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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1870.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE HISTORY OF THE CRAFT.—No. 2.

By A MASONIC STUDENT.

(Continued from Page 145)

I propose in this chapter to point out what I believe to be the only true foundation, on which the history of our Order can safely rest.

In a few words, I am anxious to advocate and uphold what may be called the guild theory.

In 1863 I made the following statement, in regard to the opinion I then ventured to entertain in respect of this much "vexata quæstio," and subsequent study and consideration have only tended to strengthen the conviction I then expressed, and which I had arrived at after some years of patient and careful inquiry

"Freemasonry as we have it to-day, affected no doubt, to a great extent by the preponderance of the Speculative element, has come down to us I venture to believe, through a long succession of centuries, and may be most safely and satisfactorily traced through the operative guilds and Masonic sodalities of the middle and early ages, to Roman Collegia, to Grecian communities, and thence to Jewish and Tyrian Masons."*

And it is this same view substantially of our Masonic Order, which I wish to bring now more formally before my brethren generally, because in it, and in it alone, I feel persuaded the true history of Freemasonry is to be found.

The more we study the whole question—difficult

as it confessedly is in all its bearings—the more shall we be convinced, I feel confident ere long, that no other theory can satisfy the exigencies of historical criticism on the one hand, or harmonise the confused traditions of Freemasonry on the other, but that, which regards our Speculative Order to-day, as nothing more and nothing less, than the direct continuation and legitimate result of the olden system of operative sodalities.

Let it be granted that Freemasonry exists under an altered condition of things, and is to be found perhaps in a wider sphere than of old, when it was confined to the building societies of an operative brotherhood: yet, its normal state from which our present Freemasonry has derived its life and history, was that of an operative Masonic guild.

Now it is a mistake to suppose, as some modern writers seem to do, that this explanation of our Masonic annals and progress is a novel one, of a comparatively very recent date and unknown to our earlier historians. It has been said for instance, by our latest Masonic annalist, our learned German brother Dr. Findel, that the "first writer on the subject of Freemasonry who ventured to hint at the existence of an historical connection between the fraternity of Freemasons, and that of the stonemasons was the Abbé Grandidier, a non-Mason," who wrote in 1779.*

But though I am quite willing to admit, that he is perhaps the first writer who openly argued for the distinct existence of a purely operative brotherhood, with signs and symbols, forms and teaching analogous to our own, yet we should never forget, that the assertion of a secret bond of union, of a similarity of symbolic teaching, of a continuity of organisation and existence, as between operative and Speculative Freemasonry, is really as old as the time of Anderson and Preston.

Anderson, the first edition of whose "Constitutions of the Freemasons" was published in 1723, and Preston, whose first edition appeared in 1772, have based their entire history of the Order, though with differences of detail peculiar to each writer, as our Bro. Findel has himself admitted, "on a history of architecture taken from the legends of the guilds."

And though since their time the subject has been greatly elaborated by many able foreign writers on Freemasonry—to some extent by Bro.

* Oration before Pentalpha Lodge, Bradford, 1863.

* Findel's History of Freemasonry, p. 15.

Laurie — and especially by German writers, * and though it may be true, that the terminology of the operative guild theory has only of late years assumed its present development and position among Masonic writers, yet we are bound, as it appears to me, to accord in justice to Anderson and Preston, the credit of asserting and maintaining the true theory of the operative origin of Freemasonry.

A great deal of ridicule has been cast upon Anderson, especially, for the high-flown language in which he claims to carry up the antiquity of our Order to the earliest ages of the world, and for the free use he has undoubtedly made of even patriarchal names.

Yet it should be borne in mind, that he probably intended after all by such language, only to state paraphrastically the old teaching of the connection supposed to exist between Freemasonry and the primæval and later mysteries.†

Accepting this view, that the early mysteries were the depositories of sacred truth, though by degrees debased and corrupted, Anderson with many others seems to have held that Freemasonry still retains in its carefully preserved inner teaching some traces of these earlier mysteries, and that it was in itself therefore as old as the patriarchs, and coeval with the first germs of civilisation among mankind!

It must however fairly be admitted, that he has unwisely claimed "nominatim" as patrons and members of our Order, many whose affiliation to Freemasonry could be only at the best but a legendary tradition, and that he has allowed the influence of this old and attractive theory to outweigh the more sober claims of historical evidence and practical accuracy.

Let us, however, return to the more immediate subject matter.

There are three views apparently of the guild theory, which merit our present and careful consideration:—

1.—There is the view for instance, of our learned German brother, Dr. Findel, to which we will give our first attention.

If we understand his words rightly in his very valuable and interesting History of Freemasonry, he accepts without reserve the guild theory, and

looks upon our modern Order as the direct continuation, though somewhat developed and expanded by the revival of 1717, of the operative guilds.

He advocates distinctly and without doubt the operative origin of Freemasonry; and though it is not quite clear from his valuable work whether he accepts our modern ritual and organisation as identical in all respects with that of the operative fraternity, yet he seems to do so, inasmuch as he more than once advocates the view I have often contended for, that the ritual and ceremonies and oral teaching and mystic symbolism of the purely operative lodges were to a great extent under the direction and approval of the monastic orders.

The great value of our learned brother's history to the Masonic student consists in this, that he so ably points out the real operative origin of Freemasonry; that he introduces with great clearness in support of his argument, the rules and regulations, the customs and traditions of the operative German Masons, clearly proving a similarity of usage and identity of symbols between them and our Speculative brotherhood to-day.

The peculiarity of Bro. Findel's view consists in this, that he assigns the origin of the Masonic Order, as an operative institution only, to the German "Steinmetzen," or stonemasons of the middle ages, and seems to fix on the beginning of the 11th century as the epoch when we have for the first time satisfactory evidence of their existence and proceedings and purpose.

And though it must be ever most interesting to all Freemasons, thus to be able to trace the history of the German operative "Bauhütten" or lodges through several centuries, yet it would be, I venture to think, most unsafe as it is in truth impossible to contend, or seriously for one moment to suppose, that Freemasonry could have thus sprung up all of a sudden in the history of the world—could with all its old legends and time-honoured traditions and mysterious symbolism, have been alone the product of the ingenuity and skill of German stonemasons, and transplanted from Germany to England.

Our learned brother's argument, that because he finds the legend of the "Four Crowned Martyrs" in our earliest known Masonic MS., and traces, as he thinks, of "Vehmic" usages in the Sloane MS. 3329* therefore our English Free-

* Vogel, Albrecht, Mossdorf, Schröder, Fessler, &c.
† Hutchinson, Lenoir, Oliver, Faber, *Anthologia Libernica*.

* It was my privilege to ask Bro. Findel's attention originally to this interesting MS.

masonry was introduced by German operative Masons, is, though ingenious and very creditable to his patriotic sympathies, utterly opposed to all the known facts of the case, and completely irreconcilable with the evidence of history, and the witness of our own English Masonic traditions.

No doubt Bro. Findel's theory is in itself a very interesting one, and in some respects an easy way of surmounting many of the difficulties and peculiarities of our Masonic annals. It may serve also to dispel some of the doubts and remove some of the objections of hostile criticism, but it does by no means clear the way perfectly for the Masonic or un-Masonic enquirer, and still leaves unaccounted for, on any safe and satisfactory authority, the origin, existence, progress, and perpetuation of one of the most remarkable institutions the world has ever seen.

To say nothing now of other patent objections to it, how are we to deal, if we accept it, with that very important subject of Masons' Marks?

Our learned brother E. W. Shaw, contended some years back, and I have never seen any satisfactory reply to his assertions, that one great principle pervaded all the known Masons' marks in the world, namely, that they were outward symbols, of an inner meaning, or teaching.

From the almost innumerable fac similes he had collected after many years arduous labour, which I have myself seen, from all quarters of the world, he found the same unity of design and actual identity of form in all the marks he had so carefully gathered together, whether they had been found on Egyptian pyramids or Roman walls, on Hindoo or on Mexican temples, on early or mediæval ecclesiastical buildings, on the stones of Tyre, on the very buildings of Jerusalem!

His argument then, which always appeared to my mind irresistible, that we have in these Masons' marks a strong proof of the antiquity of our Order, and of its wide diffusion at a very early period, has recently received a striking confirmation by the underground discoveries of Bro. Lieut. Warren in the Holy City itself, who has brought to light the long buried marks of Tyrian and Jewish Masons.

If however we accept our learned Bro. Findel's theory, we must surrender this valuable evidence of the great and real antiquity of Freemasonry.

Believing then in common with all, who have had the opportunity of studying his most interesting work, that a debt of gratitude is owing

to him for his careful and accurate investigations, and regarding his history as a most valuable aid and addition to Masonic literature in general, I still think, that we cannot safely adopt his limited view of the antiquity of the Craft, the late origin he assigns to the operative guilds, or find in his skilfully developed theory, a satisfactory solution of the true and full history of Freemasonry.

2.—There is a second view of the guild theory, which I may dismiss with a very short notice, for it is historically and archæologically untenable.

It is that which asserts that the history of Speculative Masonry is to be entirely severed from that of the operative guilds, and that though the guilds existed certainly, they had little or nothing in common without our modern Order, and that the revival in 1717, was but the adaptation by Speculative Masons, without any warrant or natural connection, of the phraseology, usages, and legends, of the operative guilds.

In short to repeat the Abbé Grandidier's words, Freemasonry as we have it to-day, in its inner speculative teaching and outer and formal organisation, is but the "servile imitation of an ancient and useful Fraternity of actual Masons."

But this very modern view of the history of the Craft, as far as I know or understand the arguments of its supporters, has so far nothing but crude hypothesis and intolerant assertion in its favour, and seems destined to land us as a Fraternity, ere long again on the shore of a most unlearned and unreasoning exposition of our archæology, our usages, and our history.

If it be true, we may as well bring to an end at once, those studies and investigations which of late years have been undertaken by so many able brethren, in order from the unerring records of the past, to erect a lasting edifice standing on sure foundation, perfect in its parts and honourable to the builders, which shall be able to resist alike successfully the attacks of criticism, and offer a satisfactory and reasonable history to our brethren and the world, of our 'ancient and beneficent Order.

3.—But the third view remains for our consideration, namely, that our Freemasonry may be safely traced through the mediæval and early guilds, direct in the first instance to the Roman Collegia, and then even much further back, in harmony with our own ancient traditions. Bro. Dr. Findel puts the whole question most fairly, when admitting that a "certain connection

existed," between the mediæval guilds and the Roman colleges, he goes on to ask, whether the former be a "direct continuation" of the latter—whether "there exists sufficient historical proof to justify the tracing back the Fraternity of Masons to the building corporation of Rome"?

And though he has thought well to answer both these questions in the negative, and to say, that "attempts to trace the history of Freemasonry further back than the middle ages, have been up to the present time most decided failures," I think he has allowed his preference of his own view, to blind him somewhat to the result of the researches of those able brethren who advocate the connection between the mediæval guilds and the Roman Collegia, and that he has not given sufficient weight to the evidence which may be adduced in support of this larger theory of Masonic history.

It is impossible to hope to find to-day, historical evidence of a perfect uniformity of ritual and ceremony, of customs and usages, in which some set so much store, between the present and the past. Indeed if that be requisite, Bro. Findel's argument in respect of the German Steinmetzen utterly breaks down, for he himself admits that a "complete insight into the customs in use among the Fraternity of stonemasons, into their origin and progress, will most likely never be vouchsafed to us."* Nevertheless he goes on to contend, that they were the forefathers of modern German Speculative Masons, and in all essential particulars identical.

I would only adopt my learned brothers' own admission and argument, and apply it to the view I am now advocating.

In common with those who maintain the same view of Masonic history† I contend, that the evidence we are already in possession of, to link us on to the building colleges of the Romans, and thence to Grecian communities and Egyptian mysteries, is very clear and very striking, and cannot any longer be disputed or cavilled at.

It amounts simply to this, that colleges of architects and sodalities of architecture existed among the Romans, Greeks and Egyptians, that the science of architecture was carefully guarded as a mystery, and so handed on to later times, that

the Masonic symbols, and Masonic usages and customs were the same in successive ages.

There is abundance of evidence to shew, that these institutions and brotherhoods and communities resembled our Masonic Order in many striking particulars, that the same tokens are to be met with as used by the ancients and by ourselves, alike in coins and mural paintings, alike in classic inscription and architectural remains, and that the counterpart of our Speculative Masonic teaching and symbolism, may be found in many old legends and manuscripts, and may be traced in many early writers.

Surely all this amounts to a very great body of evidence, which requires to be carefully considered and respectfully treated, and cannot, as it ought not to be hastily dismissed, without due weight being given, to what may be incontestably proved, in favour of any favourite hypothesis or preconceived opinion of what the History of Freemasonry can safely be supposed to be.

That there are many difficulties in the way of a perfect developement of this last theory, no one can deny, but they are not really greater than attend on Bro. Findel's more limited view, and such a difficulty, after the lapse of centuries, must be reasonably expected, as well as from the peculiar condition of the Masonic system! I hope in the next chapter, to put before my brethren what is really the amount of reasonable evidence, or even any view at all of Masonic history, as regards the ancient building colleges and sodalities, up to the fall of the Roman Empire.

THE RED CROSS OF ROME AND CON-STANTINE.

By Bro. ✠ C. FITZGERALD MATIER, 30°, a Grand Steward, G.L., Scotland.

I have been exceedingly amused by the notes "hastily compiled for the forthcoming edition" of Bro. Macoy's "Cyclopedia and Dictionary of Freemasonry," published in a contemporary as emanating from Bro. R. W. Little. Had this gentleman, the historian, and, if I am correctly informed, the author and founder, or at least the chief corner stone of the Masonic Order which has usurped the title it assumes, simply confined his remarks and notes to a chronicle of what constituted a *Conclave* of his Order, or to what class of meetings, the terms *Senate* and *College* were to be applied, and the duties of the various office bearers, we could have passed it by with a smile at the ridiculous

* Findel, page 61.

† Rebold, Krause, Clavel, Lenning, Schanberg, Fallou, Dallo-way, Hope.

absurdity of the whole thing, and have speedily forgotten all about it.

As, however, Bro. Little has mixed up with his fiction certain facts, mentioned in standard works of history, I have considered it my duty to prove the utter fallacy of his historical statements, and from this to show how little faith can be placed in his historical claims.

And firstly, I shall quote from Dr. William Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology (pub. in London 1867), as regards the birthplace of Constantine the Great. Although there are many different opinions respecting this, yet it is most probable, and is now generally believed, that he was born A.D. 272 in Naissus, now Nissa, a well-known town in Dardania, and that he was *not* "a native of Britain," as Bro. Little states. In the second place, according to the testimony of all authors who have written on the subject, the luminous trophy of the cross seen by Constantine A.D. 312, when marching against his brother-in-law Licinius (not Maxentius), was inscribed with the Latin words IN HOC SIGNO VINCES, which Eusebius, writing in Greek, translated as ΕΝ ΤΟΥΤΟ ΝΙΚΑ. Therefore the Latin is the correct version, and our old friend Dr. Oliver is wrong again.

In the last paragraph of his notes, Bro. Little says: "*Viceroy Eusebius*, the second officer of a Red Cross Conclave. This dignitary represents Eusebius BISHOP of NICOMEDIA, who was entrusted by Constantine with the command of his body guard of Christian Knights, &c." I again open Dr. Smith's Dictionary, which every reader of this MAGAZINE can refer to, and I find the following: "Eusebius of Nicomedeia, the friend and protector of Arius, was maternally connected, though distantly, with the Emperor Julian, and was born about A.D. 324. He was first Bishop of Berytus (Beyrouth) in Syria, and then of Nicomedeia, which Diocletian had made his residence, so that it was in fact the capital of the Eastern Empire, until Constantine fixed his court at Byzantium." He first comes under the notice of history by taking the part of Arius after his excommunication by Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria. Indeed, so warmly did he become a partisan of the Arian heresy, that the Arians were sometimes called Eusebians. Now, according to Bro. R. W. Little, this prelate was entrusted with the command of the body guard of Constantine *twelve years before he was born*, as the battle of Saxa Rubra was

fought on the 28th October, A.D. 312 (not on the 12th October as Bro. Little states). Now, as this must be manifestly "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare," we must charitably suppose the learned "historian" of the Masonic Order has mixed up the Bishop of Nicomedeia with his namesake, the Bishop of CÆSAREIA, "the father of ecclesiastical history, who was born in Palestine, A.D. 264, towards the end of the reign of the Emperor Gallienus" (see again Dr. Smith, *passim*), and who was therefore nearly 50 years of age at the date of the battle of Saxa Rubra—a rather advanced stage of life for a bishop of the Christian Church to be in command of a company of body guards, more especially when we know that in A.D. 312 he was quietly dragging out life in a prison in Egypt, where he continued till the end of the persecution of the Christians. He then returned to Cæsaria, and succeeded Agapius as Bishop of that see in A.D. 315, which he continued to hold until his death, in A.D. 340. I have no doubt that his appointment in A.D. 327, to be present at the Council of Nicea to receive Constantine with a panegyric oration, or perhaps the fact of his being the biographer of Constantine, has caused Bro. R. W. Little to invest him with the vice-royalty of the Masonic Order, and even to actually represent him in the Conclave by a priestly grade, I can only say that the ancient prelate never either possessed or even dreamt of the honour with which his *soi-disant* successors have invested him.

Again, supposing Eusebius had been at Saxa Rubra, and had taken command of the body guards, would he not have seen the wondrous vision in common with the whole of the army, and have been able to personally vouch for the truth of the story? Why then the necessity for him to say (in his life of Constantine) that he related the fact of the miraculous appearance of the cross, on the authority of Constantine himself, who "many years after the event, in the freedom of conversation had related to him this extraordinary incident of his own life, and had attested the faith of it by a solemn oath." See "Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," chap. xx. Gibbon himself takes these facts from the authority of Eusebius. Thus, from the testimony of the "Viceroy" himself, we completely upset the "second officer in the Red Cross Conclave."

The charge of the Imperial standard, or *Labarum*, which was constructed A.D. 312, was confided to a chosen guard of 50 young men of

noble birth and of approved valour and fidelity, and Constantine marked his high appreciation of their services by honours and emoluments. From several miraculous occurrences which took place, a report gained ground that the guards of the *Labarum*, when engaged in the execution of their duty, "were secure from danger, and invulnerable amid the darts of the enemy." (See "Gibbon," chap. xx.)

I have no doubt but that to this distinguished body, we may look for the basis of all those orders of chivalry, who, in more modern times, have rendered so many services to church and state, and who became the most beautiful ornament of all the courts of Europe. The honour of knighthood was so highly esteemed, that Gibbon says, "The warlike sovereigns of Europe derived more glory from this personal distinction, than from the lustre of their diadem."

The first of all these illustrious chivalric companies was founded by Constantine, as I have already shown, and has been the model and the origin of those orders of knighthood, which through the middle ages, proclaimed and defended the august name of Christ.

This order is in existence at the present day and is represented not in the absurd Masonic Order of the Red Cross, but in "the Most Holy, Most Noble, and Most Illustrious, Supreme Constantinian Order of the Knights of St. George," whose present Grand Master is the Head of the Royal and Imperial House of Rhodocanakis. His heir, the Prince Demetrius Rhodocanakis, is at present in this country and has recently joined our Order. I really hope he will feel it imperative on him to write a history of the genuine order, and by thus putting a stop to the imaginary claims of the spurious "Red Cross," do a real service to the cause of true Masonry. The order had better be extinguished altogether, than that we should be rendered the laughing stock of the outer world, who may possibly hear of these preposterous pretensions.

I have the utmost respect for Bro. Little, whom I have not the privilege of knowing, but I cannot but regret his want of knowledge, when presenting himself as an "historian," and as one of the pillars of an order, which has not the slightest shadow of a claim to the titles and decorations of the first order in Christendom.

By the way, Bro. Little states, the "Grand Imperial Council" consists of thirteen members.

I am curious to know, the statistics of their longevity, as the common superstition is that when this number meet one of the thirteen must die within the year to make the number twelve, (as happened to Judas Iscariot), I know many people who would not make the thirteenth at a dinner table, and to say the least, the number, in connection with the Red Cross is ominous. I trust the notes will not appear without at least considerable correction, and Bro. Macoy had best omit them altogether.

THE HAUGHFOOT LODGE AND SPECULATIVE MASONRY.

By R. S.

EXTRACTS FROM OLD RECORDS OF HAUGHFOOT LODGE.—*contd.*

Haughfoot, Decr. 27th, 1726.

The which day rol called and found absent.

William Cairncross.	Simeon Aitchison.
Falahill.	Patrick Sanderson, yr.
William Cairncross, jr.	Alex. Dickson.
Andrew Tomline.	Jeams Brown.
The Laird of Gala.	Alexr. Hardie.
Middleton.	William Brown.

The sd day Walter Scot was chosen preses, Jeams Claperton, Clerk, and Robt. Frier, continued Treasurer till next St. John's Day.

The sd day, reported that John Foster in Bowland, and William Brown servt, were admitted since last meeting, as to the article anent the Box Master's accounts and other things therein mentioned the committie met, but no accounts were presented.

The Clerk has sent this day the Register with some particular sederunts, but the book not being filled up since Decr. 1716.

There is ane new box produced, which is payed for in terms of sederunt Feby. 3rd 1727, and the said Register is put in to it, and the kyes lodged ane in the preses's hand, and the other in the Treasurer's hand.

Aproves of the sd sederunt Feb. 3rd. 1727, with respect to the box and two pounds one shilling scots debursed by the Treasurer as necessary charges, an account whereof is to be produced by him with proper vouchers.

The comittie appointed last St. John's Day for receiving the late Treasurer's accounts, & ctra, are hereby continued, with the same powers and for the same purpose, and their first meeting to

be in this place upon the last Friday of January next, with power to adjourn their meetings and appoint committees as they shall find needful, and to order the prosecution of such persons as shall deny their attendance before any competent judge.

Recomends also to the sd comittie to give proper directions for prosecuting all such as are deficient any maner of way.

Further the comittie is empowred, if the clerk decline to officiat to choise ane in his room, and settle a reasonable sallary on him, with a suitable reward for his pains in filling up the minutes in the register conform to the yearly sederunts.

The sd day the comission to five for intrants continued.

Haughfoot, Jany. 26th, 1728.

Sederunt of the comittie of Masons of this lodge appointed by sederunt last St. John's Day, being met for the purposes therein mentioned, viz., Walter Scot, preses, John Hoppringle, George Cairncross in Galashiels, John Fountain, Willm. Henderson and Robert Frier.

Find that by sederunt 27th Decr. 1718, there was in Andrew Thomson's there then Treasurer's hands, at 27th Decr. 1715, the soume of twenty-three pounds six shillings and three pennies scots money, for which he was appointed to give his bill to the then Treasurer bearing a rent from the sd 27th Decr. 1718, and as to the instruction of his acpts of discharge there is there mentioned the production in the clerk's hands of ane recpt and oblidgment by Jeams Pringle, in Haughfoot for £24 to be repayed with a rent, and another by Robt. Lowrie for £3 : 7 : 6 with the same oblidgment, wheras Robt. Lowrie's oblidgment is in his receipt, but nothing of the sd oblidgment in Jeams Pringle's receipt.

As to the ballance above mentioned of £23 : 6 : 3 there is produced a bill dated March 8th, 1723, payable to George Cairncross the Treasurer for the lodge for the sd soume with a payment marked on the back thereof of the same date for 18 shill Scots, which bill bears a rent from the date, notwithstanding the said sederunt which bill is indorsed by the sd George Cairncross to Robt. Frier present Box Master for the benefit of the lodge, but not to return.

By the sd sederunt there is found in John Donaldson's hands £6 : 13 sh, and in John Sanderson's hands £7 : 10 sh Scots, for which John

Donaldson's bill is produced and indorsed as the former, and in respect John Sanderson did continue Box Master for some years after the death of sederunt, and there not appearing any particular further charge against him during his administration, therfor the committee have adjourned their further proceeding in the matters committed to them till the second Tuesday of Aprill next.

And in the meantime recommends to the preses with any assistance he thinks proper to call, to except from the particular sederunts a charge against the said John Sanderson during his administration as Box Master, and George Cairncross his successor during his time, and that copies of the sd charge be delivered to them in due time before the meeting of the sd comittie, and they advertised to give in their respective discharges of the sd charge to the sd comittie at the sd day with certification.

And further that ane excerpt be made from the sederunts of all other debts due by any person to the sd society of Masons, which stand out not intromitted with by their respective Box Masters, that directions anent recovering them may be given as they see cause conform to the power committed to them.

Haughfoot, Decr. 27th 1728.

The sd day Jeams Frier was chosen preses by plurality of votes, and Walter Scot chosen clerk for that day. The roll called found absent.

(Follows a list of 25 names).

The meeting fines each of the above absents in twenty shill Scots, conform to an act in the lodge, and continue Robert Frier Box Master for a year.

Walter Scot preses of the last meeting excused the want of a report of the comitie's diligence, anent counting with the former Box Masters, and bringing in the debts due to the lodge by his want of health and other reasons which were admitted.

The lodge appoints the former comitie with the addition of the Lairds of Torwoodlie and Gala, Simeon Aitshison, John Young, John Fountain, or any three of them with all diligence to pursue the ends of that comission in the most effectual manner they can lay down for that purpose, and to report in due time.

Recomends to the comitie to consider of a proper reward for filling up the former minutes in the book, and a yearly sallary to a clerk.

The meeting appoints Walter Scot to write to

the brethren at Galashiels, that our pairt of the comitie will wait upon them at Galashiels upon the third day of January next so that the comitie may be tymeously advertised and those concerned have their acpts in readiness.

The meeting continues the former commission to five for intrants.

The which day Jeams Frier applyed to the lodge for having John Lows admitted a member, and after reasoning the lodge upon consideration of his youth, and other reasons admitted, it was agreed to delay it till his father was acquainted with the matter, and was conversed about security for his entry money, and his inclinations to the same.

Galashiels, Decr 27th 1728.

We the under Masons members of the Lodge of Haughfoot having met by vertue of the comission to five for intrants, have after choising Hugh Scot of Gala preses of our meeting, our number being as follows:—

Hugh Scot, John Sanderson, Andrew Thomson, William Cairncross, Willm. Cairncross, yr, George Cairncross, Andrew Tomline, Jeams Brysone, Willm. Craig, John Donaldson.

Have with the consent of the preses admitted Hugh Cairncross son to George Cairncross, a member in common form, and have ordered to pay to the Box Master of the lodge one pound ten shillings Scots, as entry money, and that betwixt and next meeting at Haughfoot.

Galashiels, Jany. 3rd, 1729.

Sederunt of the comitie of Masons of the Lodge of Haughfoot appointed by sederunt last St. John's Day, the names of the comitie are as follows:—

William Cairncross, Jeams Brysone, George Cairncross, Willm. Henderson, Walter Scot, John Sanderson, Robert Frier, William Cairncross, yr.

The which day ane new bill being drawn upon Andrew Thomson, he refuses to compear or accept the same untill he speak to Torsonce, wherefor the comitie lodged the new drawn bill with the old indorsed bill in the hands of Robert Frier, present Box Master—untill the sd Andrew converse Torsonce.

The comitie having gone through the minutes anent John Sanderson's intromissions, when Box Master, can find nothing to charge him with, but

what he had granted bill for, except £3 that was undetermined betwixt Torsonce and him.

And having gone through the minutes, finds in ohn Donaldson's hands the soume of £6 13sh., which, with bygone intrests, amounts to £8 6sh. 3 pennies Scots per bill.

And having gone through George Cairncross's intromissions we find he is debitor to the lodge in the soume of £3 14sh. Scots, which he promises to pay to the present Box Master betwixt and Candlemass next.

The committie hereby grants warrant to Robert Frier in Haughfoot, and Walter Scot in Stow Tounhead to call for and pursue in the most effectuall manner the whole debts owing to the sd. lodge, either by bond, bills, ticket, promise, or otherways, and to give report to the committie against the second fryday of Agust next, and orders all the members to attend that day at Haughfoot.

The committie recomends to Simeon Aithsison, present preses, to give the members of this committie due advertisement, and likways recomends to the Laird of Torsonce, Walter Scot, Robert Frier, and William Henderson to converse the clerk what he must have for filling up the minutes in the book.

The comittie finds that Robert Frier has debursed for the use of the lodge £7 11sh. Scots money, and orders him intrest therefor from the date of his debursments.

The committie finds due by bills the soume of £55 10s. 6d.

(To be Continued.)

MASONIC JOTTINGS.—No. 11.

BY A PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

THE YEAR 1717.

One assertion—Speculative Masonry did not show itself until 1717.

Another assertion—There was no General Assembly of Operative and Speculative Masons until that memorable year.

A learned brother thinks that both assertions should, for the present, be looked upon as problematical.

TRANSFORMATION 1717.

A brother says we had better describe what is often called the Transformation of 1717, as the

greater expansion of Speculative Masonry, and the total extinction of Operative Freemasonry.

UTILITY.

Before the end of the 17th century the utility of the Operative Masonry Lodges, like that of some other mediæval institutions, had ceased.

A.D. 1717.

Organisation renewed; Masonry revived; little Operative; much Speculative.—*Old Craft Memoranda.*

STONES OF DEMOLISHED OPERATIVE LODGES.

The stones of the old demolished Operative Masonry Lodges were taken to build up the new Speculative Masonry Lodges.—*From MS. of last century.*

A FORGERY.

In historical research a forgery must not always be disregarded. A forgery may afford evidence that at the time when it was effected a tradition existed, and in some cases such evidence is all that is requisite.

THE GRANDIDIER THEORY.—THE GERMAN THEORY.

The Grandidier Theory relates to Organisation only. The German Theory relates to organisation, and also to that for which organisation was invented—that is to say, to Speculative Masonry.

BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

The question principally discussed by German Masonic writers, at the beginning of the 19th century, was whether Freemasonry originated in an order of Chivalry, or in the Building Fraternities of the Middle Ages.

ASHMOLE AND HIS LITERARY FRIENDS.

A learned brother, who by no means adopts the statement contained in Chamber's Encyclopædia, nevertheless thinks that an increased development of English Speculative Masonry, which seems to have taken place in the 17th century, must be ascribed to Ashmole and his literary friends.

ENGLISH AND SCOTCH MASONIC TRADITIONS.

The accounts, which have come down to us of the proceedings of the early German Lodges, should make us pause, before we set aside English and Scotch Masonic Traditions for any such reasons as are commonly brought forward.

THE Committee of the Metropolitan Free Hospital, thankfully acknowledge receipt of a donation of ten guineas from the Worshipful Company of Vintners.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE HINDUS AND FREEMASONRY.

On looking into my papers I have come upon memoranda of four documents, which a Metropolitan Brother will find useful in the inquiry he is prosecuting:—

First,—An article in the *Indian Freemason's Friend* (September, 1863), entitled "Whether Hindus ought to be Initiated?" and announcing that at the Quarterly Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, to be held on the 22nd of that month, a question would be put for discussion as to "whether the admission of Hindus into Freemasonry is consonant with the principles of the Order, as inculcated by the Grand Lodge of England."

In this article are inserted opinions of the Duke of Sussex and of Dr. John Grant, Provincial Grand Master of Bengal.

Next,—Extract from the *Indian Freemason's Friend*, containing the Debate in the District Grand Lodge of Bengal (Quarterly Communication), 22nd September, 1863, on the above stated question.

A vote being called for, the result was unfavourable to the initiation of Hindus.

Thirdly,—The correspondence between the Hindoo Prosonno Coomar Dutt and the Grand Secretary, our late Bro. Gray Clarke, November, 1863, and April, July, and November, 1864.

Lastly,—The Report of the President and Vice-President of the Colonial Board, "on the eligibility of Hindus to be admitted to the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry," Aug. 2nd, 1864.

These four documents are contained in vols. 3, 10, 11, and 12 of the *Freemason's Magazine*. The pages I have not noted.

The only communications made by me to the *Freemason's Magazine* which are likely to assist my brother are the following:—"The Pantheism of the Hindus," vol. xv., p. 150; "The Hindu, the Polynesian, and the English Freemason," vol. xv., p. 168; "The English Freemason and the Hindu Pantheist," vol. xv., p. 251; "Hindus admitted into English Freemasonry," vol. xv., p. 348; "Hindus—their Written Declarations previously to Admission into English Freemasonry," vol. xvi., p. 406; "Hindus—their admission into English Freemasonry," vol. xvii., p. 70; "Brother Khetter Mohum Gangooly," vol. xviii., p. 5; and "Vishnu," vol. xviii., p. 505.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

ENGLISH MASONS.

At page 65 of Findel's "History of Freemasonry," 2nd edition (in my opinion the best history yet issued), the author says:—"Though by degrees English Masons gradually sank to the grade of mechanics, yet they kept up their ceremonies, so that when the present fraternity of Freemasons was established, these were still in use, and needed only to have a different signification attached to them." Now I challenge that statement, and deny that they kept up our ceremonies, or that those we have were still in use before 1717. They had their bit of apron-washing, but that was rather different from our ceremonies, rituals, and degrees. Further, English Masons were, of course, mechanics. I wonder what else they could be? Gentlemen, eh? Did they wear white kid gloves and silk

aprons while working at their stones in ancient times?
—W. P. B.

ANCIENT MARKS.

"Antiquarian" and his friends thank Bro. Hughan for his courteous information on this subject, of which they will avail themselves, and respectfully suggest the propriety of any Mason possessing similar marks to kindly forward them to the Editor of the *Magazine*, so that when a sufficient number shall have been collected, a lithograph of the same may be published if thought desirable. They also desire to thank their redoubtable Bro. Buchan, who has evidently a *constitutional* horror of "antiquarian" insinuations.

CREATIVE—RENOVATIVE (page 205).

A careful perusal and study of the Constitutions and other works of the period tend to prove that the undertaking of Desaguliers, Anderson, and Co., was creative, which, of course, they knew.—W. P. B.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents

THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—Your correspondent "R. A. M." will readily excuse me for not having noticed his communication sooner, when I explain that my reply has been delayed by absence from home in order to pay the last sad tribute of respect to departed merit, in the person of one who was endeared to me as well by the ties of filial affection, as by those of Masonic fraternity.

The beauty and the pleasantness of unity cannot be too highly appreciated, for without it we can achieve nothing of importance, and ultimate disaster is rendered more than probable. To secure unity, however, there must be something more than a mere connection—the component parts must be homogeneous, otherwise aggregation will prove a source of weakness and confusion, for we cannot unite oil and water, winter and summer, light and darkness.

Unfortunately enough, our own constitution is a *singular* illustration of this futile attempt to reconcile opposites by connecting the Royal Arch with Craft Masonry, and sorry indeed am I to find that Bro. William James Hughan should lend the respectability of his name to a cause so utterly unworthy. But he ought to have remembered that it was he and not I who undertook to defend Lawrence Dermott's "Holy" Royal Arch as a part of ancient Masonry, and consequently it remains with him to show cause why a decree *nisi* should not be granted to dissolve this heterogeneous and unholy alliance. Notwithstanding his admiration of facts, and my repeated inquiries, no evidence has yet been produced. Judgment must therefore go by default; for if Bro. Hughan does not think his case worthy or capable of defence, he will doubtless acquit me of any intention to commit so gross an outrage upon Craft Masonry. Although his opinion is very different to mine, it is entitled to my respect, from reasons of a personal character; but let me ask what are the Masonic public to think when a prominent feature of our Masonry, and one which distinguishes ours from other constitutions, is left wholly unsupported by its avowed defender—Bro.

Hughan? Let me entreat him to examine again the present position of the Royal Arch, its absurd pretensions, and its monstrous usurpations thoroughly and impartially, before publishing his contemplated work, and certain am I that his decision will be the reverse of his present opinion on this subject. Suppose that he can prove the existence of the Royal Arch in 1740, does that make it a part of Craft Masonry? I trow not. My principal objection to the Royal Arch does not rest upon the date of its origin, which we may conjecture took place amongst the "Antient" schismatics, and was by them palmed upon us at the Union—but upon the fact that it is needless, invidious, and wholly subversive of the principles of Craft Masonry. That which is emphatically termed *the* legend or allegory would require to be grossly misinterpreted, and understood in a *literal* sense—a very *illiterate* blunder—before anyone could see the necessity for any perfection or "completion" of its sublimity. If, in consequence of the primal transgression, mankind lost the truth, where can they hope to find it out of the Eternal? I cannot be more explicit. Hence, any attempt to supplement the Craft degrees is a gilding of refined gold; and though we may admit that in itself the diamond of our Craft Masonry loses no brilliancy through its Royal Arch setting, the world can form only one opinion of the understanding of such a lapidary. The contempt with which nearly every other Grand Lodge has rejected the Royal Arch is a flattering testimony that our constitution not only possesses age without discretion.

Does it not ill become us, above all others, to attempt to make folly venerable? Can we contemplate the classic and philosophic beauty of Craft Masonry without feelings of the highest admiration? If not invented by King Solomon, it is at least worthy of his world-renowned wisdom. But, says our constitution, pointing to the Royal Arch, this is the completion of the third. A greater than Solomon is here! Can we view such a contrast without laughter, or receive such an insult to common sense without feelings of the deepest indignation? But, fortunately for the Craft, the manufacturers of the Royal Arch were but bunglers at their profession; and although they have achieved an inglorious triumph at our expense, which some men of genius might envy, they have, by a formal recognition on our part, taken special care to make us a conspicuous example of negative instruction to the Masonic universe.

Bro. Hughan, however, seems to ignore the value or force of such a proof, and although he does not think it necessary to produce evidence to support a theory in direct opposition to that which forms the basis of the jurisdictions of the world, he calls upon me to demonstrate this self-evident truth. The novelty of his zeal for facts deserves some encouragement from me, and I am quite willing to hope great things from it; but is it not unfortunate that the first instance of this newly-born zeal cannot be gratified without the most malignant exposure of the constitution? However, I lay this sin to his charge. Bro. Hughan will recollect that, when an Apprentice, he was told that there were several degrees in Freemasonry, &c., and that these were not conferred indiscriminately, but according to *merit and ability*. He would also naturally infer that the fees subsequently paid, as by pre-

vious information, would entitle him to receive the whole of Freemasonry. But in due time he is astonished to find that, although he has been brought to light, he is still in the thick darkness of imperfection, and no matter how much merit or ability he may possess, he cannot emerge from the chrysalis of the Craft into the gay butterflyism of the Royal Arch "completion," unless he will pay £3 or £4 additional, which, with tinsel and millinery, will amount to about £7. Is not this invidious and subversive of the principles of Masonry? Can a man of honour remember a certain peculiar moment, and not blush with shame to think that he has deserted the *first grand principle*, and basely betrayed the former *companions* of his labours? If he can, he has my pity; but his conduct cannot provoke my resentment, which is reserved for that detestable system which offers a snobbish distinction within the very sanctuary of Masonry, and degrades the nobility of the Craft into a sordid and an avaricious mercenary. Therefore let the brother of "low degree" rejoice that he is *not* exalted, and let him despise those who acquire rank by dishonour. With a view to cure the existing mania for "high degrees," I have had submitted to me a project for forming a body to confer every degree, from the Royal Arch to the 33rd, upon any worthy M.M., without fee or reward, as I am convinced that my obligations to the Craft degrees are superior to all subsequent engagements, and it appears that nothing but a homoeopathic treatment will eradicate the deeply rooted disease.

Yours fraternally,
FIAT LUX.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—We have had lately in the *Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror* two very opposite theories advocated with respect to the origin of Royal Arch Masonry—advocated, apparently, by brethren well able to defend their views and support their opinions by logical arguments; and provided their premises be admitted, their conclusions must follow. *Of course it is admitted* that to "talk of such a degree, or, indeed, any other, being the completion of the third is to offer an outrage to common sense, especially when we consider the position which the Royal Arch occupies in this country, where its dependent degradation excites the *melancholy pity* of its friends and the *derision* of its enemies. *All that* "Fiat Lux" has said in the *Freemason's Magazine* may readily be believed.

Again, when Masons generally adopt the views of Bro. John Yarker (a well-known literary brother), and acknowledge "the Royal Arch degree is older than 1717," it is easy to thereafter find many who will strenuously maintain that the revival of Freemasonry, A.D. 1716, was not *antecedent* to the introduction of Royal Arch Masonry. We admit neither hypothesis, because we consider both to be contrary to fact. In the first place, to attempt to argue that "Royal Arch Masonry was not in existence A.D. 1740, nor till long after," would seem to me quite superfluous, as records are vouched for by several excellent Masons of date 1743 referring to the degree; and even if this fact were not accepted, I have in my possession a work by

Dr. Dassigny, A.D. 1744, which most distinctly mentions the *Royal Arch*, and that more than once in a favourable manner. In "Ahiman Rezon," A.D. 1756, there is a prayer to be "repeated in the Royal Arch Lodge," and also a defence of the degree by Bro. Dermott, who says "he firmly believes it to be the root, heart, and marrow of Freemasonry." Whether this brother's opinion is worth much or not, I do not here enquire, but simply offer this quotation because of its date, and also because Dr. Dassigny's work is alluded to in it.

There is, therefore sufficient evidence to prove that the degree is nothing like so modern as "Fiat Lux" states it to be, neither is it so ancient as Bro. Yarker advocates, so far as we know. If we are not to accept the evidence of our "records," I should like to know on what grounds we are to base our views of Masonry. Unless we can prove a tradition to have more than a merely traditional character, why should we receive it, and ignore the negative proof of minutes? If there are no records before 1740 that refer to the Royal Arch degree in any way, and no works after that date for some years that attempt to prove its antiquity, on what grounds can it be reasonably acknowledged to have an existence before 1717?

If, as some think, the third degree consisted of two parts before 1740, and after that the innovators put the second part in the Royal Arch degree, or, rather, divided the third, and called the last part Royal Arch Masonry, surely that would not decide the antiquity of the Royal Arch degree; especially as we know there is not a work known that refers to the third degree as a *separate degree* that was printed or written before A.D. 1710. What evidence there can be of the existence of the Royal Arch degree "long prior to the date 1740" seems to me inexplicable. I have searched everywhere possible, and left no means unemployed whereby to procure every possible information on the subject, and still I fall back on the late Bro. the Rev. Dr. George Oliver's "History and Origin of the Royal Arch" (Spencer, London) as the most reliable and trustworthy on the matter, and therein it is distinctly stated not to have had an existence prior to 1740, and, what is more, there is plenty of *evidence* in support of the learned writer's assertions.

Whilst, however, objecting to the claims of antiquity for the Royal Arch offered by Bro. Yarker, I do not at all accept the startling assertion of "Fiat Lux" that the degree is totally subversive of the principles of Masonry, and "as one of the high degrees, it is only contemptible." My views partake more of the *via media*; and whilst partly admitting that "Fiat Lux" is correct respecting its being a modern degree (although not so modern as he states), at the same time I think it is equally evident that Royal Arch Masonry is far from being the "bungling" degree that some would have us believe. These are a few of my thoughts on the subject, *which may be wrong*, but which, until they are confuted, will remain as *facts* of Masonic history, according to my judgment. Let them, however, be shown to be erroneous, and I will reject them at once. Our pursuit is for truth. We may not agree as to theories, but in accumulating *facts* we are faithfully serving the Craft universal.

Yours fraternally,
W. J. HUGHAN.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

MASONIC MEMS

THE UNIVERSAL MASONIC CALENDAR is now in the press, and will shortly be published. We shall be glad to receive (up to the 26th inst.) from our correspondents any information of alterations, so that it may be corrected up to the moment of going to press.

THE Fidelity Lodge of Instruction, hitherto held at the Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-square, will in future be held at the Goat and Compasses, Euston-road, within a short distance of its old quarters. On the occasion of its removal, which will take place on Thursday, the 24th March, the fifteen sections will be worked. Bro. T. A. Adams will take the chair at seven o'clock p.m. We are informed that the room is capable of comfortably accommodating seventy brethren. A large attendance of good working Masons is expected on the occasion, and any of our readers who desire a treat are recommended to attend.

ON Monday, the 7th inst., the brethren of Lodges Prudence and Amity dined at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street.

COSMOPOLITAN LODGE dined at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Tuesday, the 8th inst.

BURLINGTON LODGE and St. Michael's Lodge held banquets at the Albion Tavern, on the same day.

THE brethren of Kent Lodge dined at the Guildhall Tavern, on Wednesday, the 9th inst.

THE M.W. GRAND MASTER has, on the recommendation of Bro. Lord Pelham, Prov. G.M. Sussex, granted the application for a warrant for a new lodge in the town of Lewes, which will shortly be consecrated.

THE banquet of Athelstan Lodge took place on Thursday, the 10th inst.

THE votes of the brethren are solicited on behalf of Mary Cornwall Palmer, at the April Election of the Girls' School. The candidate is a daughter of the late Bro. W. J. Palmer, of Old Hall, in the parish of Pencoyd, Herefordshire, who died in 1864, leaving his wife and three children, aged 11, 13, and 15, in destitute circumstances. Bro. Palmer was initiated in the Boscawen Lodge (No. 639), Chacewater, Cornwall, in 1861. Proxies will be thankfully received by Bros. H. Luckes, of Boss, and Thos. Donne, of the same town. The case is strongly recommended by numerous Prov. G. Officers in Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Somersetshire, and Gloucestershire.

Craft Masonry. ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

METROPOLITAN. BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 33).

The regular meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall on the 11th inst., for the purpose of celebrating the "centenary" of the lodge. There was a very numerous attendance of Grand Officers and visiting brethren, as well as members of the lodge. Every arrangement had been made to secure the comfort of the guests, and the whole of the proceedings were conducted with the most complete success. The following brethren were present:—Bros. Shields, W.M.; Church, S.W.; Glaisher, J.W.; Crombie, Treas.; Chubb, Sec.; Ohren, S.D.; Sir W. A. Rose, J.D.; G. England, sen., P.M., Dir. of Cers.; Glegg, I.P.M.;

Bridges, P.M.; Peiree, P.M.; Strapp, P.M.; Grissell, P.M.; W. Smith, P.M.; and Bros. Euchs, Gale, Finch, Fletcher, Gammon, Wellwin, Cope, Parker, Seward, Fergusson, Cheynoweth Palmer, Pendred, Hodge, Paddon, Rowland, Ricks, Lloyd, Foster, Davis, Eastwood, J. Church, Young, Clouston, Finlay, Voile, Urlwin, Pawley, C. W. Turner, Beaman, Browning, Horsley, Saunders, Banister, Truscott, Stevenson, Burke, Lewis, Jaffrey, Sugg, Sparks, James, Farmer, Snow, Spencer, Webb, Fairlie, Dixon, and Bebr. The visitors were:—Bros. Rev. C. J. Martyn, G. Chap.; Hervey, G. Sec.; Brackstone Baker, G.D.; J. Nunn, G.S.B.; Ough, G. Purst.; Brett, Assist. G. Purst.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; Hubuck, P.G.S.; Binckes, Sec. Boys' School; Copeman, 959; Broomfield, 180; Bennett, 715; Walters, P.M. 73; Sharp, 410; Butter, 253; Thomson, 58; E. W. Foster, 587; Bridges, S.W. 772; Danvers, S.W. 753; Godsell, S.D. 176; G. H. Paten, 58; Roe, 731; Palmer, 1063; Hallows, 709; Edwards (Apollo); Buss, P.M. 27; Kingsford, P.M. 26; Sugg, 452; W. E. Poole, 452; White, 262; Dallas, Lodge Star of Burmah; Wilson, 143; Lacey, 149; Yaldon, 181; and Norfolk, 775.

The W.M., Bro. Shields, gave a brief sketch of the history of the lodge, from the year 1730 to 1870. He stated that the Britannic Lodge was one of those that were established in the early part of the 18th century, and that it was not till the 140th year of its existence that the members had resolved to apply for permission of the G.M. to celebrate its centenary. The early records and minutes of the lodge had been lost, and it was only by a careful research from extraneous sources that the proof of its existence during that lengthened period had been established. The W.M. then proceeded to mention the various places of meeting and the names and numbers which it had borne, which have already been given in our columns.

The W.M. stated when that the construction of a Masonic hall was mooted, the Britannic was among the earliest and largest subscribers to the Hall Loan Fund, and was also one of the first of five lodges to abandon their claim for repayment, a fact which is recorded on a jewel appended to the Master's collar, which was presented with the thanks of Grand Lodge. He also mentioned the fact that the Britannic was the only lodge which had had the honour of initiating two members of the royal family, and read a long list of noble and distinguished brethren who first saw the Light within its portals. The W.M. concluded his remarks by stating that in 1855 the Britannic received a large accession of members, chiefly belonging to the railway world, many of whom have filled its chair, and since that time a large proportion of its members have been connected with engineering, scientific, and other kindred pursuits.

The W. Master called upon Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, G. Chaplain, to invoke the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe, which the Rev. Bro. did in the following terms:—"W.M., Officers, and Brethren—It has been deemed necessary, right and proper that in the midst of this most interesting and solemn ceremony, I, as Grand Chaplain of the Order, should be requested by your W.M. to address to you a few solemn words before asking you to join me in invoking the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe upon this lodge. Brethren, it has pleased the Most High to prosper the labours of those, who, from time to time, have presided over this lodge, and who have worked in this lodge, for many years. During the 140 years this lodge has been in existence, many noble names have been added to the roll of Masonic worthies, and not a few of them have either been initiated in, or been members of this lodge. And amongst all the changes and chances of upwards of 100 years—changes and chances, whose influence felt alike by bodies and societies of men, and by individuals—it has pleased Him to preserve and to protect this lodge, and to bring it, through many vicissitudes, to the proud position in which we see it placed to-day. Great praise, undoubtedly, is due to those able brethren who have laboured hard to bring about this happy state of things, but to the Great Architect of the Universe alone is it due, that those labours have been successful, and such an eminence achieved. Still, brethren, we must never forget, as anyone who studies carefully the volumes of the Sacred Law knows well, that the Most High is ever pleased to work by means of human instruments, and that he will only help those who strive to help themselves, and therefore, I solemnly and earnestly beg of you to persevere in the practice and in the cultivation of the noble precepts and principles of our glorious Order. I will now ask you to join with me in invoking a blessing upon all your undertakings." The brethren then stood to order, and the G. Chaplain proceeded to offer up the follow-

ing prayer:—Great Architect of the Universe, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, look down with mercy upon us, thy servants, who now draw near to thee, to offer up our thanks and praises for all thy past mercies, and to beseech thy blessing for the time to come. Mercifully grant that this lodge may be protected and preserved by thine Almighty power for many future years. Grant that it may be the means of promulgating the genuine tenets and principles contained in thy Holy Law, and in the rules of that Order to which we owe allegiance. May brotherly love, relief, and truth ever distinguish the conduct of the brethren of this lodge wherever they are placed; and may the lodge itself prosper and flourish, and hand down down the sacred traditions of the Craft pure and unpoluted, from generation to generation. And, finally, may we all meet hereafter in that Grand Lodge above, where thou, the Great Architect and Ruler of the Universe, dost live, and reign supreme. So mote it be."

The regular business of the meeting having been concluded, the brethren, punctually at the appointed time, adjourned to the banquet, which was served in a style that left nothing to be desired. The usual toasts were duly given and responded to in eloquent addresses, which we are compelled to omit for want of space. The musical arrangements were of a superior character, and were under the direction of Bro. Lawler, assisted by Bro. Carter and Messrs. Baxter, Jekyll, and Coates.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 45).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on the 3rd inst., and was numerously attended. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, the W.M. proceeded to raise a candidate to the degree of M.M., after which Bro. Colley was presented to receive the benefit of installation as W.M. for the ensuing year. The proceedings which took place under most trying circumstances, were well performed by Bro. Barton. The ceremony being completed, and the newly installed master having received the congratulations of his brethren, he proceeded to initiate three gentlemen—Messrs. Roberts, Richards, and Gow—into the mysteries of Masonry, accomplishing his task in a most efficient manner. Bro. Colley afterwards made an admirable chairman at the banquet which followed. The usual Masonic toasts were given, and heartily responded to on behalf of Bro. Laing, an old P.M. of the lodge, who this evening visited it after some years' absence. Among the visitors were Bros. D. Rose, P.M. 73; Keeble, 73; Ruskin, S.D. 22; Andrews, 51; Pilbeam and Bryett, 834; Allsopp and Glasspool, P.M.'s. 879; A. Gard, S.W. 879; Scotts, 879; Bartlett, J.W. 1,178; &c.

VIRGILIAN LODGE (No. 87).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Wednesday, at the White Hart, College-street, Lambeth. Bro. Carey, W.M., opened the lodge, the whole of his officers being present. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, two gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. Two candidates were passed to the second degree, and one was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the ceremonies being very creditably performed by the W.M., after which Bro. E. Vorley, P.M., S.W., and W.M. elect, was presented for installation. There were twenty visitors present: Bros. Binckes, P.M., Secretary of the Boys' Institution; Terry, P.M., collector for the aged Masons' Institution; Watson, P.M.; Ough, P.M., 749; Samuel May, P.M., 780, 22, 101; Smith, W.M., 157; Littlewood, W.M., 780; Farnfield, P.M., 987; Drew, S.D., 890; Samuel May, jun., 594; Walters, P.M., 73; Bennett, and several others. The W.M., Bro. Vorley, invested his officers. Thirty guineas was voted unanimously to be placed on the list of the W.M., as Steward of the Boys' School. A P.M.'s jewel was then presented to Bro. Cary. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet at which the usual toasts were given.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 147).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford, on Monday, the 14th inst. The following were present:—Bros. J. Percival, W.M.; G. Bolton, S.W. *pro tem.*; H. Sadler, J.W.; J. Lightfoot, Treas.; G. Chapman, Sec.; H. Bartlett, S.D.; C. G. Dilley, J.D.; J. Roper, I.G.; Bath, P.M.; and Cavell, P.M. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. C. E. Dilley, J.D., worked the first section of the first lecture, Bro. H. Bartlett working the second degree. There being no candidates present for initiation, passing, or raising, Bro. Bolton, P.M., announced his intention to stand as Steward for the Girls' School, the lodge voting £5 5s. to his list. The lodge was closed with solemn prayer.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 177).—The brethren of this lodge met at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 11th inst. There were present: Bros. J. R. Foulger, W.M.; J. E. Walford, S.W.; J. Ferguson, J.W.; Tims, S.D.; Kent, J.D.; Everett, I.G.; J. Smith, P.G. Purst., P.M., and Treas.; J. Brett, P.M., Assist. G. Purst.; Carpenter, P.M.; Thompson, P.M.; Haydon, P.M.; Simpson, P.M.; Elmes, P.M. The visitors present were: Bros. Nestle, 229; Vine, 173; Lawrence, 291; Haines, J.D. 917; Ashby, 2,056; Atkins, 890; Rippin, 167; Mann, P.M. 186; and Imhof. Bros. Nasielski and Dyer were raised to the degree of M.M. Bros. Halbam, Koller, Browne, and West, were passed to the second degree, and Messrs. Price and Willing were initiated in the mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry. Bro. Tanner, Sec., returned thanks to the lodge for the handsome testimonial, consisting of a gold watch and chain and ten guinea jewel, which the lodge had given him. He also announced himself as a Steward for the Girl's School, and the lodge placed 50 guineas on his list to make the lodge vice-president. A capital evening was spent, the banquet being served in Bro. Clemow's usual style.

LODGE OF ST. JAMES (No. 765).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place on the 1st inst. at the Leather Market Tavern, Bermondsey, the chair being occupied by Bro. D. Boyce, W.M. Bro. E. Goodwin was raised to the degree of a M.M., and there being no further business, Bro. George Hyde, S.W., of the lodge, and P.M. of the Lodge of Faith, No. 141, was unanimously elected to the high office of W.M. A letter was read from Bro. G. Aldridge, who for some years has been Treasurer to the lodge, intimating that from severe illness he was desirous of resigning his responsible office. The announcement was received with great regret by the brethren, and it was ultimately settled that his resignation should stand over for the present.

LILY LODGE OF RICHMOND (No. 820).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday, the 13th inst. The following brethren were present:—Bros. Townsend, W.M.; R. Fenner, S.W.; Cooper, P.M., as J.W.; W. Cockburn, S.D.; Kennedy, I.G.; Giles, P.M. and Treas.; J. Cockburn, P.M., Sec.; Carliss, I.P.M.; J. S. Jolley, Mus. Dir.; and Bros. Whigham, Catlin, White, Munro, Cotterell, Reynolds, Myers, Dawson, Millar, Sweet, Brewer, Cook, and Noyce. The visitors were:—Bros. T. Potter, 27; G. Hill, 347; and J. Wilson, 209. Messrs. W. Foster Reynolds, W. H. Myers, and W. Dawson were proposed, and the ballot proving unanimous, were initiated by the W.M.; and Mr. G. Hamson was also initiated as a serving brother. The Secretary was requested to call a meeting of the Committee of the Fund of Benevolence to take into consideration, and to assist the widow of a deceased brother in distress. [This lodge has a separate fund for benevolence, under the presidency of Bro. J. Nunn, G.S.B.] The banquet took place in the banquet-hall, adjoining the lodge room, and was served in first-rate style by Bro. Noyce. A very pleasant evening was spent, enlivened with excellent harmony from Bros. Tolley, Kennedy, Sweet, and Millar.

PROVINCIAL. CHESHIRE.

ALTRINCHAM.—Stamford Lodge (No. 1,045).—On Monday last the members of the above lodge, met at the Town Hall, Altrincham, for the installation of Bro. Capt. Hardy, S.W. as W.M. The lodge was opened in due form at three o'clock, by Bro. James Sudren, W.M., after which Mr. John Hunt was regularly initiated by Bro. Hardy, (W.M. elect) from the pedestal. The W.M. giving the corner stone, and Bro. Capt. Lathbury, P.M. and J.W. the working tools. The W.M. then opened the lodge in the second degree, Bro. Hardy having assented to the ancient charges and regulations, the lodge was opened in the third degree. After which a Board of Installed Masters was formally opened by Bro. Jas. Sudren, W.M., who with Bros. Weston and J. A. Birch, conducted the installation. Seventeen Past Masters were present at the installation, which is an unusually large number for a country lodge. The W.M. appointed as his officers: Bros. John Mori, S.W.; Thomas H. Kirk, J.W.; John Siddle, S.D.; Henry Kenyon, J.D.; Robt. Ferguson, I.G.; R. Heathcote, P.M., Treas.; R. Newhouse, P.M., Sec.; Capt. Lathbury, P.M., Org. The brethren to the number of about fifty sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Harvey, of the Unicorn Hotel. Grace being said by Bro. the Rev. D. Barker, of Worthington, chaplain of the Lodge, Manchester. The chair was taken by Bro.



Capt. Hardy. After the usual loyal toasts had been given and duly responded to, the W.M. proposed the health of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Lord de Tabley, expressing in the course of his remarks the hope that that distinguished brother would be appointed to a high office in the Grand Lodge of England, a post for which he was eminently qualified, as in him were combined high ancestral descent, lengthened experience, mature age, well balanced judgment, a mind held in equilibrium of almost judicial equanimity, a widely recognised reputation, and the most entire devotion to the Craft. The health of Bro. Capt. Hardy, W.W., was proposed by Bro. Capt. Cope, representing the Grand Lodge of England, who expressed his confidence that a prosperous year would ensue for the Stamford Lodge. The Worshipful Master thanked the brethren for the high honour they had conferred upon him, and expressed his determination to do his best to promote the interests of Freemasonry in this district, and to inculcate and act up to the great and good principles of the Craft. Bro. Birch, P.M., in glowing terms, proposed the toast of "The Visitors," which was responded to by Bros. Charles Henry Coates, W.M., 1,009; Pratt, and Wm. Fair, P. Prov. G.S.B., also Major Wilkinson, of Stockport, P.G.S.D. In proposing the Masonic Charities, Bro. J. A. Birch, P.M., adverted to the fact that the Stamford Lodge, although but five years established had placed itself on all the Masonic Charities, and last year contributed £50 to the Royal Institution for Boys. The W.M. expressed his intention to make an appeal to the members privately, on behalf of the Masonic Life Boat Fund in course of the next month. An interesting feature in the proceedings was the presentation of a handsome time piece by Bro. Sudren, I.P.M., to Bro. Heathcote, P.M., Treas., as a small token of esteem from the brethren, and a slight recognition of the many valuable services, he has rendered to the lodge. Bro. Heathcote, P.M., Treasurer of the lodge from its commencement, acknowledged the presentation in most feeling terms, and said that it would be much valued by his wife and family. Bro. Thomas Forshaw proposed the health of "The officers of the lodge," which was duly acknowledged. The toast of the "The ladies" on this occasion was responded to by Bro. E. O. Bleackley, P.M., in his usual happy manner. The brethren separated at ten o'clock, in peace, love, and harmony, after spending a most agreeable evening. Lord de Tabley would have been present but for his engagements at court.

DEVONSHIRE.

IVYBRIDGE.—*Erme Lodge* (No. 1,091).—The monthly meeting held on the 3rd inst., was very numerously attended, nearly forty brethren being present, of whom a large proportion were visitors. The chair was taken at a quarter to four o'clock, by Bro. Harris, W.M., supported by Bros. Littleton, I.P.M.; Barrett, S.W.; W. H. Ley, J.W.; Hawton, P.M., acting as S.D.; Sawyer, J.D., &c., and also by Bros. I. Watts, Harvey, Nicholls, Woolfe, Dr. Hopkins, P.M.'s of other lodges, and many other visitors. After the lodge had been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Messrs. Mitchell and Mallett as candidates for initiation, which was declared to be in their favour. The D. Prov. G.M. of Devonshire being announced as in attendance, was admitted with the customary honours. The W.M. then read several communications, among them one from the committee of the Masonic Lifeboat Fund, applying for pecuniary assistance, and one from the Secretary of the Masonic Girls' School, with the same object, on which the D. Prov. G.M. spoke at some length, as he had undertaken a Stewardship for the latter Institution, a position he had previously held in regard to the other Charities, and he was naturally anxious to take up as large an amount of contributions as he had on the former occasions. After some discussion a vote of £1 1s. for the Lifeboat was passed, and subsequently two sums of £5 5s. were granted to the Girls' Schools, one in the name of the W.M., and the other of the lodge. The D. Prov. G.M. cordially thanked the brethren for their liberality, more especially as having but just commenced his canvass, it would afford him encouragement to proceed, and he would be able to quote the Erme Lodge as having set a good example, which might have a salutary effect on others. Bros. Methrel, Cole, Conway, Boon, and Buchanan were presented as candidates for the second degree, and after having been examined and entrusted by Bro. I. Watts, P.M., were dismissed for preparation. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and the brethren named were, on their return to the lodge, duly passed as F.C.'s by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, the charge being given by the

D. Prov. G.M. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, and Messrs. Mitchell and Mallett were admitted properly prepared, and received the benefit of initiation, the performance of the ceremony being divided between the D. Prov. G.M., the W.M., and Bro. Dr. Hopkins. An announcement was made by the W.M. that the usual audit of the accounts for the past year had been made, which showed a very satisfactory condition of the funds, there being £25 in hand, besides arrears of subscriptions and other amounts due to the lodge, with no liabilities. The work of the audit committee was therefore approved by the members. The appointment of W.M. for the ensuing year was the next business, and as there were two candidates proposed, whose respective claims might, it was thought, lead to a consideration of private and personal matters, visitors were requested to withdraw for a short time, which was complied with. After some discussion Bro. Barrett, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Hawton was re-appointed Treasurer, and the present Tyler was chosen again to fill his office. The lodge was finally closed at about nine o'clock, after a sitting of more than five hours.

DURHAM.

GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 48).—This ancient and flourishing lodge held the usual monthly meeting on Monday evening, the 28th ult., at their hall in West-street, when there was a full attendance of members and brethren. The labours of the evening were unusually heavy, consisting of candidates in all the three degrees. Several alterations in new by-laws, suggested by the R.W. Prov. G. Master (unanimously adopted), and the election of W.M., Treasurer, Finance Committee, and Tyler. However, with the usual promptitude and energy of the W.M., Bro. John Stokoe, assisted by the attention and zeal of his officers, the initiating, passing, and raising was done in a manner impressive to candidates and creditable to the officers, whilst the other work was characterised by an unanimity of opinion speaking volumes in favour of the brotherly love existing in the lodge. The ballot for W.M. resulted in the unanimous selection of the present S.W., Bro. R. B. Reed, who has certainly earned the exalted position by the care and assiduity he has shown in filling the subordinate offices. The brethren also evinced their estimation of Bro. G. C. Dunn's services by again electing him to the onerous position of Treasurer, and Bro. Cuny was elected Tyler. After labour was over, the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room and spent a pleasant hour in honouring the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and in that cordiality of feeling which gives such relish to the happy meetings of "old 48."

LANCASHIRE (WEST).

WEST DERBY, NEAR LIVERPOOL.—*Consecration of Pembroke Lodge* (No. 1,299).—The consecration of this lodge took place at the West Derby Hotel, on Thursday, the 24th ult. There were present:—Bros. T. Wylie, Prov. G. Reg., acting W.M.; Alpess, Prov. G. Sec.; R. Wylie, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Hamer, Prov. G. Treas.; Armstrong, P. Prov. G.D.; T. Marsh, P.M., Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Doyle, P.M. 667; S. Peck, 241; Bingham, 241; Pickup, R. R. Martin, Pearson, 1,094; Pemberton, 1,264; Speer, 1,094; Widdows, 673; Larson, 594; Haswell, 216; Balshaw, 1,035; Langley, P.M. 877 and 823; Haswick, 492; Taylor, 1,122; Wood, 1,094; P. Thorn, 1,182; E. Hughes, 249; Bartlett, 673; Clegg, 220; J. Sellars, S.W. 220; J. Cook, P.M. 220, &c. The presiding officer was Bro. T. Wylie, Prov. G. Reg., &c., Bros. the Rev. H. G. Vernon, M.A., Prov. G. Chap., and J. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas., as Dir. of Cers. on this occasion; Bro. T. Marsh, Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; and Bro. T. Armstrong, P. Prov. G.D., Conductor. Bro. J. Skeaf, Prov. G. Org., presided at the Organ. The officers designate were Bros. W. Crane, W.M.; J. Cook, S.W.; and John Sellar, J.W. The brethren having assembled in the lodge room, and a voluntary having been played, the Presiding Officer took the chair, and appointed as his Wardens Bros. R. Wylie, S.W.; and Marsh, J.W. The brethren of the new lodge were then arranged in order, and the lodge being opened in the three degrees, the opening prayer was offered by Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Purst. A piece of solemn music was then played, and the Presiding Officer addressed the brethren on the nature of the meeting. The Prov. G. Secretary read the petition and warrant, and the Presiding Officer inquired of the brethren if they approved of the officers named in the petition and warrant. The brethren having signified their approval in due form, an oration

was delivered by the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Alpess. After the anthem, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to brethren to dwell together in unity," the consecration prayer was given by Bro. Hamer, and the invocation by the Prov. G. Reg., Bro. T. Wylie. The lodge board was then uncovered, and the four P.M.'s, Bros. Marsh, Wylie, Crane, and Alpess, carried the cornucopia, wine, oil, and salt, three times round the lodge (solemn music being performed during the procession), then halted in the east. The anthem, "Glory be to God on high," was sung, and the censer was carried three times round the lodge by Bro. Alpess, P.M. (solemn music being performed during the progress). The anthem, "Glory to God on High," was then sung, and the Presiding Officer dedicated and constituted the lodge in a most solemn manner, the closing prayer being said by Bro. Hamer, Prov. G. Treas. The anthem, "Hail! universal Lord" and the Hallelujah Chorus concluded the ceremony. Bro. W. Crane was then presented by Bro. Hamer to the Installing Master, Bro. T. Wylie. The charges were read by Bro. Alpess, Prov. G. Sec. Subsequently a Board of Installed Masters was formed, when the W.M. elect was solemnly installed W.M. of Lodge 1,299. The Board having been closed, the M.M.'s were admitted and saluted the W.M., who was proclaimed on each occasion in the third degree. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. W. Viner, P.M.; J. Cook, S.W.; J. Sellar, J.W.; H. Clayton, Dir. of Cers.; J. Clegg, Sec.; J. Macmulldrow, S.D.; E. Hughes, J.D.; W. Jones, I.G.; D. Saunders, Org.; J. Daglish and Bartlett, Stewards. Bro. T. Wylie then delivered the whole of the charges in his usual correct manner. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation, after which the lodge was closed. The banquet, which was served in Bro. Rawlinson's best style, was of a most sumptuous character, and did him great credit. The cloth having been withdrawn, the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts, which were duly honoured. The W.M. then proposed "The M.W.G.M.," "R.W.D.G.M.," "The R.W. Prov. G.M." and "R.W.D. Prov. G.M." were given, and were duly responded to by Bro. Alpess, Prov. G. Sec. "Our Masonic Charities" was then given, coupling with it the name of Bro. Marsh, who responded in feeling terms. The W.M. then proposed "The Health of Bro. Thomas Wylie, the Consecrating Master," and in feeling terms alluded to the untiring zeal, disinterested devotion and active service in the cause of Freemasonry. Whenever there was a lodge to be founded, a question of Masonic jurisprudence to be arranged, or a charitable object to be supported in any way, Bro. Wylie was at his post of duty, exerting those talents with which God has blessed him, both to his glory and the good of his fellow-creatures. His hand was always guided by justice, and his heart expanded by benevolence. He (the W.M.) hoped they would do justice to the toast, which was drunk with every good feeling. Bro. T. Wylie in very feeling and appropriate terms, thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him in drinking his health as Consecrating Master of that day. "From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh;" in his case he found his heart so full that his lips could not perform their office of conveying to them his deep sense of the honour conferred upon him. He should bear in mind the kind manner in which his name had been given to the brethren by the W.M., Bro. Crane; he hoped to live many years among his brethren in Freemasonry. After again thanking the brethren, Bro. Wylie resumed his seat, evidently much affected. Bro. Wylie then proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and said he rose with great pleasure to propose "The Health of the W.M.," he spoke of the many excellencies of Bro. Crane as a gentleman and as a Mason, and of his good working when Master of Lodge 249. Bro. Crane, the W.M., in reply, said he felt deeply grateful to Bro. Wylie for his kind eulogium, and to the brethren for this manifestation of their goodwill and esteem in making him their first W.M. of the Pembroke Lodge, No. 1,299. He could not deny that he was passionately devoted to Masonry, and only wished he had more time to give to the same; he then resumed his seat deeply affected by the goodwill shown him. "The Officers of the Lodge" was then given. Bro. Cook, S.W., responded, and thanked the W.M. and brethren for the honour of being their first S.W., and trusted he would prove worthy of his post. "The Visitors" was then proposed, the name of Bro. Peck, of Lodge 241, being coupled with the toast. Bro. Peck, in responding, said he was much pleased with the ceremonies of the day, which were very effectively given. He complimented the officers and brethren of the lodge, and acknowledged the princely hospitality he had received. The

whole of the toasts were given and received with that enthusiasm which they deserved. Letters apologising for non-attendance were received from Bros. Mott, P. Prov. G.D.; Laidlaw, Prov. G. Purst.; and Rev. Mr. Vernon, Prov. G. Chap. The clothing, jewels, and furniture were supplied by Bro. J. Wood, 18, Norton-street, Liverpool, which were very much admired, and gave great satisfaction for good workmanship and value. This lodge will meet every third Thursday, at five o'clock p.m.

WARWICKSHIRE.

WARWICK.—*Shakespeare Lodge* (No. 284).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Room, on Tuesday, the 8th inst. There were present: Bros. Mayett, W.M.; Ridley, J.W.; Rev. R. S. Harris, P.G. Chap. S.D.; Cutting, J.D.; S. W. Cooke, P. Prov. S.G.W., Sec.; Goodchild, P. Prov. G. Reg., P.M. Bro. Hunter, of St. Tudno, Llandudno, was present as a visitor. Messrs. Brabazon, Campbell, and I. G. Moore were initiated. Bros. Thomas Hiron, and Shackn were passed; and Bros. Collier, and McDowell Skeene, were raised.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST).

HULL.—*Kingston Lodge* (No. 1,010).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 2nd inst. There were present: Bros. C. James Todd, W.M.; Ll. W. Longstaff, J.P.G.W., I.P.M.; P.M.'s Bros. R. A. Marillier, C. Copland, P. Prov. G.S.B.; R. E. Harrison; Bros. J. Humphrys, S.W.; J. Pyburn, M.D., J.W., &c. The following were present as visitors: Bros. G. Hardy, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.D., W.M. No. 250; W. D. Keyworth, P.M., P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works, No. 57; F. A. Hopwood, P. Prov. G.S.B., No. 237; A. Herschell, S.W., No. 250, and several others. Bro. Paul Strömer, Prov. G. Steward, read to the lodge an exceedingly interesting account of a visit he had paid to a lodge in Stettin. It was resolved that the M.W.G.M. be solicited to depute some brother solemnly to dedicate the premises into which the lodge is about to move to Masonic purposes, and that he be requested to direct that the ceremony should be performed at a special Provincial Grand Lodge called for the purpose. The lodge will in future meet in most commodious premises in the Sculcoates Hall, Worship-street, Hull.

TURKEY.

ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

District Grand Lodge.

The meeting of the District G. Lodge of Turkey was held on the 17th ult., for the purpose of installing the R.W. Bro. John Porter Brown, as D.G.M. The lodge met in the new Masonic Hall, No. 4, Rue Tépé Bachi, Pera, immediately adjacent the British Embassy. In consequence of the great interest attached to the event, and the high respect in which the R.W.D.G.M. is held by the Craft, there was a considerable attendance of the members of the D.G. Lodge. In opening the proceedings W. Bro. G. Laurie, P.D.G.S.W., acting as senior officer of the district, presided. The minutes of the last D.G. Lodge meeting of the 15th October, were read and confirmed. W. Bros. Thompson and Evans, P.D.S.G.W. occupying the Warden's chairs. The Patent of the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland, having been read by W. Bro. R. A. Carleton, D.G. Sec., the R.W. Bro. J. P. Brown was introduced with the customary ceremonial and duly invested as the D.G.M. On taking the chair the R.W.D.G.M. said conformably with the partiality which you brethren of the D.G. Lodge of Turkey, and the other lodges in the district, have been pleased to favour me in your unanimous recommendation of me for the high honour which the M.W.G.M. has conferred upon me as successor to your previous distinguished D.G.M's., Sir Henry Bulwer and Fuad Pasha. I feel fully sensible of the great responsibility of the position I now occupy. I am well aware of the kind feelings which have prompted you to propose my humble self for so eminent a position in the Craft. I am all the more flattered by your choice, knowing full well that there are many persons in this district far more worthy of it than myself. I beg you all to be assured that I am deeply grateful for the honour which you have thus caused to be conferred upon

me, and of my earnest desire to shew myself worthy of your confidence and fraternal good will so generously bestowed upon me. I thank you very sincerely for the very kind manner with which you have been pleased to receive me this evening; perhaps no circumstance in my life—certainly none in my Masonic life,—could possibly make so deep an impression on my heart and affections as it has done. I most ardently hope that I may be one more link in that vast chain of the most ancient and honoured of Fraternities, to bind us all together in one bond of brotherhood. I shall, indeed, be disappointed, if this be not the case; and I have no doubt but that the M.W.G.M. of England would equally regret so unfortunate a circumstance. Although the D.G. Lodge has not ceased to exist since the appointment of my honoured predecessor; still, from various circumstances, much has been left undone by it to promote the interests and welfare of the grand charity in the East. These will now call for our immediate attention. The D.G. Lodge has no by-laws for its own administration and government, and the Grand Secretary will now read a project which I have drawn up for submission to you. It may need additions and modifications, suitable to the peculiar circumstances of the district and the distance which separate some of its lodges from the capital. I invite your particular attention to the formation of these by-laws, and hope you will be able to construct such as will satisfy all the lodges, and command the perfect respect of all the brethren. The committee of general purposes will be formed as early as possible, in conformity with the principles laid down in the Constitutions of the G.L. of England. As I shall be so much assisted in my labours by this committee, I hope that the selection to be made by you of a portion of its members will enable me to benefit by their superior knowledge, and they fully represent the wishes and interests of each of the lodges. In all things let us be strictly guided by the principles laid down in the Book of Constitutions of the G.L. of England, and actuated by those fraternal sentiments of Benevolence which are the basis of our time-honoured institution. Freemasonry has, I feel assured, a vast field of usefulness before it in the East, and its blessings will depend greatly upon the unity and harmony of the lodges, and the character and conduct of each of the Fraternity. After some further eloquent remarks on the prospects of Masonry in Turkey, the R.W.D.G.M. resumed his seat.

W. Bro. G. Laurie briefly addressed the D.G. Lodge, expressing the hope that its future proceedings would contribute to the greatest advantage of the Craft.

The members of the D.G. Lodge having duly saluted the R.W.D.G.M.,

W. Bro. F. W. Smyth, P.M. Bulwer Lodge, No. 891, was elected D.G. Treasurer, and W. Bro. C. Green, P.M. Deutscher Bund Lodge, No. 891, as D.G. Tyler.

The R.W. District Grand Master then invested the following brethren as D.G. officers for the ensuing year:—W. Bros. G. Laurie, Deputy D.G.M.; C. E. Tilley, P.M. Oriental Lodge, 687, as D.G.S.W.; A. W. Mountain, P.M. Oriental Lodge, 687, as D.G.J.W.; H. Harvey, P.M. Bulwer Lodge, 891, as D.G. Sec.; R. A. Carleton, Oriental Lodge, D.G. Sec.; C. A. Theodoridi, P.D.G.S.B., as D.G.S.D.; W. B. Hopper, W.M. Oriental Lodge, 687, as D.G. Dir. of Cers.; A. Zagiel, D.G.S.B.; Silferman, S.W. 819, as D.G. Purst.; H. Krasnopski, W.M. 812 as D.G. Supt. of Works; A. de Castro, 819, as D.G. Org.; H. Woods, J.W., Spandoni, Lafontaine, and Marshall, 891, Stock, 687, and Murrudi, 1,041, as D.G. Stewards.

The patent of the R.W.D.G. Master appointing W. Bro. G. Laurie, as his Deputy, having been read, W. Bro. W. B. Hopper officiated to the wording of the patent, as it conferred the fullest powers of the R.W.D.G. Master on his Deputy.

W. Bro. Harvey, D.G. Reg., considered the wording should be inserted "during pleasure," in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Constitutions.

The R.W.D.G. Master, said, that it was intended by him that the Deputy D.G.M. should only act during his absence and during pleasure. The patent would be withdrawn for amendment.

The roll of the lodges of the district having been called, the following were represented, No. 687, 806, 819, 891, 896, 1,014, and 1,041; the following had no representatives present, 952, 978, and 1,015.

The proposed code of by-laws having been read by the D.G. Sec.,

W. Bro. A. Thompson moved, and W. Bro. D.G. Reg. seconded, that they be referred to the Committee of General Purposes. The resolution was carried.

The W. Bro. Dep. D.G.M. moved, and W. Bro. A. Thompson seconded, that the scale of fees in the by-laws be adopted.

Moved by W. Bro. A. Thomson, seconded by W. Bro. Hopper, "that the Committee of General Purposes, consist of the R.W.D.G.M. and his Deputy, the G.W.'s, a President, five members to be chosen by the D.G.M., and seven to be elected by the D.G. Lodge, five to form a quorum, to meet quarterly, the whole to elect a vice-president from this number. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The following brethren were then appointed by the R.W.D.G.M., as members of the Committee of General Purposes, W. Bro. A. Thompson, President, W. Bros. H. Harvey, Smythe, Scoulondi, Reppen and Hopper, and the following were duly elected by the D.G. Lodge, W. Bros. W. W. Evans, Theodoridi, Mirza, Stab, J. O'Connor, E. Ioby, Spiegelthal.

The charity box collection amounted to 109 Turkish piasters.

The D.G. Lodge was closed in form at half-past 10 p.m.

ROYAL ARCH.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*De Mowbray Chapter* (No. 1,130)—A convocation of this flourishing young chapter, attached to the Rutland Lodge, was held at the George Hotel, on Thursday, the 10th inst., the following companions being present:—Rev. W. Langley, M.E.Z.; F. Pern Newcome, H.; W. Kelly, P.Z. and P.G. Supt., J.; Brown, E.; Fast, as N.; Douglas, Prin. Soj.; Bright, A.S.; Adcock, Treas.; Duncomb, Selby, Chester Newcome, Petty, and Turville. After the chapter had been opened, and the minutes read and put for confirmation, a ballot took place for Comp. Captain W. Hartopp, of the Windsor Castle Chapter, No. 771, and Comp. E. J. Orford, Past Scribe E. of the United Pilgrims Chapter, No. 507, as joining members, and for Bros. Wm. White Goode and Henry Deane, of the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1,007, Loughborough; Edward Browning, of the Lodge of Merit, No. 466, Stamford; S. W. Johnson, S.W. of the Hereward Lodge, No. 1,233, Bourne; and Rippin and Snodin, of the Rutland Lodge, No. 1,130; all of whom were unanimously elected. Bros. Goode, Deane, and Johnson were then regularly exalted into the sublime order, the ceremony being most efficiently and impressively performed by the Rev. Comp. Langley, M.E.Z., and Comp. Douglas, Prin. Soj., assisted by the other officers. The historical lecture was given by Comp. Kelly, the symbolical by Comp. Douglas, and the mystical by the M.E.Z. A ballot having taken place for officers for the ensuing year, the following were elected:—Comp. Newcome, Z.; Orford, H.; Douglas, J.; Dr. Ashforth, E.; Adcock, N.; Fast, Prin. Soj.; Rev. W. Langley, Treas.; Bright, A.S.; Duncomb, A.S.; Deane, Dir. of Cers.; Goode and Johnson, Stewards; Turville, Janitor. Several candidates having been proposed for exaltation, the chapter was closed with solemn prayer, and the companions adjourned to refreshment.

MARK MASONRY.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

MANCHESTER.—*St. Andrew's Lodge of Mark Masters* (No. 28, S.C.)—A meeting of this recently established and flourishing lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, Cooper-street, Manchester, Bros. C. Fitzgerald Matier, G. Steward of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, R.W.M.; Wayne, S.W.; Whyatt, J.W. Bros. Impaley, Smith, and Pratt, were duly advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason, besides one other brother, whose name we failed to obtain. At the close of the evening, the Prince Rhodocanakis, 30°, proceeded to address the lodge, remarking that this was the first occasion on which he had been enabled to visit a Mark Lodge since his own advancement in Scotland, expressing his gratification at witnessing the excellent working of the lodge, and the success it had achieved in so short a space of time, and concluding by presenting their esteemed R.W.M., Bro. Charles Fitzgerald Matier, with a handsome Templar sword, as the founder of the first Scottish Mark Master's lodge in Manchester. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, the following toasts being duly given and honoured:—"The Queen," "H.R.H. the Prince

of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," "Earl of Dalhousie," "Bro. Stephen Blair," "The newly-advanced Brethren," "H.I.H. the Prince Rhodocanakis," "The R.W.M., "The Visitors," "St. John's Lodge, Bolton," and "The Wardens and Officers of No. 28."

SOUTH WALES (EASTERN DIVISION).

CARDIFF.—*Langley Lodge* (No. 26).—This lodge (Late No. 16 S.C.) held its first meeting since affiliating with the English Grand Lodge, on Monday, the 7th inst. There were present: W. Bro. David Roberts, W.M.; Bros. John Williams, S.W.; T. G. Glass, J.W.; R. F. Langley, P.M., M.O.; T. G. South, P.M., S.O.; F. Ware, P.M., J.O.; Rogers, S.D.; Esp, J.D.; Marks, Dir. of Cers., &c. Lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the last lodge confirmed, a ballot was taken for a large number of brethren as joining members or for advancement, all of whom were approved. The following eminent brethren were also proposed as joining members. Bro. Theodore Mansel Talbot, (Mark) Prov. Grand Master for Wales, G.S.W., and Prov. Grand Master E.D. South Wales; Bro. Edward J. Morris, Dep. Prov. Grand Master E.D. South Wales, Bro. Charles Lyne, Prov. Grand Master, Monmouth. As well as several other brethren for advancement. Bro. W. Davies Craft, Prov. Grand Tyler, having been previously approved, was then admitted into the lodge and advanced (as a serving brother) to the degree of a Mark Master, the ceremony being most efficiently performed by the W.M., assisted by his officers, to whom the greatest credit is due, for having made themselves so rapidly proficient in a ritual in many respects differing from that heretofore in use by them. Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where supper was provided, and an agreeable evening concluded.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

LANCASHIRE.

MANCHESTER.—*Jerusalem Conclave*.—A meeting was held on Monday, the 14th inst., at the Masonic Temple, Cooper-street. The encampment was opened by Frater William Birch, the retiring E.C., and the chair was then resigned to the Deputy Prov. Grand Commander, Frater Wm. Henry Wright, who in his most able manner, proceeded to install the E.C. elect, Frater John Mellin Wike into the chair of Commander with the usual ceremonies of the order. The E.C. then nominated the following knights as his office bearers for the ensuing year:—Sir Knts. J. L. Figgins, Prelate; R. McDowell Smith, 1st C.; James A. Birch, 2nd C.; T. R. Williams, Reg.; Samuel Royle, M.D., Almoner; Uriah Nichols, Experts; James Kelsey, 1st Std. B.; T. H. Jenkin, 2nd Std. B.; John Smith, Capt. of Lines; J. W. McClure, 1st Hd.; Reed, 2nd Hd.; and J. L. Goodwin, Org. H.I.H. the Prince Rhodocanakis having been present as a visitor at the previous conclave, when a vote of thanks was passed to Frater John Yarker, P.E.C. and P. Grand Mareschal, for his history of the encampment, the E.C. proceeded to observe that the Prince had forwarded to him a sword for presentation at this meeting, as a mark of esteem for Bro. Yarker, and for his work on the Order of St. John and the Temple. The same was duly presented amidst the plaudits of the knights. We understand also that the St. Amand Encampment of Worcester have conferred an honorary membership upon Bro. Yarker for his literary contribution to the history of the order. The conclave was duly closed, and the knights adjourned to supper; after which the toasts of "The Queen," "The Grand Officers," "The Prov. Grand Officers," and "The E.C." were given. The latter then retired, and the chair was assumed by the Registrar. The Treasurer, Frater Joseph Lancaster Hine, in an eulogistic speech, then proposed "The health of Bro. Yarker," remarking upon his labours for the order, and expressing his regret that the only recognition thereof had been left to a visitor and a stranger in the encampment. Bro. Yarker, in responding, acknowledged that but for the assistance rendered by Fraters J. L. Hine, P.E.C., Stephen Smith, P.E.C., H. A. Bennett, P.E.C., and W. H. Wright, P.G. Capt. of Lines, &c., the encampment some years ago would have ceased to exist. This being the twelfth year of Frater Hine's annual election to the Treasurership, his health was proposed amidst high eulogiums for his labours in that department, and the uniform accuracy of his accounts. The knights then separated.

BLACKBURN.—*Hugh de Payens Encampment*.—The anniversary meeting of this encampment was held at the lodge room, on Friday, the 4th inst., when Sir Knt. Franklin Thomas was regularly installed E.C. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was admirably performed by the Very Eminent the Deputy Prov. Grand Superintendent of Lancashire, Sir Knt. Wright, assisted by the following Past Eminent Commanders: Sir Knts. Clough, P. Prov. G. Expert, Lancashire; the retiring Eminent Commander, William Harrison, P. Prov. G. Vice-Chancellor, Lancashire, P. Grand 1st Aide-de-camp, England, Sovereign Prince Rose Croix, 18° and 30°; Radcliffe, P. Prov. 1st Capt., Lancashire, and P. Grand 1st Capt. of Lines, England; and Hutchinson, Prov. Grand 2nd Capt., Lancashire. At the conclusion of the ceremony the knights were admitted, and the Eminent Commander was proclaimed and saluted in ancient form. Comps. Spencer and Croft, of Chapter 345, were then severally installed as knights of the order. After which the Eminent Commander appointed and invested his officers in the following order:—Sir Knts. Clough, P.E.C.; Tiplady, Prelate; Bertwisle, 1st Capt.; Proctor, 2nd Capt.; Bell, Reg.; Robinson, Treas.; Carr, Expert; Mothersill, 1st Std. B.; Hirst, 2nd Std. B.; Clough, Almoner; Spencer, Capt. of Lines; and Croft, Equerry. At the conclusion of the business of the encampment the knights adjourned to the banquet, which was handsomely served and was worthy of the occasion, and where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, as well as those peculiar to the occasion, were duly given and responded to.

MANCHESTER.—*Encampment of Jacques de Molay*.—The regular meeting of this encampment was held on Friday the 11th March, at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool, for the installation of E.C. The ceremony was most ably performed by Sir Knt. Pierpoint, in the presence of a large number of E.C.'s, including Sir Knts. Wright, D. Prov. G.C. of Lancashire, Banister, 32°, P.G.S.B. of England, Alpass, Prov. G. Sec., West Lancashire, &c. The new E.C. Sir Knt. J. H. Younghusband then appointed his officers as follows: Sir Knts. White, Prelate; Bailey, 1st Capt.; Long, 2nd Capt.; Matt, Reg.; Deiley, Almoner; Johnson, Expert; Poole, 1st Std. B.; Irvine, 2nd Std. B.; Slec, Capt. of Lines; De la Perelle, 1st Herald; Cunningham, 2nd Herald. The encampment having been closed with solemn prayer, the knights adjourned to Bro. Eberle's, Royal Hotel, Dale-street, and there partook of the bread of plenty and cup of cheerfulness.

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE UNION DE MOLAY PRIORY.—At the annual Conclave of this Priory, held in the Masonic Hall on the 2nd of December, 1869, the following officers were regularly installed by Past Em. Prior Robert Marshall, for the ensuing year:—Sir Knts. T. A. D. Forster, E. Prior; Robert Marshall, P.E. Prior; James Domville, Captain General; Rev. W. Donald, D.D., Prelate; G. Frederick Ring, Lieut.-General; John Frost, 1st Lieutenant; R. W. Crookshank, 2nd Lieutenant; G. Handford Whiting, Mareschal; W. D. Forster, Hospitaller; D. S. Stewart, Admiral; Joseph C. Hatheway, M.D., Conservatore; Henry A. Whitney, Bailiff; R. M. Stevens, Turcopillier; C. Upham Hanford, Chancellor; David R. Munro, Treas.; William McNichol, Captain Outposts; Knights of Grand Cross—S. F. Mathews, Provence; C. E. Potter, Auvergne; E. L. Barteaux, M.D., France; Levi H. Young, Italy; Henry Duffell, Arragon; Alexander Christie, Germany; Robert Shives, Castille; William C. Morrissey, Anglo-Bavaria; and William Runciman, Guard.—*Craftsman*, January, 1870.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

MASONIC BALL, GIBRALTAR.

A Masonic ball, on a scale of magnificence and splendour seldom attempted, and never before surpassed there, was given by the Worshipful Master, the officers, and members of the Lodge of Friendship, at the theatre, on the 18th February. The Lodge of Friendship, one of the most ancient and celebrated in the Craft, and holding a position second to none amongst the foreign lodges working under the British constitution, has ever held a high social pre-eminence at Gibraltar, and never was it in a more vigorous or flourishing condition than at

present. From time immemorial the highest class residents, illustrious visitors, and officers of both services have ever been eager to enrol their names in the archives of the lodge, and the muster-roll can tell of brethren who have gained for themselves a proud niche in the temple of fame, and of many whose deeds are household words in the naval and military annals of England's history, though many, alas too many! have now passed away to the Grand Lodge above.

The theatre at Gibraltar, never at any time, either externally or internally, a very imposing or cleanly building, under the skilful hands of the ball committee, was, by means of flags, evergreens, Masonic banners, mirrors, and lights, completely transformed. The pit was, of course, boarded over; at the extreme end of the stage a dais had been erected, carpeted with rich Moorish rugs; on the centre of the dais was placed a couch covered with white and blue satin, for the special use of the Hon. Lady Airey; over the dais was an elegant canopy, formed of large flags, so arranged and so ornamented with smaller Templar and Masonic banners as to convey the impression that the dais formed the entrance to a large tent; on each side of the dais, but still under the canopy, were mirrors, couches, marble Masonic pillars, globes, lights, &c. The Governor's box, situated in the centre of the house, had been converted into an elegant little boudoir, richly draped with Moorish cloth, and hung with girandoles. On papier-mâché tables were placed opera-glasses, silver and Moorish trays, with various perfumes and bouquets of flowers. Round the house, in all available positions, were placed flags and evergreens and mirrors, interspersed with Knight Templar banners, royal arch wands, and various other emblems of the mystic craft. The passages and staircases were draped with flags, and the stairs covered with crimson cloth. Precisely at 9.30 p.m. H.E. Sir Richard Airey, G.C.B., and the Hon. Lady Airey arrived, and were received at the entrance of the house by the Dir. of Cers., Bro. Gilbard, and the Stewards, and by them conducted to his Excellency's box. The appearance of the distinguished guests was the signal for "God save the Queen" from the band. At this moment the scene in the house was especially charming, all the boxes being crowded with ladies standing up in the full blaze of beauty, elegant dresses, and rich jewellery. As the strains of the National Anthem died away the Masonic march was heard, and the procession of Masons entered the ball-room from a side entrance in the following order:—

Two Tylers with drawn Swords.
Entered Apprentices.
Fellow Crafts.
Master Masons.
Steward.
Inner Guard.—Treasurer.
Secretary with Book of Constitutions.
Junior-Deacon.—Senior-Deacon.
Junior-Warden.—Senior-Warden.
The Worshipful Master.
Provincial Grand Officers according to rank.
Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
The Provincial Grand Master.
Royal Arch Companions according to rank.
Knights Templars.
Knights of Malta.
Princes of the Rose Croix.

After making a circuit of the room the procession halted in front of the dais in a double line, facing inwards, the Worshipful Master and his wardens falling out and taking their position at the foot of the dais, the Templars, Knights of Malta, and the Princes of the Rose Croix at this moment drawing their swords, and forming the arch of steel. This movement being complete, the Dir. of Cers. proceeded to request the honour of Lady Airey's presence in the ball-room. Her Ladyship, accompanied by his Excellency, descended and entering the ball-room

passed up through the double line of Masons to the extreme edge of the arch of steel, where she was received by the Worshipful Master Bro. R. Leight Brown, the S.W., Bro. Balfour Cockburn, and the Acting J.W., Bro. R. H. Wallace, the W.M. making the following speech:—

"Lady Airey—As Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Friendship, I welcome you under the arch of steel. In the name of the officers and members of the lodge I beg to thank you for gracing our meeting to-night with your presence, and we accept it as an augury that our efforts to please our friends will prove as successful as on the former occasions when your Ladyship and his Excellency Sir Richard Airey have honoured us with your countenance and support."

Lady Airey having gracefully acknowledged the complimentary welcome, was at once led to her seat on the dais, a few bars of "God save the Queen" being played. Dancing was at once commenced. A few minutes before midnight the supper-room, in which a most elegant and *recherché* repast had been laid, under the direction of the *premier chef* of the Club-House Hotel, was thrown open, the Worshipful Master conducting Lady Airey, and Sir Richard Airey leading in Mrs. Balfour Cockburn, the Senior-Warden and officers attending with a select party of the more distinguished guests, the whole procession being marshalled, as usual, by the indefatigable Dir. of Cers., Bro. Gilbard, his Stewards and Pursuivants. On Lady Airey taking the place at the table reserved for her the Worshipful Master presented her with a white satin apron, trimmed with blue ribbon and silver bullion tassels and cord, the facsimile of a Master Mason's apron on which was printed in gilt letters the *menu* of the supper, and underneath the flap of the apron were printed in gilt letters the names of the brethren of the lodge subscribing to the ball. Her Ladyship was pleased to accept this as a slight memento of the entertainment; and the Worshipful Master having intimated that the lodge was indebted to the wife of the Senior-Warden for the design and execution of this very characteristic little ornament, Lady Airey most kindly addressed a few complimentary words to that lady. Shortly after supper Lady Airey and his Excellency were conducted to their carriage by the senior officers of the lodge, to whom they expressed their entire approbation of all the arrangements of the evening.

Dancing was kept up with great spirit till half-past three in the morning, when "God save the Queen" was played.

Upwards of 300 guests were present.—*Court Journal*

SOUTH AFRICA.

NATAL.

The annual festivals of our two local lodges of this Craft—the Port Natal and Caledonian—were lately celebrated. The installation of officers for the Caledonian first took place in the lodge room, Field street at 11 a.m. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Harry Escombe, P.M. The following are the officers for the year:—J. Johnstone, R.W.M.; J. Crawford, D.M.; J. Hampton, Sub. M.; J. D. Witherspoon, S.W.; A. Slatyer J.W.; J. C. Zeeman, Treas.; W. Shortt, Sec.; D. Crabb S.D.; S. Trent, J.D. J. Giles, S.S.; J. Robertson J.S.; G. Pullock Org.; E. Leech I.G.; L. Jacobs O.G. After the ceremony the brethren adjourned for refreshment, and in the evening they assembled at the annual banquet in the Phoenix Hotel, where they were well catered for, and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The installation of officers of the Port Natal Lodge took place at 3 p.m., in the lodge room, Field street, where there was a large muster of brethren. Bro. Harry Escombe was re-elected as W.M.; and appointed the following officers:—D. Hull, jun. S.W.; G. Pay, J.W.; J. S. Steel, S.D.; T. Edwards, J.D.; J

Taylor, Treas.; I. Hirst, Org.; T. B. Burnham, M.C.; T. Ellis, I.G.; G. Brent, O.G. At half-past seven, the brethren sat down to the annual banquet, which was catered for by Bro. G. Houghting in his usually excellent manner.

INAUGURATION OF THE MASONIC HALL, SUNDERLAND.

The brethren of St. John's Lodge (No. 80) are now in possession of a splendid edifice, erected in Park-terrace, by the Masonic Hall Company (Limited), and is available for all Masonic purposes. On Tuesday, March 1st, it was inaugurated by a ball, which proved a decided success. The *Shields' Gazette* stated that fully seventy couples were present, and the whole of the arrangements were of the most satisfactory character. Unqualified admiration of the building was expressed on all hands, the lodge room in particular eliciting the highest commendations. It is a beautiful chamber, and, with its dais and Masonic seats, suggests the idea of a state apartment in some regal residence. On the night of the ball it was turned into a drawing room, dancing being carried on in what is intended for the banqueting room on the basement floor. The room in the upper storey, which is appropriated for the use of the new Masonic Club, was set apart as a ladies' dressing room. When in ordinary use, it will be found a charming club room, with its excellent view of the east and extensive parks. The building (which has been erected by Mr. Cooke, from plans prepared by Mr. Tilman, architect) is altogether as handsome a piece of workmanship of its class as is to be found in this part of the country, and its total cost will not exceed £2,000.

The *Sunderland Times* gives a description of the building thus:—"The front elevation shows a white brick building, with stone dressings, stone strings and cornices, in harmony with the remainder of the buildings in the row. It projects beyond the line of the adjoining houses some three or four feet, though not in a manner to detract from the appearance of the other properties. The front is pedimented with three tiers of three light windows. Above the second or ground floor window is a projecting balcony, opening out from the club room on the upper story. The principal entrance is at the side, recessed about two feet back from the front. Ascending by a flight of seven steps, there is an Ionic portico, with columns on each side, and from the portico three steps lead to the entrance hall. Above the portico is a staircase window, and above that a small dormer window, without which it appears no Masonic lodge is complete."

I may also add that the dimensions of the lodge room are 25ft. by 42ft., with a height of 21ft. It is ornamented with Corinthian pilasters, and full Corinthian columns, ranged round the semi-circular dais, are placed seven chairs in the form of stalls; these chairs are handsomely executed in oak, in the Doric style, and above the Master's chair will be the proper Masonic emblems. The room is lighted with gas, and ventilated by the Patent Ventilating Sunlights, and it will not be used for any other than Masonic purposes. The paintings and embellishments are the work of the Treasurer of St. John's Lodge (Mr. Thomas Godfordson).

The ball was opened by Bro. John Tilman, W.M. of the Williamson Lodge, and Miss Wade, daughter of Mr. S. J. Wade, who laid the corner-stone of the building, and is the chairman of the Building Committee; Mr. R. Dixon, W.M. of St. John's Lodge, and several distinguished members of the Craft were present, and dancing was kept up till an early hour.

On Tuesday, the 8th inst., the first meeting of St. John's Lodge was held in the new Hall, Park-terrace, but the brethren were invited by the P.M.'s of the lodge to meet half an hour previous at the Queen's Hotel, Fawcett-street, to "take a cup o' kindness" with the host, Bro. Shiel, on the removing of the lodge from his establish-

ment. Bro. Mark Douglass being the senior P.M. present took the chair. Two appropriate toasts were given by the chairman—one relating to the removal and future prosperity of the lodge, the other to the health and prosperity of Bro. Shiel. The latter toast was acknowledged by Bro. Shiel in a neat and proper speech. A verse of "Auld lang syne" was sung with great fervour, and the whole resulted in a very cordial leave-taking.

The brethren then proceeded to the hall, and prepared to open the lodge. There were many visitors from the Phoenix, the Palatine, and the Williamson Lodges, and even from St. Hilda's Lodge, South Shields.

The W.M., Bro. Dixon, was supported by Bros. M. Douglas, T. Elwen, D. Clark, J. Graham, R. Sangster, P. Hoistindake, P.M.'s, and S. J. Wade, I.P.M. Bros. W. H. Crookes, P.M. and P.G.S.W., being from home on business, was unavoidably absent. The lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer, the minutes of the last general lodge, held at the Queen's Hotel, were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Mr. Robert Smith and Mr. Frederick Peddar and they were approved of and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, Bro. Smith being the first to cross the portals of the new Masonic Hall. Five gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation. The petition of a brother to the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence was read and duly recommended previous to the lodge being closed. Bro. S. J. Wade gave a brief but suitable address. He spoke of the high position the lodge now held in the province, and pointed out the necessity of sustaining that position in all its influence and integrity. He besought the members of St. John's Lodge in particular to attend to and be guided by the moral teachings of the Order, and to exemplify, in their lives and actions, the three great cardinal principles of Freemasonry—brotherly love, relief, and truth.

The lodge was then closed in due form. Refreshments were served in the banqueting hall, where a pleasant hour was spent, and the proceedings closed about ten o'clock.

SOUTH EASTERN MASONIC ASSOCIATION.

We have received the Annual Report of the above, which was started in 1866, having for its object the securing to its members, by means of small periodical subscriptions, life-governorships of the different Masonic Charities.

By the abstract it appears that during the past year the subscriptions have amounted to £92 10s., by means of which nine brethren have been made life-governors as follows:—Three to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, five to the Boys' School, and one to the Girls' School.

The total amount subscribed since the formation of the Association in 1866 is £484 1s. 6d., by means of which of which 46 life-governorships have been secured as follows:—Royal Benevolent Institution, 18; Boys' School, 14; Girls' School, 14.

The movement is so praiseworthy in every respect that we have unfeigned pleasure in placing before our readers so gratifying a result. If such good can be done in the South Eastern district, we see no reason why our brethren in the North, South, East, and West should not do likewise; and if such institutions were multiplied, we can easily imagine that they would contribute, in no small measure, to increase the funds of our noble Charities.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—The seventy-second Anniversary Festival, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in the chair, will take place at Freemasons' Hall and Tavern, on the 30th inst. Our advertising columns contain the list of stewards. A large number of Provincial Grand Officers are included on the list, amounting to about 100, and brethren representing Metropolitan and Provincial lodges to the number of 116.

Obituary.

HENRY GOWER SHERRY.

It is with regret we announce the death, at the early age of 37, of Bro. Henry Gower Sherry. The deceased brother was initiated in the Lodge of Economy (No. 76), Winchester, on the 14th of March, 1863. Bro. Sherry, who was a son of the father of the lodge in which he was initiated, leaves a large circle of friends to mourn his premature decease.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK.

Friday, March 18th.—Philological Society, at 8.15; Royal Institution, at 8.
 Saturday, March 19th.—Royal Institution, at 3.
 Monday, March 21st.—London Institution, at 4; Royal Asiatic Society, at 3; Entomological Society, at 7.
 Tuesday, March 22nd.—Royal Institution, at 3; Ethnological Society, at 8; Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8; Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, at 8.30.
 Wednesday, March 23rd.—Geologists' Association, at 8; Society of Arts, at 8; Geological Society of London, at 4.
 Thursday, March 24th.—Zoological Society, at 8.30.
 Friday, March 25th.—Royal Institution, at 8.

LIST OF LODGE, MEETINGS, &c., FOR WEEK ENDING 26TH MARCH, 1870.

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

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS.

Monday, March 21st.

LODGES.—Grand Masters, F.M.H.; British, F.M.H.; Emulation, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; Felicity, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.; Tranquillity, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st., Blackfriars; Panmure, Balham Ho., Balham; Whittington, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; City of London, Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham-st.; Royal Albert, F.M.H.; Eclectic, F.M.H.—CHAPTER.—Prudence, Ship and Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-st.

Tuesday, March 22nd.

LODGES.—Tuscan, F.M.H.; Moira, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.; Prudent Brethren, F.M.H.; Industry, F.M.H.; Israel, Radley's Ho., Bridge-st., Blackfriars; Prince of Wales, Willis's Room, St. James's; Marquis of Dalhousie, F.M.H.; Urban, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell; Cyrus, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.

Wednesday, March 23rd.

Lodge of Benevolence, at 7 precisely.—LODGES.—Antiquity, F.M.H.; United Pilgrims, Horns Tav., Kennington-park; Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John's Ho., St. John's-wood; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham-station.

Thursday, March 24th.

House Com. Girls' School, at 4.—LODGES.—Mount Moriah, F.M.H.; Peace and Harmony, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.; Prosperity, Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham-st.; Grenadiers, F.M.H.; Shakespeare, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.; William Preston, Clarendon Ho., Anerly; Victoria, George Ho., Aldermanbury.—CHAPTERS.—St. George's, F.M.H.; Domestic, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.

Friday, March 25th.

LODGES.—Fitzroy, Head Qrs. of the Hon. Art. Co., London; Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, Ealing; Finsbury, Jolly Anglers, Bath-st., St. Lukes.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Monday, March 21st.

Temple, Old George, St. Mary Axe, E.C.; Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-rd., Deptford; Old Concord, Turk's Head, Mont-combe-st., Belgrave-sq.; Sincerity, Railway Tav., London-st.;

St. James's Union, Swan Tavern, Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.; Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st.; Crystal Palace, City Arms Tav., West-sq., Southwark; Westbourne, the Grapes, Duke-st., Manchester-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.; Camden, Adelaide Tav., Haverstock Hill; British Oak, Bank of Friendship Tav., Mile End.

Tuesday, March 22nd.

Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metrop. Dist. Rail., Victoria Station; Domestic, 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; Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney; Royal Albert, White Hart, Abchurch-lane; City of London, Shepherd and Flock Tav., Bell-alley, Moorgate-street; New Wandsworth, Freemasons' Ho., New Wandsworth; Rose of Denmark, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Mount Zion, White Hart, Bishopsgate-st.; Royal Union, Duborg's Ho., Haymarket.—CHAPTER.—Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane.

Wednesday, March 23rd.

Confidence, Railway Tav., London-street; United Strength, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town; New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton; St. Mark's, Mawby Arms, Mawby-st., S. Lam; Beth; Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham Rye-Pythagorean, Prince of Orange Hotel, Greenwich; Temperance in the East, George the Fourth, Catherine-st., Poplar; Prosperity, Gladstone Tav., Bishopsgate-st.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—St. James's Union, Swan Tav., Mount-st. Grosvenor-sq.

Thursday, March 24th.

Fidelity, Goat and Compasses, Euston-road; Kent, Duke of York, Borough-rd., Southwark; United Mariners, Three Cranes, Mile-end-rd.; Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth; St. George's, Globe Tav., Royal Hill, Greenwich; Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-square; Tranquillity, Sugar-Loaf Tav., Great St. Helen's, E.C.; Whittington, Thatched House Tav., 9, Red Lion-st.; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tavern, Deptford.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Prospect of Whitley Tav., 57, Wapping-wall.

Friday, March 25th.

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.; Unions (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; Doric, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd.; Rose of Denmark, White Hart, Barnes, Surrey; Victoria, George Ho., Aldermanbury; Hervey, George Ho., Waltham-green.

[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.

* * All Communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury street, Strand, W.C.,

We shall be glad to receive from brethren any proceedings of Masonic meetings, which shall be duly inserted. Communications should be forwarded so as to reach us as early in the week as convenient—not later than Wednesday if possible. We have to request our correspondents to be particular in writing names distinctly.

SEVERAL communications stand over till our next.