upon the S.W., who read the dispensation authorising the proceedings.

The Prov. G. Officers then entered the lodge-room in procession, and the Prov. G. Lodge was opened in form. The following Prov. G. Officers were present:—Bros. Le Gendre N. Starkie, Past G.W. of England, as Prov. G.M.; J. M. Wike, Prov. S.G.W., as P.G.S.W.; Thos. G. Parker, Prov. G.J.W.; W. J. Pickup, P. Prov. J.G.W., as Prov. J.G.W.; J. D. Kennedy, Prov. G. Treas.; Charles Heywood, Prov. G. Reg.; John Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec.; W. H. Prince, Prov. S.G.D.; John Duffield, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Samuel Titmas, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; C. M. Jones, Assist. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; John Dill, Prov. G. Purst.; Jesse Firth and W. H. Shaw, Prov. G. Stewards; J. E. Worsley, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; Franklin Thomas, P. Prov. G. Reg.; Oxon; Thomas Clough, P. Prov. G. Reg., Lancashire (East); and John Starkie.

The brethren being marshalled by Bro. S. Titmas, assisted by Bro. Richard Radcliffe, P.M., Dir. of Cers. 345, and Bro. Thos. Bertwistle, P.M. 345, the procession was immediately formed and proceeded to the site of the intended building, where the interesting and impressive ceremony of laying the foundation-stone, in conformity with the ancient usages of Freemasonry, was at once commenced.

The Hundredth Psalm was first sung, after which the Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. C. Hughes, offered up a prayer invoking the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on the future building and all connected with it. The inscription on the

plate to be deposited in the stone was then read by the Prov. G. Sec., the following is a copy of the inscription:—

"The foundation-stone of this building was laid with the formalities of Craft Masonry, by Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, of Huntroyde, Lancashire, Esquire, P.M., P.Z., Past Grand Warden of England, P. Prov. G. Warden of West Lancashire, P. Prov. G. Warden of East Lancashire, Captain 2nd Royal Lancashire Militia, Lieut.-Col. 2nd Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, and Lieut.-Col. 8th Admin. Battalion of Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, on the 2nd October, 1869. Officers in the 2nd L.R.V., Blackburn:—Lieut.-Col. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie; Major Arthur Ingram Robinson; Captains William Nutter, William Henry Hornley, jun., Robert Parkinson, George Beaumont, and Henry John Robinson; Lieuts. William Alexander Cameron, John Clough, and Albert Neilson Hornley; Ensign John Dean, jun.; Adjutant Hubert Cornish Whitlock, late Capt. 83rd Regt. Architects: Stevens and Robinson, Derby; Builder: Richard Hacking, Blackburn."

The stone was then raised, solemn music playing the while, and a hermetically sealed bottle, containing a parchment roll with the signatures of all the brethren who assisted at the ceremony; copies of all the local papers of that day's date; and specimens of the various coins of the present reign, was deposited in the cavity of the stone and covered with charcoal, after which the plate was placed over the cavity. The Prov. G. Supt. of Works then handed the trowel to the Prov. G.M., who spread the mortar on the lower stone. The foundation-stone was then slowly lowered to its proper position, while the Masonic glee, "When the Temple's first stone," was being sung by Bros. Towers, Birkett, Robinson, and Sanderson. The stone now resting firmly on its bed, the Prov. G.M. directed the officers appointed for that purpose to prove that it was properly adjusted, which they did by means of the plumb-rule, level, and square. Bro. Thomas Clough, P.M., &c., 345, then delivered the mallet to the Prov. G.M., who gave three knocks upon the stone, and declared the same to be well and truly laid. The stone was then anointed severally with corn, wine, and oil, and the ceremony was brought to a close by the Chaplain pronouncing the benediction.

After this a presentation was made to Capt. Whitlock, Adjutant 2nd L.R.V., consisting of the medal from the Royal Humane Society, and a handsome silver tea and coffee service from the officers and men of his regiment, in acknowledgement of his gallant conduct in rescuing two volunteers from drowning at Cleveleys, near Fleetwood. The presentation was made by Lieut.-Col. Starkie, who accompanied it with some very feeling and eloquent remarks.

The brethren then re-formed in procession and returned to the lodge room, and the lodge was immediately afterwards closed in the different degrees, the proceedings terminating finally about 6 p.m.

In the evening a grand banquet was held at the Old Bull Hotel. Some days previous to the meeting Bro. Lieut.-Col. Starkie had very kindly invited the Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters of the two Blackburn lodges, Nos. 269 and 345, to dine with him and the officers of the 2nd L.R.V. The company comprised his Worship the Mayor, and several of the aldermen and leading gentlemen of the town, the members of the Prov. G. Lodge who had taken part in the proceedings, together with Bros. James Spencer, W.M. 269; W. Ainsworth, J.W. 269; Richard Eaves, P.M. 269; John Rigby, W.M. 345; Joseph Callis, S.W. 345; Denis Towers, J.W. 345; Thomas Birtwistle, P.M. 345; Charles Tiplady, P.M. 345; Richard Radcliffe, P.M. 345; Franklin Thomas, P.M. 345, and P. Prov. G. Reg., Oxon; Edwin Eastwood, P.M. 345; Thomas Robinson, P.M. 345; John Proctor, S.W. 346; Benson Wood, W.M.; and the Wardens and Past Masters of Lodge 381, Over Darwin, and the officers of the 2nd L.R.V.; Lieut.-Col. Starkie occupying the chair. The dinner was choice and elegant, and was fully appreciated both by the civic dignitaries and the Freemasons, as well as by their hospitable entertainers, the volunteer officers. This having been strictly a private dinner, no reporters were present, but we are enabled to say that the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given, as well as many of a general and personal character, the latter of which were ably responded to. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Starkie proved himself a most genial, able, and eloquent chairman. The fact, however, of about one half the company not being Freemasons, precluded the possibility of that interchange of Masonic feeling and sentiment which is usual in meetings purely Masonic; but no Freemason present could do otherwise than feel that many of the most eloquent passages in

Bro. Starkie's addresses derived their inspiration from the true spirit of Freemasonry, with which that very worshipful brother is known to be so strongly imbued.

LANCASHIRE WEST.

PRESTON.—*Lodge Concord* (343).—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, the 21st inst., at the King's Arms Hotel, Bro. Pritt, W.M., in the chair, assisted by Bros. Quagh, P.M.; Porter, S.W.; Smith, P.M., as J.W.; Stevenson, S.D.; Poole, J.D.; Laverty, I.G.; Heap, Sec.; Taylor, Margerison, Cockshott, Clegg, Steib, W.M. 314. Jackson, Greaves, P.M., Ashton, Farmer, Clitheroe, Dewhurst, Bee, &c. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. the Rev. J. Taylor was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Mr. Welbourn having been previously balloted for and unanimously accepted, was initiated. Two candidates were then proposed, after which Bro. Pritt, W.M., proposed, and Bro. Smith, P.M. seconded, that Bro. Porter, S.W., be the W.M. for the ensuing twelve months. The lodge was closed with solemn prayer at 9'45, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

TREDEGAR.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 1098).—This lodge met on Thursday, the 15th inst., for the first time after the vacation. The brethren mustered in considerable numbers, and among them were Bros. B. S. Fisher, W.M., Prov. G.J.D.; S. G. Homfray, P.M., Prov. G.J.W.; and Bond, P.M., Prov. G. Dir. of Cers. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last regular lodge and of an intervening lodge of emergency were read and confirmed. Bro. David Dobbs was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M., who, as usual, performed the ceremony in a very careful and impressive manner. After some routine business was gone through, upon the motion of Bro. Bond, P.M., seconded by Bro. Brown, it was unanimously decided that Bro. Middleton, P.M. 1098, &c., Prov. G.S.W., in consideration of the many services rendered by him to this lodge and to the Craft in general, be elected an honorary member of the lodge. The W.M. announced that during the recess death had robbed this lodge of two of its most respected members, namely, Bro. Richard Waters, who was one of the founders of the lodge, and also one of the oldest and most beloved Masons in the province, and Bro. the Rev. W. M. Jenkins, B.A., a former Chaplain of the lodge. In each case a vote of condolence with the friends of the departed brothers was passed, and a copy ordered to be forwarded to their respective relatives. The W.M. then presented to the lodge an engraving each of the Boys' and Girls' Schools. Several names having been proposed for initiation and for joining membership, and there being no other business, the lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—*British Union Lodge* (No. 114).—The members of this old-established lodge held their regular monthly meeting at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday evening, the 21st inst. The occasion was rendered more than usually interesting by the visitation of the highly regarded Prov. G.M., Bro. Sir Shafto Adair, Bart., who is a member of the lodge. The brethren assembled at seven o'clock, when the chair of K.S. was taken by the W.M., Bro. Wm. Bobby, supported by Bro. A. J. Barber, as S.W.; and Bro. P. Cornell, as J.W. There were also present the R.W. the Prov. G.M.; the D.Prov. G.M., Bro. the Rev. E. I. Lockwood, Bros. F. Gull, I.P.M.; Schullen, P.M.; Neave, P.M.; W. Spalding, Sec.; W. P. Mills, P.M., 375; S. B. King, P.M., 375; E. C. Tidd, P.A.G., Sec., C. Meadows, R. Stephens, S.W., 376; A. Gamman, 959; E. T. Read, 376; G. A. Turner, P.M., 376; J. Spalding, Tyler, &c. There was no special business before the lodge, but Bros. Gull and Cornell worked the First Section in such a manner as to call forth the warmest expressions of approval from the brethren. The R.W. the Prov. G.M. addressed the brethren, complimenting them highly for the admirable manner in which their Masonic duties were carried out; and more especially, he said, was a word of praise due to Bros. Gull and Cornell for the able manner in which they had acquitted themselves. The Prov. G.M. also referred to the Craft apron which he then wore for the first time for many years, saying how many and varied were the thoughts which were called to memory since he first put it on in a Cambridge lodge. He also expressed the pleasure it afforded him to be able to be

present with them that night. The lodge having been closed in due and solemn manner, the brethren adjourned to the banquetting room, where an elegant repast was served. The W.M. presided, supported on his right by the Prov.G.M., the D.Prov. G.M., and other brethren. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed the removal of the cloth, not the least amongst them being the honoured guest of the evening, who was most enthusiastically received on rising to respond to the toast of his health, eloquently given by the W.M. The R.W. brother in concluding his acknowledgment of the compliment proposed the health of the W.M., who also came in for his share of greeting by the brethren, amongst whom he is a general favourite. Some first class songs and recitations were given during the evening; and so thoroughly did the brethren enjoy themselves that it was near twelve before the party broke up.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.

St. Andrew's Lodge (No. 48).

INITIATION OF HIS HIGHNESS THE PRINCE RHODOCANAKIS.

At an emergency meeting of this lodge His Highness Prince Demetrius Rhodocanakis was initiated into the Craft. A large number of brethren were present, among whom we noticed Bros. Dr. Carmichael, R.W.M.; W. Mann, 32°, J.G.W. of Scotland; Lindsay Mackersey, 30°, representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada; Dr. Cairns, 30°, High Prelate of the 18°, and Grand Orator of the 30°; Dr. Loth, 30°; H. Y. D. Copland, R.W.M. 44; W. Hay, 30°, P.M., &c.; C. Fitzgerald Matier, 18°, R.W.M. Mark Lodge, No. 22, Manchester; Dr. G. Dickson, *L.R.C.P., S.E.*, &c., and many other brethren whose names we were not able to obtain. Documentary evidence of the Prince's identity, and of the recognition of his titles and prerogatives by the British and Continental governments, having been asked for by the Masonic officials, the same were courteously submitted and acknowledged.

The lodge was then opened by Bro. Dr. Carmichael, R.W.M., assisted by his officers, and after the ballot had been taken, the candidate, Prince Demetrius Rhodocanakis, was admitted in due form, and was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry by Bro. Carmichael, the R.W.M. The duties of Senior Deacon were efficiently discharged by Bro. C. Fitzgerald Matier, and the charge was delivered in a most impressive manner by Bro. H. Y. D. Copland, R.W.M. 44. The lodge was then advanced to the second degree, and His Highness was passed F.C. by Bro. Copland. The chair was then taken by Bro. W. Hay, P.M., and one of the Grand Stewards of Scotland, and the solemn ceremonies appropriate to the sublime degree of a Master Mason were gone through in a most efficient manner; the second part of the traditional history being given by Bro. C. Fitzgerald Matier. There being no farther business before the lodge of emergency, it was closed in due form with solemn prayer, according to ancient custom. His Highness was pleased to remain with the brethren at refreshment, and responded in a most happy manner to the toast of his health, proposed by the R.W.M. Among the other toasts were "The Health of Bro. W. Mann, the J.G.W. of Scotland," "Bro. Lindsay Mackersey, G.G.E., Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada," "The Visiting Brethren," responded to by Bro. C. F. Matier; and "The Health of the R.W.M. and prosperity to the Lodge of St. Andrew," which was proposed by Bro. Mann, J.G.W.

It may be mentioned that the candidates, receiving three degrees in one night, which may appear somewhat irregular to our English brethren, is in certain cases of extreme emergency, as in the present case, permitted by the laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. We may mention also, that the Prince's educated manner, and gentlemanly courtesy, have produced a very favourable impression in Edinburgh. His initiation, we imagine, will be rather an awkward one for the Masonic, so-called, Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine. The Prince, as must be well known to those of our readers who are more or less familiar with the long annals of the Byzantine empire, derives his paternal descent in a direct and uninterrupted line from the family of Caius Flavius Valerius Claudius Constantinus, surnamed the Great, first Christian emperor of the Roman empire; and in his illustrious house are, at the present

moment, represented not only nearly all the extinct historical and once omnipotent families of the Byzantine empire, on whose throne they sat for generations—The Ducas, Phocas, Lacapenos, Comnenos, Botomiates, Argyzios, Angelos, Birjennios, Palalogos, Vatatzes, Lascaris, Cantacuzinos, &c., with whom his own were allied over and over again, while reigning for centuries—but also those who reigned over the ancient kingdoms of Armenia, Iberia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Albania, Hungary, &c. Space will not allow of an historical sketch of this many-sided house, and we must therefore simply confine ourselves to a mention of some of the illustrious European families (representatives of some of which still exist), whose blood runs in the veins of our newly-initiated brother (the heir apparent to the honours of his family) either through the paternal or maternal line, viz.:—The old kings of France, the Grand Dukes of Muscovy (now Emperors of Russia), the Counts, and afterwards, Dukes of Savoy (now Kings of Italy), the Dukes of Austria (now the Emperors of Austria and Hungary, the Dukes of Brunswick, the Marquis of Montferrat (extinct), the old Norman Kings of the Two Sicilies (extinct), the Princes of Antiochia, the Counts of Sultzpachen, in Bavaria; and in more modern times (15th and 16th centuries), those of the Princes or Dukes—Crispi, Gommeriva, Venieri, Ghizi, Vioressi, Sfozza, Doria, D'Este, Borgia, Caraffa, Corsini, Borghesi, Pignatelli, Giustinioni, Aldobrandini, Ursini, Grimaldi, Picodella, Mirandula, Piccolomini, San Severino, de Cononia, Foscari, de Gozadini, Visconti, Gonzagna, Farnesi, Spinola, Colonna, Strazza, de Lusignan, Mascino, Mallea, &c.

The father of His Imperial Highness, as already noticed in these pages, is the head of his house and the Hereditary Grand Master of the Supreme Constantinian Order of the Knights of St. George, whose decorations the *soi dissant* "Red Cross of Rome and Constantine" have assumed, and any Mason appearing in this decoration will now render himself constantly liable to challenge and proof of authority; and we are given to understand that, although the Prince objects to take legal proceedings against Masons, of whom he is now a brother, he has been solicited by some disaffected members thereof to place himself in the witness box if they take proceedings.

The family of his Highness, as we are instructed by history from time to time, have suffered much personally and pecuniarily in their efforts to assert the Ancient Byzantine Empire; especially in the horrible massacre of the Isle of Chio by the Turks in 1822. This place was the refuge of the family at the destruction of Constantinople in 1453, and here they remained up to the time of the massacre, when the greater portion of the family were slain, and the survivors scattered all over the world, with sufferings equal to the calamity of the loss of Constantinople. We know on good authority that many of the lodges scattering in the provinces formerly composing the Empire, had resolved to unite themselves into a Grand Orient, and had proposed his Imperial Highness as the first Grand Master. At the time this proposal was made, he was unable to accept the honour, not being a Mason, but this difficulty being removed, we trust he will soon be able to assume the gavel of Grand Master of the Grand Orient of the Byzantine people, and unite all the disintegrated lodges, at present scattered far and wide in Moldavia, Wallachia, Turkey, Armenia, Greece, Montenegro, &c., and now under about a dozen conflicting jurisdictions. We are requested to insert the foregoing to save inquiries from individual members of the order, and hear from Dr. J. Jackson Howard that the Prince's genealogy, with various documents, from the earliest times, will shortly appear under his editorship in "Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica," when those wish it will there find further information.

INDIA.

BCMBAV.

(From a Correspondent.)

EASTERN STAR LODGE (No. 1189).

Monday, the 16th ult., was the occasion of the usual monthly meeting of the Eastern Star Lodge, the Parsee lodge working under the English Constitution.

The principal business of the evening was the presentation of a testimonial to Bro. Thomas Diver, M.D., W.M., on the expiration of his term of office. During his long connection with the

Masonic bodies of Bombay, Bro. Diver has rendered valuable services to the Craft, but in no instance, probably, have they been more important than in connection with the Eastern Star. It was through his exertions that the Grand Lodge of England was induced to grant the warrant for the holding of the Eastern Star, and when about a year ago that lodge was consecrated, he was felicitated, not only on being its first Master, but its founder also. In gratitude to the worthy Master, the brethren, on the expiration of his term of office, voted him a Masonic jewel, and in a short time a very handsome sum—some 1,200 rupees—was subscribed by them for the purpose of supplementing the gift with another kind of testimonial, but some difficulty was felt in determining the form of the offering. However, it was ultimately arranged that the jewel should be accompanied by an illuminated address, and a purse of £100. The jewel is a handsome work of art and of a novel pattern, the Past Master's, Royal Arch, and Past District Grand Warden's jewels being here combined in one.

There was an unusually numerous gathering, including Masters of other lodges and Past Masters. After the disposal of the ordinary work, Bro. Sorabjee Frummurze, W.M., read the address, and added that he was very proud, as the Master of that lodge, in presiding on that occasion, and called on Bro. the Hon. J. Gibbs, the Deputy District Grand Master, to present those testimonials on behalf of the lodge. Bro. the Hon. J. Gibbs said it was with feelings of very great pleasure that he found himself charged with the agreeable task of presenting to their worthy and Worshipful Past Master, Bro. Diver, the handsome testimonial which had been subscribed. No one connected with Freemasonry in Bombay who had watched the Masonic career of Bro. Diver, from the time he first joined the craft in India, could have failed to have observed that in him are found all the elements of a first-rate Mason, for in every lodge to which he had belonged he had rendered good service, and had ever been ready to take any office that would be for the interests of the brethren. He is now in the proud position of having held the chair of three lodges in Bombay as well as holding the rank of Past Senior Warden of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay and its territories. He was well aware that Bro. Diver had been a great benefactor to this lodge. Not only had he been its Master, but it was through his exertions that the warrant for its constitution was obtained; and as the first and most able Master he had trained the brethren to that high degree of proficiency which we have this evening had an opportunity of witnessing, and which he could testify to the visiting brethren present was an example of the ordinary working of the lodge. Gratitude was undoubtedly one of the virtues of Masons, and upon the present occasion he would congratulate this lodge upon the form which its gratitude had taken. He held in his hand a decoration consisting of a Past Master's jewel, Royal Arch jewel, and the District Grand Warden's jewel, and he was quite sure that wherever Bro. Diver went with that on his breast he would be what he deserves to be—a "marked man." The lodge in carrying out its purpose of honouring him in the way he ought to be honoured has added to the address (which the W.M. has just read) and the jewel, this purse; and the reason that the present assumed this form was the difficulty which the lodge felt in determining on the nature of the gift, Bro. Diver having already been presented with many testimonials, both of a scientific and other kind; and under these circumstances the lodge thought the easiest way of getting out of the difficulty was to hand over the balance of the money subscribed, in a purse, and to leave it to Bro. Diver to determine upon the disposal of it. He would not detain them longer, but in the name of the W.M. of this lodge and its members he would attach the jewel on his coat, and in their names presented the purse, which, though very handsome on its exterior, was still more so in its interior.

Bro. Diver, who was loudly cheered on presenting himself, said he was so struck with astonishment at the form in which it had pleased them this evening so kindly to show their appreciation of his conduct during the time he had the honour of occupying the chair as their Master that he did not at present feel sufficiently equal to expressing himself in terms grateful enough for the honours and presents which had been conferred upon him that evening. He was indeed deeply grateful for the very handsome manner in which he had been treated—for the valuable and beautiful jewel placed on his breast as a mark of their esteem and of his rank in the Craft, and for the valuable present of money, with which he should purchase something in the name of the lodge which would be highly valued by him, and by his

family, he hoped, after him. It was sometimes customary for a lodge to present its Past Master with a slight recognition in the shape of a Past Master's jewel, but he could not conceive what he had done that was a sufficient reason for Lodge Eastern Star to reward him in that manner. As to the steps that were taken to obtain the warrant for the lodge, when it was proposed to form the lodge, he was asked by some twenty enthusiastic Parsee brethren to join them in the movement, and he did so. They were successful in their endeavours to obtain a warrant, and when the lodge was fairly formed, their enthusiasm in their work was so great that they soon became well up to their duties, and the result was that he found his work easier than it had been in either of the two other lodges of which he had been Master. The novelty of his position as Master of the first Parsee lodge formed in Bombay under the English Constitution, and the success which had attended their efforts, were the principal reasons in his mind why he had been so rewarded that night. "Success is merit;" this lodge had been very successful, and they had visited that success upon its late Master. Thanking them all most sincerely for the great honour they had conferred on him, he concluded by thanking Bro. Gibbs for the way in which he designed this very beautiful and valuable jewel—for it was he who designed it—and also Bro. Percy Leith for the care and trouble he had been at in getting the jewel out there from the best makers at home.

On the motion of the W.M., seconded by Bro. Pestonjee Bazonjee (Senior Warden), a vote of thanks was passed to Bros. Gibbs and Percy Leith for their services in connection with the design and making of the jewel.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

ENOCH CHAPTER (No. 11).—This chapter met for the first time after the recess, on Monday, the 19th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, for the purpose of installing Comp. Pierce Egan, as Z.; Comps. Moutrie, H.; Swainston, J.; Dr. Godwin, Scribe N.; Honey, P.J.; Fish and Dale, A.S.'s; Morris and Palmer, Stewards. Comps. Williams and Matthews were re-appointed to the posts so long and satisfactorily held by them, of Treas. and Sec. The M.E.Z. having in excellent style exalted Bro. North and Eccius, the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The visitors were Comps. Wright, 22; and Luxmore, 129.

CHAPTER OF INDUSTRY (No. 186).—On Tuesday, the 19th inst., the companions of this chapter met at Freemasons' Hall. Comp. W. Bartlett was installed Z.; H. G. Lake, H.; E. Clarke, J.; Carpenter, P.Z.; S. E. Blake, S.N.; G. Kelley, Treas.; C. W. Nollmer, P.S.; Mortlock and Berry, A.S.'s; J. Kench, Steward. A P.Z. jewel was presented to Comp. Mann by the M.E.Z., with expressions of admiration of the manner he had occupied the chair during his year of office, and his exertions in establishing the chapter, which Comp. Mann suitably responded to. The business concluded, the companions adjourned to the banquet. The visitors were Comps. W. Turner, Morton Edwards; H. W. Lindus, 742; W. C. Lucey, 21; and H. Massey, J. 619.

ROBERT BURNS CHAPTER (No. 25).—On Monday, the 25th inst., the companions of this chapter met at the Freemasons' Hall. There were present: Comps. Watson, P.Z. as M.E.Z.; A. J. Codner, H.; Nicholson, J.; John Lyon, P.Z. Scribe E.; Beech, Scribe N.; G. King, P. Soj.; W. Huristone, P. Assist. Soj., and John Denton, Steward. Comp. E. A. Waber of No. 452, was present as a visitor. Bro. W. H. Munday, of Robert Burns Lodge, was exalted. At the banquet, which followed the conclusion of the business, about 25 companions sat down, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.—*Caledonian of Unity Chapter*.—The usual monthly meeting of this chapter was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Buchanan-street, on Tuesday evening, the 26th inst., for the installation of office-bearers, but the ceremony was unavoidably postponed until next meeting. The chapter was duly opened by the Principals, and the minutes of last regular chapter and of two emergency meetings were read and confirmed. The audit committee then presented their report, which showed a very

satisfactory balance in hand, and the chapter may be congratulated as being one of the best working and successful, if not "the most flourishing chapter in the west of Scotland." The chapter was then closed opened in the Mark and Past Master degrees respectively, when Bros. Davis and M'Kinnan, M.M.'s of Lodge Thistle and Rose, No. 73, Glasgow, being duly prepared, presented themselves and received the above degrees at the hands of Comps. Gilchrist, H., and Balfour, Z. Before the closing of the chapter, the Past Scribe E., in the names of the office-bearers and companions of this chapter, was presented with a very handsome Royal Arch jewel. Comp. M'Lennan returned thanks in a very able manner. The following are the office-bearers of this chapter for the next year, and who were duly elected on the 14th October last:—Comps. James Balfour, M.E.P.Z.; James Grey, P.M., E.P.Z.; David Gilchrist, M.E. P.H.; Arch. Hood M'Culloch, M.E.P.J.; Thomas Findler, Scribe E.; John M'Lennan, Scribe N.; John Roger, Treas.; Arch. Douglas, 1st Soj.; William Foster, 2nd Soj.; Robert Bell, 3rd Soj.; William Jamieson, Jan. This being all the business, the lodge of Past Masters was duly closed; afterwards Comp. James Balfour was installed into the chair of Principal Z. by Comp. James Grey, P.E.Z.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

SUFFOLK AND CAMBRIDGE.

IPSWICH.—*Royal Plantagenet Encampment.*—A meeting of this encampment of Masonic Knights Templar, Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, was held at the Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 25th inst., when the encampment had the distinguished honour of being visited by the Illus. Sir Knight Albert Goodall, 33°, Foreign Representative of the Grand Commandery of New York. The eminent Sir Knight presented his letters of credence. The encampment was also honoured by the presence of the Very Eminent Provincial Grand Commander of Suffolk and Cambridge, Capt. N. G. Phillips, 33°. The encampment was opened in the absence of the E.C., by Sir Knight the Rev. R. N. Sanderson, 30°, P.E.C., D.P.G.C. Suffolk, and upon the muster roll being called the Sir Knights present answered to their names as follows: C. T. Townsend, Reg. P.E.C.; P.G. Capt. Lines, England, Prov. G. Chancellor; J. A. Pettit, junr.; W. Cuckon, Prov. 1st Standard Bearer; A. J. Barber, Prov. G. Org.; J. Townsend, 1st Capt. Prov. G. 1st Herald; John Pitcher, P.E.C. P.G. 1st Capt.; W. T. Westgate 2nd Capt. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Edward Dorling, P.G.; Capt. Lines, England, Prov. G. 2nd Capt.; G. S. Golding; J. T. Helens, Prov. Grand 2nd Herald; T. Chinnock, Prov. Grand Sword Bearer; E. Robertson; Sir Knight Emma Holmes, 31°, Prov. Grand Almoner, Northumberland was a visitor, Comp. Chas. Hector Woods, R.A.M. of the Alexandra Chapter, having been duly elected was then dubbed, created, and installed a Masonic Knight Templar. The impressive ceremony was ably performed by the Rev. and Eminent Commander, assisted by the Prov. Grand Commander. Sir Knight Emma Holmes of the Royal Kent Encampment, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was proposed as a joining member of this encampment. After a brief interval for refreshment, a Priory of Malta was opened, Sir Knight Rev. R. N. Sanderson, P.E.P. acting as Prior, and the knights acting as follows: Sir Knights C. T. Townsend, P.E.P.; J. A. Pettit, jun., Turcopolier; W. Cuckon, Conservator; A. J. Barber, Treas.; J. Townsend, Hospitaller; W. T. Westgate, Marshall; J. Chinnock, Chancellor; E. Robertson, Bailie. The V.E. Prov. Grand Commander, Sir Knt. Capt. Phillips, acting Capt. General; Sir Knt. Dorling, as Lieut. General; Sir Knt. A. G. Goodall, as 1st Lieut., and Sir Knt. Emma Holmes, as 2nd Lieut. The following Knights Templars, Chas. Hector Woods, George Steele Golding, and John Pitcher, P.E.C. and Prov. Grand 1st Capt., were then introduced and received, the accolade on being dubbed Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta. The interesting ceremony was very ably gone through by the Eminent Prior, and on its conclusion the Sir Knights retired to an elegant banquet admirably served. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, "Her Majesty the Queen" and the "Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Temple," being duly honoured, Sir Knt. Sanderson, who presided, then proposed "The Very Eminent Provincial Grand Commander of Suffolk" in eulogistic terms. The grand salute having been

given, the Prov. Grand Commander responded, and whilst thanking the Sir Knights present for their kindness, and expressing the pleasure he felt in coming amongst them and also in noticing the prosperous condition of the Order in Suffolk, he bade them remember that as the number of Knights Templar and Encampments increased, the Sir Knights should be most particular as to the class of Masons admitted to this degree of chivalry. The E.C. then proposed in very glowing terms the health of Sir Knight Goodall, who had been sent to visit English encampments by the Grand Commandery of New York, and who had elected the Royal Plantagenet Encampment in order to see the working of the Templar and Malta degrees. Sir Knight Goodall, in responding, spoke with gratitude of the kind reception he had met with both in England and abroad. He stated that when he left the United States it was asked, "What do we know of Masonry abroad? What are, and what shall be the recognised degrees throughout the world?" In the course of his travels through Europe he had been enabled to learn much, and the result of his investigations he had communicated to the Supreme Grand Council, Northern Jurisdiction, of the United States, which reports were now before the Masonic world. The object of such intercommunication and reciprocity amongst Masons "was," he said, "to try and know each other better, that we might love each other more." The illustrious Templar believed that he was the pioneer of a grand united chain of Masonry throughout the world. As man was improving, so Masonry was improving, every rite progressing; and no part of Masonry more than that branch to which the Sir Knight belonged, since there was no rite which brought them so near to the Great Architect of the Universe. The Knights of the Temple would recollect that they met not on the Level but on the Cross. The illustrious visitor concluded an eloquent speech by hoping the day would come when he might be able to reciprocate the kindness the members of the Plantagenet Encampment had shown him. "The newly installed Sir Knights" was the next toast, followed by that of "The Eminent Commander," proposed in felicitous terms by the Prov. Grand Commander, and suitably acknowledged by Sir Knight Sanderson, who owned that he was proud to hold the baton of command over the encampment. The brethren separated at a late hour.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

Saturday evening last witnessed several changes in the London theatres. At the Lyceum, *Hamlet*, with Mr. Allerton as the Prince of Denmark, took the place of *Still Waters run Deep*, Mr. Reeve having concluded his engagement. Mr. Allerton departs from many stage conventionalities associated with this character, and his reading of it was received with considerable applause by a numerous audience. At the Globe, after a run of six weeks with *Progress*, Mr. Byron made his first appearance on the London boards in a new piece of his own, entitled *Not such a Fool as He looks*, a three act farce. The piece (except one dance) was well received.

On Monday Bro. Buckstone's winter campaign commenced at the Haymarket with the three act comedy of *New Men and Old Acres*, in which Miss Madge Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Chippendale, Mr. Howe, and Mr. Buckstone sustained the principal characters.

At Drury Lane *Formosa* has reached the 79th night, the public showing no sign of weariness; *Lost at Sea* continues at the Adelphi; and the drama *A Life Chase* promises a lengthened run at the Gaiety. *Little E'nily* has achieved a deserved success at the Olympic. *The Turn of the Tide* at the Queen's has reached its 120th representation; while *School* at the Prince of Wales's has now prolonged its career to 236 nights. At the Holborn the old tragedy of *The Gamester* has attracted fuller houses than *Plain English*. Mrs. Pitt has proved herself a good caterer at the Surrey, where Madame Celeste is nightly rapturously received by old Surrey players in Palgrave Simpson's drama *The Watch Dog of the Walsinghams*. Mr. Halliday's Drury Lane drama *King*

of Scots has met with considerable success at Sadler's Wells. Mr. Vining's season at the Princess's suddenly collapsed on Monday with a simple announcement that the theatre was closed, by which we judge that *Escaped from Portland* was not sufficiently appreciated to pay. At the Royalty and Charing Cross Theatres the programme is unchanged. Fred. Maccabe concluded a highly successful career at the Standard on Saturday last, and on Monday Mr. Russell's opera company took possession, producing Offenbach's *Grand Duchess*.

At the Victoria a new drama has been produced, the title of which, *The Old Rag Shop—Who lived there?—What were its Secrets?—What became of the stolen Property?—What was the Dark Deed in the Cellar?—What was the end of the Old Fence*, promises a treat to those who delight to "sup the horrors" which have ever been the stock commodity of the great transpontine home of melodrama.

The Gallery of Illustration is occupied by Miss Bouverie, who, assisted by Mr. Gaston Murray, Mr. Geo. Melville, and others, is giving a series of "costume recitals," the selections being taken from *As you like it*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Anthony and Cleopatra*.

At the Crystal Palace on Saturday last the concert comprised selections from the works of Beethoven, Rossini, Mozart, Schuman, Benedict, Mendelssohn, Verdi, and Claribel. The feature of the day was the singing by Mr. Cummings of "A Bridal Song," accompanied by the composer, Madame Sainton-Dolby; although evidently not in good voice, he was rewarded with a recall. Mendelssohn's "Pinsel's Cave" overture was one of the most brilliant pieces in the programme, which, however, was below the average. M. Sainton gave a concerto on the violin, op. 64. He was apparently nervous during the first part, but towards the end he played in an artistic manner. On Monday the new stage and theatre on the north side of the transept was opened with the performance of Balfe's favourite opera *The Rose of Castille*, in which Mr. George Perren, Mr. E. Connell, and Mdlle. Florence Lancia sustained the principal characters, supported by a full chorus and orchestra. On Thursday Blondin made his final trip across the rope on the bicycle, and Ethardo also concluded his engagement. On the same day the last exhibition of fireworks and illumination of the fountains took place.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND FINE ARTS.

THE "Journal of the Ethnological Society," edited by Professor Huxley, Professor Busk, Sir John Lubbock, Col. Lane Fox, and Bro. Hyde Clarke, consists this quarter of a large number, with maps and engravings, in which the Ethnological Papers on India are completed, forming a series with the last number; and the whole of the Papers on the North American Indians are brought together. The article of this number is the review at length, by Bro. Hyde Clarke, of Gladstone's new book on Homer, the *Juventus Mundi*. The notices of this book hitherto, referring to the classical scholarship, have been very favourable, but the present article, which may be taken to represent the views of the editors, is altogether opposed to the ethnological and mythological principles adopted by Mr. Gladstone. The writer, in contraverting Mr. Gladstone, gives new and original matter in the ethnology of Greece and Asia Minor, and a new theory of the Trojan population and Trojan war.

A posthumous volume of works by the late Leigh Hunt is announced. It will be selected and edited by Mr. E. Ollier, a personal friend of the author, and will be entitled, "A Tale for a Chimney Corner, and other Essays." It will no doubt prove a charming book. Being published at a low price, although elegantly printed, it will be within the reach of all classes of readers.

EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES AT THE DUDLEY GALLERY.—The third winter exhibition of cabinet pictures was opened to private inspection on Friday, the 22nd inst. The collection contains some 200 works, and among the most distinguished artists we observed the names of Wm. Weekes, G. F. Watts, E. S. Kennedy, Field Talfour, Frank W. W. Topham, G. D. Leslie, Briton Riviers, A. B. Donaldson, W. H. Weatherhead, R. C. Leslie, G. Webb, Lionel Smith, and William Muckley.

THE American journals state that Mrs. Stowe's reply to her assailants will be published in a small volume by Field, Osgood, & Co., of New York.

ANOTHER wonderful shilling volume has just been issued from the press. Messrs. Moxon & Son have announced a popular edition of Tom Hood's works, of which this volume forms the first part. It contains "The Paysley Papers;" "The Spanish Revolution;" "Black, White, and Brown;" "A Letter from an Emigrant;" and "An Assent to the Summit of Mount Blank." The type is clear, the work beautifully printed, and the author's illustrations have been retained.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW TOWN HALL, PORT-GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.

Tuesday, 12th inst., was an eventful day in the history of Port-Glasgow, in consequence of the laying of the foundation-stone of a new Town Hall, the want of which has been keenly felt for a great length of time by the inhabitants. The day was observed as a general holiday. From an early hour in the morning flags were hoisted on house tops, carried in a line across the streets. The area opposite to the Town Buildings was the scene of large triumphal arches, and the fronts of the buildings were profusely bedecked with flowers and banners.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons met and were constituted in the coffee room, Town Buildings, at noon. The following gentlemen were present:—Bros. Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, *Bart.*, Prov. G.M.; Robert Steele, D. Prov. G.M.; James J. Grieve, *M.P.*, S. Prov. G.M.; Rev. Mr. Walpole, Port-Glasgow, Prov. G. Chaplain; John Reid, S.W.; P. M. Black, J.W.; Andrew Boag, Prov. G. Sec.; John Fleming, Prov. G. Treas.; E. S. Blackmore, Prov. G. Clerk; Neil Kelly, S.D.; David Gilkison, J.D.; T. B. Newton, I.G.; James Hogg, Tyler, &c. Bro. Bryce, Tyler of the Grand Lodge, was in attendance with the jewels and paraphernalia of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Meanwhile the trades and other public bodies, which had come forward to take part in the proceedings, were mustering, and taking up in the procession the position allotted to them by Captain Hunter, Chief Constable of Renfrewshire.

Shortly after ten o'clock the procession was set in motion. Captain Hunter rode on a white horse in front of a body of police, who were followed by the carters, the Artillery Volunteers, and the Rifle Volunteers; the Provost, magistrates, councillors, harbour trustees, town officials, and the architect, inspector, contractors, and subscribers. Two pipers succeeded, and they were followed by the shoemakers, bakers, joiners, painters, carpenters, boilermakers, riveters, tailors, blacksmiths, the amalgamated engineers, and moulders, most of whom carried emblems of their respective trades. Next in order followed the members of the Ancient Order of Foresters, belonging to the Courts of Newark (Port-Glasgow), and Caledonia (Greenock), and preceded by the Leith band. The brethren displayed their beautiful banners.

The Freemasons came next, and this fraternity marched in their order on the Grand Lodge Roll, the younger lodges in advance, and the Provincial Lodge bringing up the rear. The lodges represented were the following:—3 $\frac{1}{2}$, St. John, Glasgow; 68, Doric Kilwinning, Port-

Glasgow; 73, Thistle and Rose, Glasgow; 116, Royal Arch, Rutherglen; 129, St. Mirren, Paisley; 153, Royal Arch, Pollokshaws; 156, St. Barchan, Kilbarchan; 175, St. John, Greenock; 219, Star, Glasgow; 333, St. George, Glasgow; 335, Argyll, Dunoon; 362, St. Clair, Glasgow; 370, Renfrew County Kilwinning, Paisley; 426, Prince of Wales, Renfrew; 441, Glasgow, Glasgow. Among these lodges were distributed the Greenock Artillery, the Kilbarchan, and the Greenock Rifle bands, as also two pipers. The vast procession, which numbered nearly 2,000 persons, and extended fully half a mile, was brought up in the rear by a body of police.

Arrived at the hall, the trades wheeled to the left, and up Chapel-lane, the magistrates, &c., wheeling into and taking position on the platform. Upon the arrival of the head of the Masonic body at the hall, the remainder of the procession halted and opened up on each side, allowing the Provincial Grand Lodge to pass down the centre to the foundation stone. The ceremony which followed was witnessed by numerous crowds of ladies and gentlemen, the temporary platforms which were erected being completely filled. The proceedings were begun by the presentation of a beautiful silver trowel to Sir Michael, which bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Sir M. R. S. Stewart, Bart., of Greenock and Blackhall, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Renfrew, and Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Renfrewshire (West), by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Port-Glasgow, on the occasion of his laying the Foundation stone of the New Town Hall of that town. 12th October, 1869."

The Greenock Rifle band, who were on the platform, played "God Save the Queen" and the Masons' anthem.

An appropriate prayer having been delivered by the Rev. T. B. Walpole, Acting Prov. G. Chaplain,

Bro. Andrew Boag, the secretary of the lodge, read the document, which was deposited, along with the various articles contained in the sealed vase, in the cavity of the stone.

The band then struck up the "Old Hundred," and the stone was laid by Bro. Sir Michael with full Masonic honours, the spectators cheering vociferously when the task was completed, and the band playing "Great Light to Shine."

Bro. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart then said: Provost Lang, ladies, and gentlemen,—I have pleasure now to inform you the foundation stone of the new Town Hall has been duly laid with Masonic honours. I, as Prov. Grand Master, assisted by the Prov. Grand Lodge of the district, and supported by a great number of brethren of the craft, have discharged the task which you, sir, requested me to perform. We have upon this occasion been supported and encouraged by a great number—I should say the whole number—of our population; and so far from having been in any way hindered by the multitude that surrounded us, we have been, I must say, encouraged. In these busy days, which have had their effect on Port-Glasgow, it has been found a great inconvenience to have no place of public interest in the town, and your enterprising men have bestirred themselves and have taken steps which have resulted in the laying of the foundation stone of the large and handsome building which is to be erected. I believe that I should not be wrong in saying that 15 years ago there was only one shipbuilding yard in the town, and now there at least a half a dozen, employing several thousand workmen; and within the last ten years, I believe, the population has been nearly doubled. This, and the increasing number of highly respectable workmen and mechanics in this town, has led to trade soirees being held, social meetings and gatherings, attended by employers and employed; and, for the convenience of these meetings, it has been found, as I understand, very difficult to obtain suitable accommodation, and I believe that this fact, as much as anything else, has led to the steps being taken for the

erection of a public hall, under the auspices, I believe, in the first instance, of your ever-popular, ever-general ex-Chief Magistrate, John Reid. When saying this I cannot, and I am sure you Port-Glasgowians cannot, forget the energetic steps he took a number of years ago to extricate your various trusts from the difficulties in which they for some time found themselves. He has been aided by many gentlemen, and by no one, I am sure, more heartily than by our present worthy Chief Magistrate, Provost Lang. Provost Lang, it has been a very great pleasure to me, I assure you, on this occasion, to be present; and allow me to congratulate you and your colleagues on this important work which is being carried out during your tenure of office of the chief magistracy of this town. In the name of all the Masons here present, and in my own name, we wish to this building every success. May it stand for ages as a memorial of the old fame of Port-Glasgow, as a token of its present prosperity, and as an emblem of its future and increasing welfare.

Provost Lang remarked that one of the most distinguishing characteristics of the progress of a people is the character of its public buildings. If these be mean and inappropriate it shows that the people of the town, or the district, or the country are selfish, spiritless, and unpatriotic. The inhabitants of Port-Glasgow, in erecting this building, are doing honour to themselves, wiping out a stain from their character, and supplying a want that has been long and keenly felt. He thanked Sir Michael personally for the many acts of kindness he had shown to Port-Glasgow, and, upon this occasion, for the promptitude with which he responded to the request of the corporation to lay the foundation stone of the new hall in his capacity as Prov. Grand Master specially, and to the brethren of the Masonic Craft; to the Foresters, to the trades generally, and all who had taken a part in the day's proceedings, he returned the heartfelt thanks of the corporation and of all who take an interest in it, and last, what ought to have been first, to those ladies who have honoured us with their company, whose presence has imparted grace and beauty to these interesting proceedings. There was a time when the balance hung even as to whether the hall would proceed or not. There was a doubt in many minds as to their power to carry it through. On a late occasion a lady said to him emphatically that it would be a disgrace to the men of Port-Glasgow if they could not erect such a building as this, and that she herself would give £100 towards the object. That imparted galvanism to the whole undertaking, and the result was that on that day they laid the foundation stone with a ceremony that will be remembered by old and young for many long years.

Bro. Bryce, Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, called for three cheers for Bro. Sir Michael, which were enthusiastically given, the band playing "Rule Britannia."

The ceremony being completed, the Volunteer and Masonic bodies, headed by the Grand Lodge, marched to the front of the Town Buildings, where they dispersed. The trades had, while the ceremony was going on, marched to their respective places of meeting, and throughout the afternoon several of them paraded the streets to the music of their bands, and followed by crowds.

At half-past five in the evening a public dinner was given in commemoration of the event in the old Town Hall, King-street, which was tastefully decorated with evergreens for the occasion. Provost Lang occupied the chair, and was supported by a numerous and distinguished company.

The Rev. Mr. Horne having asked a blessing, an excellent dinner, provided by Mr. McKay, of Greenock, was partaken of, after which the Rev. Mr. Bell returned thanks.

The Chairman, who read a note of apology from Provost Macfarlane, Paisley, who was unable to be present, then proposed "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of

Wales," "The Navy, Army, and Volunteers," coupled with the name of, and replied to, by Mr. Crawford, editor of the *Volunteer News*.

The Provost next proposed "The Lord Lieutenant of the County," and in doing so said: In Sir Michael's presence I cannot say what I would like to say, or give expression to what I feel; but this I will say, that, apart from the adventitious aids of birth and rank and wealth—and these, when rightly used, are amongst the best gifts of earth—Sir Michael has far higher claims on our respect, esteem, and love, for he has shown himself to be one of Nature's noblemen, and that is the highest title that earth can bestow.

"A king can mak' a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, an' a' that;
But an honest mans' aboon his might—
Gude faith he maunna fa' that."

One word more in reference to the Lord Lieutenantcy. No appointment that has been made in the county during the present generation has been more popular than the appointment of Sir Michael to that distinguished office. For once, "Whig an' Tory a' agreed," and men of all shades of politics expressed themselves as highly pleased that Government had done the right thing and a graceful act, and put the right man in the right place.

The Lord Lieutenant expressed his thanks for the compliment the company had just paid him, and said that if anything more external could induce him to do his duty it would be the kind expressions which had been made to him both in public and private since his appointment to the Lord Lieutenantcy of the county. He resumed his seat by returning thanks for their kindness, and said he assured them it was heartily appreciated.

The Chairman, in proposing "Success to the new Town Hall," in an eloquent address, gave a brief account of the history of Port Glasgow.

Bailie Duncan then proposed "Her Majesty's Ministers."

The Rev. Mr. Bell then proposed "The Provincial Grand Lodge and Assisting Brethren." He said all the ministers of the town wished hearty success to the building of which the foundation-stone had been that day laid. In absence of a Town Hall, lectures and meetings were often held in a church, which was hardly the place for such gatherings; and the ministers were obliged to Provost Lang for helping them out of that dilemma. They should now have no difficulty in saying to any one who wanted either of the churches for the purpose of delivering a lecture, "Go to the Town Hall." He believed the Provost of the town, like the clergy, had the good of the public at heart. As to the Masonic bodies, their good deeds spoke for themselves; and he begged to couple with the toast the name of Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, who had that day placed themselves under deep obligations to him.

Bro. Sir Michael replied.

The other toasts were—"The Clergy;" "The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Greenock;" "The Subscribers, Trades, and others assisting;" "The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Port-Glasgow;" "The Press;" "The Ladies;" "The Chairman;" "Croupier;" &c.

Some appropriate music was discoursed at intervals by a quadrille band.

FREEMASONRY IN JAPAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

For some time past, there had been growing up in the minds of many of the leading brethren a feeling that the craft in Yokohama had attained such numbers as to render it desirable to extend its means of working, and increase the channels through which its energies might be directed. In the early part of this year, this feeling

took definite shape; and a meeting being held for the purpose, a petition to the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland, was prepared in due form, and transmitted by the second mail in February. The prayer of the petition being granted, a warrant from the G.M. was received on the 21st ult., empowering the petitioning brethren to meet under the title of the O Tentosama Lodge No. 1,263, on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England, and appointing Bros. C. H. Dallas, P. M. of the Yokohama Lodge No. 1,092, as first W.M., A. Mitchell, S.W., J. D. Carroll J.W. On the 28th ult., the new lodge held its inaugural meeting, when after being opened in due form, the officers for the ensuing year were appointed, and invested with the insignia of their respective offices—a very handsome set of paraphernalia having been received from London. The officers are: Bros. W. Bourne, S.W. of No. 1092, Treas. E. F. Ansell, W.M. of No. 1,092, Sec. E. Rothmund, S.D., Alex. Marks, J.D. J. L. Lieberman, I.G., J. R. Anglin, Tyler.

Bro. Ansell then presented the new Lodge with a handsomely bound volume of the sacred law, for which the thanks of the lodge were immediately voted. The W.M. then addressed the lodge congratulating the petitioning brethren on this, the successful result of their petition, and thanking the visiting brethren for coming forward in such numbers to testify their interest and sympathy for the new lodge. In the course of his speech, the W.M. stated that certain brethren had been apprehensive lest the establishment of a new lodge should be productive of schism in so small a community; but he thought that they would dismiss all apprehension when they learnt that the W.M., the S.W., the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Yokohama Lodge were to be found in the persons of the Secretary, the Treasurer, the S.W., and the W.M. of the O Tentosama Lodge. No better guarantee could be given for a perfect unanimity prevailing between the two lodges, and by two lodges, thus working had in hand, more power would be gained for the craft, and its efficiency would be greatly augmented.

After the conclusion of ceremonies, the brethren withdrew for refreshments, when after the usual toasts of obligation, "The prosperity of the O Tentosama Lodge" was proposed in a most eloquent speech by Bro. Ansell, as W.M. of the senior lodge.

After a few more personal toasts, not forgetting absent friends, interspersed with some vocal melody, the brethren separated at half-past eleven.

Before the closing of the lodge, two brethren were proposed as joining members, and six gentlemen as candidates for initiation.

LIST OF LODGE, &c., MEETINGS FOR WEEK ENDING 6TH NOVEMBER, 1869.

(Abbreviations.—F.M.H., Freemasons' Hall; M.H., Masonic Hall; M.T., Masonic Temple; Tav., Tavern; Ho., Hotel; R., Rooms; L., Lodge; St., Street; Sq., Square).

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS.

Monday, Nov. 1st.

LODGES.—Robert Burns, F.M.H.; Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; United Lodge of Prudence, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.; St. John's, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st., Blackfriars; St. Luke's, Pier Ho., Cheyne-walk, Chelsea; Amity, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; Joppa, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; Unions, F.M.H.

Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.

Colonial Board, at 3.—LODGES.—Albion, F.M.H.; Old Dundee, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.; Temple, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.; Old Concord, F.M.H.; St. James's, Leather Market Tav., Bermondsey.—CHAPTERS.—Temperance, White Swan Tav., Deptford; United Pilgrims, Horns Tav., Kennington.

Wednesday, Nov. 3rd.

Grand Chapter, at 8.—LODGES.—Stability, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Zetland, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; Mac Donald, Head Qrs. 1st Surrey Vol. Corps, Brunswick-rd., Camberwell.

Thursday, Nov. 4th.

LOGGES.—Egyptian, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; Strong Man, F.M.H.; Good Report, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st., Blackfriars; Lion and Lamb, City Terminus Ho., Cannon-st.; Ionic, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.; St. Andrew's, F.M.H.; La Tolerance, F.M.H.; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; Victoria Rifles, F.M.H.; Excelsior, Sydney Arms, Lewisham-rd.; Perfect Ashlar, Gregorian Arms, Jamaica-rd., Bermondsey.—CHAPTERS.—Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese Tav., Crutched Friars; Westbourne, New Inn, Edgeware-rd.; Crystal Palace, Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

Friday, Nov. 5th.

LOGGES.—Florence Nightingale, Ma. Ha., William-st., Woolwich; Hornsey, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.—CHAPTER.—Fidelity, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.

Saturday, Nov. 6th.

Gen. Committee Boys' School, F.M.H., at 4.—LODGE.—St. Thomas, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st., Blackfriars.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Monday, Nov. 1st.

Prosperity, White Hart, Bishopsgate-st.; Temple, Old George St. Mary Axe, E.C.; Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-rd., Deptford; Old Concord, Turk's Head, Montcombe-st., Belgrave-sq.; Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars; St. James's Union, Swan Tavern, Mount-street, Grosvenor-sq.; Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st.; Salisbury, 71, Dean-st., Soho; Camden, Adelaide Tav., Haverstock Hill; Westbourne, Running Horse, Duke-st., Grosvenor-sq.; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham; Tower Hamlets Engineers, Duke of Clarence, Commercial-rd. East; Eastern Star, Royal Ho., Burdett-rd., Mile-end-rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.

Strong Man, White Horse, Little Britain; Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metropolitan District Railway, Victoria Station; Domatic, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell; Jordan, Alwyne Castle, Canonbury; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John's Tav., St. John's-wood; British Oak, Silver Lion Tavern, Pennyfield, Poplar; Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney; Royal Albert, White Hart, Abchurch-lane.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Rose of Denmark, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane.

Wednesday, Nov. 3rd.

Confidence, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-st.; Merchant Navy, Silver Tav., Burdett-rd., Limehouse; United Strength, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town; New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton; St. Mark's, Mawby Arms, Mawby-st., S. Lambeth; Peckham, Edinburgh Castle Tavern, Peckham Rye; Pythagorean, Prince of Orange Hotel, Greenwich.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—St. James's Union, Swan Tav., Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.

Thursday, Nov. 4th.

Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq.; Kent, Duke of York, Borough-rd.; Globe, No. 10, Old Bond-st.; United Mariners, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd.; Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth; St. George's, Globe Tav., Royal Hill, Greenwich; St. John's, Hollybush Tav., Hampstead; Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-square; Tranquillity, Sugar Loaf Tav., Great St. Helen's, St. Mary Axe; Whittington, Crown Ho., 41, Holborn; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tav., Deptford.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Prospect of Whithy Tav., 57, Wapping-wall.

Friday, Nov. 5th.

Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.; St. Luke's, Pier Ho., Cheyne-walk, Chelsea; Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-rd., Deptford; Stability, Guildhall Tav., 33, Gresham-st.; Union (Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.), Freemasons' Hall; United Pilgrims, Horns' Tavern, Kennington; Wellington, Lord Duncan Tavern, Broadway, Deptford; Florence Nightingale, Freemasons' Tav., Woolwich; Ranelagh, Windsor Castle Hotel, King-st., Hammersmith; Belgrave, Duke of Wellington, Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; St. James's, Gregorian Arms, Jamaica-row, Bermondsey; Lily, Greyhound Ho., Richmond; Doric, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd.; Rose of Denmark, White Hart, Barnes, Surrey; Victoria, George Ho., Aldermanbury.

Saturday, Nov. 6th.

CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Mount Sinai, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.

PROVINCIAL.

DORSET.

WIMBORNE MINSTER.—*Mon.*, Lodge: St. Cuthberga, Crown Inn.—PORTLAND.—*Mon.*, Lodge: Portland, Breakwater Ho. *Wed.*, Grand Chapter, at 8.—POOLE.—Lodge: Amity, M.H.—DORCHESTER.—*Wed.*, Lodge: Faith and Unanimity, M.H.—WEYMOUTH.—*Fri.*, Chapter: All Souls, M.H.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

Mon.: ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Lodge: Milton, Burlington Hotel.—BLACKLEY (near Manchester).—Lodge: Wilton, Red Lion Inn.—BOLTON.—Lodge: Anchor and Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Church Institute.—OVER DARWEN.—Lodge: Harmony and Industry, Greenway Arms Inn.—*Tues.*: SALFORD.—Lodge: Newall, F.M.H.—*Wed.*: KERSLEY (near Manchester).—Lodge: Earl Ellesmere, Church Inn.—LITTLE BROUGHTON.—Lodge: St. Thomas, Town Hall, Duke-st.—MANCHESTER.—Lodge: Humphrey Cheet-ham, F.M.H.—ROCHDALE.—Lodge: Harmony, Ma. Ro. 23, Ann-street.—SHAW (near Oldham).—Lodge: Albert, Duke of York.—BOLTON.—Chapter: St. John's, Commercial Ho., Market-sq.—TODMORDEN.—Chapter: Todmorden, Ma. Ha.—*Thurs.*: BURY.—Lodge: Prince of Wales, Derby Ho., Bury.—MANCHESTER.—Lodge: Affability, F.M.H.—HASLINGDEN.—Chapter: Wisdom, Bull's Head Inn, Church-street.—*Fri.*: MANCHESTER.—Lodge: Friendship, F.M.H., Cooper-st.

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

Mon.: LANCASTER.—Lodge: Rowley, Ma. Ro., Athenæum.—PRESTON.—Lodge: Unanimity, Bull Ho. Ass. Ro., Church-st.—LIVERPOOL.—Chapter: Liverpool, Ma. Tem., 22, Hope-st.—*Tues.*: ULVERSTON.—Lodge: Farness, Masonic Tem., Theatre-street.—LIVERPOOL.—Chapter: St. John of Jerusalem, Masonic Temple, 22, Hope-street.—*Wed.*: CHORLEY.—Lodge: Ellesmere, Royal Oak Hotel.—LIVERPOOL.—Lodges: St. John's, Royal Mersey Yacht Ho.; Royal Victoria, Ma. Tem.—WAVERTREE (near Liverpool).—Lodge: Duke of Edinburgh, Wright's Coffee House.—*Thurs.*: LIVERPOOL.—Lodge: Mariner's, Ma. Tem.—*Fri.*: LIVERPOOL.—Lodge: Sefton, Adelphi Ho.

CHESHIRE.

Wed.: SEACOMBE (near Birkenhead).—Chapter: Fidelity, Seacombe Ho.

WARWICKSHIRE.

Mon.: COVENTRY.—Lodge: Trinity, Castle Ho.—LEAMINGTON.—Lodge: Guy's, Bath Ho.—STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—Lodge: Bard of Avon, Red Horse Ho.—BIRMINGHAM.—Forward, Masonic Rooms, Newhall-st.—*Tues.*: COLDFIELD.—Lodge: Warden, Moot Hall, Sutton.—*Wed.*: BIRMINGHAM.—Lodges: Athol, Ma. Ha., Severn-st. Chapter: Howe, R.A., Ma. Ro., Newhall-st.

OXFORDSHIRE.

Tues.: OXFORD.—Lodge: Alfred, Ma. Ha., Alfred-st.—*Wed.*, Grand Chapter.—*Thurs.*: OXFORD.—Chapter: Alfred, Ma. Ha., Alfred-st.—*Fri.*: OXFORD.—Lodge: Churchill, Ma. Ha., Alfred-st.

[This information is extracted from the "Universal Masonic Calendar," published at 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, and brethren who may detect any inaccuracies (and there are, doubtless, many), are respectfully requested to communicate the same to the Editor at the Office, No. 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TO CAPT. G.—Thanks; MS. received.

J. HUGHES.—The numbers have been regularly sent. Maybe the late publisher neglected to account for the monies.

R.—The receipt you hold is invalid.

L. S. D.—You are in error. The Board is not constituted as you appear to suppose. Bro. Brackstone Baker is perhaps the only member who knows Canada and the Canada Masons.

Z.—You are misinformed; the undertaking in question is a private one, and certainly is not the property of the Grand Lodge employed in the Assistant Secretary's office. It is supposed by an official fiction that they are not partizans; however, the subject will shortly be ventilated.