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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1871.

RECENT DEVIATIONS FROM THE MASONIC LANDMARKS.

Our pages have contained of late, frequent protests against the increasing tendency on the part of a section of the Order to forsake the established and recognised degrees of Freemasonry, for what may be considered to be not merely quasi-Masonries, but some of these organizations being actually under the category of spurious and so-called Masonic orders directly clashing with and placed under the legitimate ban of already existing Masonic bodies.

We continue to receive letters deploring this tendency to diverge from the straight and even path, and more especially so when the circumstances are aggravated, from the fact of the charges, brought to bear by our correspondents, against the paid servants of Grand Lodges, as being the parties who have taken the initiative in "promoting" the various parasitical offshoots from the genuine Masonic tree.

The complaints made are of too grave a character to be allowed to be passed by without comment. Endorsing the remarks of some of our Correspondents, we say unhesitatingly that the English Craft looking to Grand Lodge, and more especially to the Board of General Purposes as their Legislative Body, have a right to demand that this subject should receive a most searching examination; the money of the Craft paid in the shape of salaries to the officials in the Grand Secretary's Office, is certainly being diverted from its intended purpose, if as is stated by our Correspondents the

time which ought to be devoted to their duties in connection with the Craft, is spent, to a large extent, in a propagandism, directly in violation of the terms of their engagement. And we can fully enter into the feeling which is gaining ground so widely that the time has come when a searching investigation must be made with a view to the general organization and working of the Grand Secretary's department being put upon a more satisfactory footing, apart from the special charge now brought, of promoting the growth of spurious Masonic orders.

One of our correspondents draws our attention to the fact that the late Grand Secretary, Bro. Clarke, in 1859, issued a special circular to all lodges upon the subject of spurious Masonic degrees, of which we append a copy, together with that of the diploma of the spurious Masonic degree referred to.

It is therefore much to be regretted that those in the Grand Secretary's department should now stand charged with encouraging that which has been brought under the ban from the very same department, comparatively so recently.

Freemasons' Hall, London,
24th October 1859.

Dear Sir and W. Master,—I am directed to inform you that it has come to the knowledge of the Board of General Purposes that there are at present existing, in London, and elsewhere in this country, spurious lodges claiming to be Freemasons.

I herewith furnish you with a copy of a certificate issued by a lodge calling itself "The Reformed Masonic Order of Memphis, or Rite of the Grand Lodge of Philadelphia," and holding its meetings at Stratford, in Essex.

I am directed to caution you to be especially careful that no member of such body be permitted, under any circumstances to have access to your lodge, and that you will remind the brethren of your lodge that they can hold no communication with irregular lodges without incurring the penalty of expulsion from the Order, and the liability to be proceeded against under the Act 39, George III., for taking part in the meetings of illegal Secret Societies.

I am further to request that you will cause this letter to be read in open lodge, and the copy of the certificate to be preserved for future reference, in case of necessity.

I remain,
Dear Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
WM. GRAY CLARKE, G.S.

N.B.—It is to be observed that the original certificate contains various emblematical devices, which it has not been deemed necessary to have copied.

An nom du G.: Conseil Gen.: de l'ordre Mac.: Reformé de Memphis
 Sous les Auspices de La G.: Loge des Philadelphis,
 a tous les Magons répandus sur les deux Hémisphères
 Salut, Amitié, Prosperité, Courage, Tolerance.

Ne varietur.

Nous, Vénéralble et Offic.: de la Loge Egalité o.: de Stratford, assemblés par les nombres mystérieux connus des vrais Magons certiffions et attestons que le T.: Ch.: F.: . . . né à . . . le . . . mil huit cent vigut huit, possède du premier au 3^e degré de l'o.: et fait partie en cette qualité de cette Resp.: Loge. En consequence nous invitons toutes les Loges à le reconnaître en sa qualité d'accueillir fraternellement et à lui prêter aide et protection au besoin. Fait et délivré dans un lieu éclairé d'un rayon divin, on règne la paix, la vertu, la science, et la plénitude de tous les biens. O.: de Stratford (Essex) — le . . . jour de . . . Au de la V.: £.: 000,000,000 (. . . E.V.

To all it may concern, these are to testify that our Brother . . . who hath signed his name in the margin hereof, was regularly received into Freemasonry, and admitted to the third degree in the Equality Lodge . . . And that he is duly registered in the Book of the Order accordingly. In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names and affixed our seals. At Stratford, Essex, the day of . . . A £ 000,000,000 (. . . 1859, V.E.

Timbré et scellé par nous G.: des sceaux et timbres de la Loges. F. Schroedter.:

Le 1er Surveillant :
 Leamen Stephenson.

L Orateur :
 John Stewart.

Le Trésorière ;
 C. Turner.

Le Ven.: de la L :
 Robert Meikle.

Le 2me. Surveillant :
 David Booth.

Le G.: Expert :
 Stephen Smith.

Le Secretaire :
 William Cox.

Enregistré au G.: Livr.: d'or du G.: Conseil gen.:
 Le Président :
 C. Veillard.
 S.S. Le Secrét.: gen.: de l'o.:
 J. Balagné
 Vallée de Londres le . . . jour de 1859, E.V.

DISTRIBUTION OF HONOURS IN THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

BY BRO. THOMAS SWINNON,
 Substitute Master, Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, (No. 1.)

The Grand Lodge of Scotland ought to command the respect of all the Freemasons of Scotland and its dependencies, and to be dear to them all as the highest representative body of their Order. But this must depend on the manner in which the affairs of the Grand Lodge are conducted ; and, unhappily, this has not hitherto been such as to make Freemasons generally regard it with the confidence which is so much to be desired, nor with the respect which, from its relation to all the daughter lodges in Scotland, ought to be deemed due to it. The reason of this is simply that the Grand Lodge has long been under the control and management of a few individuals, who have divided amongst themselves all its high offices—office bearers being re-elected from time to time—so that some of the most honourable places have been filled by the same brethren for twelve years or more, whilst others, equally worthy of these

honours, have never been permitted to enjoy them. It is unnecessary to employ the term clique, which might be deemed offensive ; it is enough to say that a few individuals have got the management of the affairs of the Grand Lodge in their hands, and for many years have managed them according to their own pleasure. This is not as it ought to be. The Provincial Lodges of Scotland, as well as those of the capital, ought not only to be represented in the Grand Lodge, but their most eminent members ought often to be elected to honourable offices in the Grand Lodge, by which the feeling of common brotherhood would be promoted, and the members of the Order throughout the whole country would be united together in affection and not merely in name.

There are brethren in many of the Provincial Lodges who have signalized themselves by their zealous endeavours to promoted the cause of Freemasonry, and have, with great liberality, been the means of erecting buildings for their several lodges, or have bestowed upon them munificent gifts. But all these things seem never to have been considered by the rulers of the Grand Lodge, who have continued to distribute the honours at

their disposal as if there were no brethren worthy of regard but those resident in Edinburgh; and, in fact, even of these, none have had the least chance of being elected to any high office but those of a certain very small and select circle, who can hold a private meeting before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, and arrange all that is to take place in it.

It is not to the honour of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, nor of Freemasonry in Scotland, that the Grand Lodge has come to be commonly spoken of as the Grand Lodge of Edinburgh, instead of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. But there is no wonder that this is the case, when it is considered how exclusively the honourable offices of the Grand Lodge are filled by brethren resident in Edinburgh, and to how great an extent the Grand Lodge itself is composed of the members of Edinburgh Lodges. One Edinburgh Lodge sends no fewer than twelve Grand Stewards as its representatives to the Grand Lodge, which is out of all proportion beyond the representation of any Provincial Lodge. The Provincial Lodges are thus discouraged, and their representatives do not care to attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge; whereas, if their proper place and influence were granted to them, they would probably make an effort to attend as frequently as possible, and would carry home to the most distant parts of the country an increased knowledge of Freemasonry, and impressions highly favourable to its interests. The existing state of things is utterly contrary to that great principle of equality amongst brethren which is the boast of Freemasonry.

It is not, indeed, to be supposed that each Lodge ought to have the same number of office-bearers in Grand Lodge as another, but it might be expected that a rule should be adopted for the representation of Lodges in something like proportion to the number of their members. A rude approach to this is made in the representation of the citizens of our towns in Town Councils. The Presbyterian Churches also proceed upon this principle in the representation of Presbyteries in their General Assemblies.

The principle is one evidently right in itself, and and which commands approbation whenever it is stated. It is a principle which seems especially to accord with the fundamental laws and principles of Masonry, and the only wonder is that it has been

so long and so much disregarded. A complete practical acknowledgment of it could not fail to have most beneficial results.

It is worthy of notice that the present state of the Grand Lodge of Scotland is an anachronism. Freemasonry has of late years made great progress in Scotland, but the management of affairs in the Grand Lodge has remained unchanged. Not very many years ago, there were sometimes only a few members present at a meeting of the Grand Lodge, and it was a thing to be talked of among the brethren if there more than thirty. Now there are often three hundred present, and often there are many more.

When only a few members were present, all, or almost all, resident in Edinburgh and its immediate neighbourhood, it was only to be expected that they should elect each other to all the honourable offices at their disposal. It was almost impossible for them to do otherwise. But the state of the case is now changed, and a greater liberality of spirit displayed towards brethren belonging to all parts of the country would redound to the honour of the Order; would aid in elevating the Grand Lodge to that high position which it ought to hold, and promote brotherly feeling among all the Masons of Scotland.

A proposal is about to be made, in the form of a motion, at the approaching Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, "That no office-bearer shall hold the same office for a longer period than three years, and, on the expiry of his term of office, shall not be eligible for re-election to the same office, and that at least three years must elapse before he is appointed to it again." This, however, is not to apply to the Grand Master or paid officials.

This, of itself, would go far to cure the evils of which there is so much cause to complain. Honours would be more extensively distributed, among brethren, and a better and more kindly feeling would be promoted; and if, at the same time, a more equal system of representation were adopted, brethren would feel—as they do not at present—that their attendance at the meetings of the Grand Lodge was not a thing of mere formality and sociality, but that they were called upon to take a real part in the concerns of the Grand Lodge and of the Brotherhood.

The great facilities of communication by railroad and telegraph make it possible for Masons

all parts of the country to maintain an intimacy of fellowship formerly unknown. It would be for the advantage of the interests of Freemasonry that full use were made of this, and that the management of the affairs of the Grand Lodge were accommodated to it, instead of continuing to be such as it was when the whole state of things was very different, and when the presence of a member from Stromness or Stornoway was hardly in any circumstances to be expected.

MASONIC CURIOSITIES, No. 1.

BY A MASONIC INQUIRER.

Continued from page 482, Vol. xxiii.

The learned author of the *Antiquity of Masonry* annexed to which are our Constitutions, has taken so much true pains to draw it out from the rubbish which the barbarous and ignorant Ages of the world have buried it in, as to justly merit the highest gratitude from the brethren.

That diligent antiquary has trac'd out to us those many stupendous Works of the Antients which were certainly, and without doubt, infinitely superior to the Moderns. I shall not therefore follow his steps; but since there ought to be something said of antient Architecture, to illustrate the real antiquity of Masonry in general, I shall beg leave to subjoin what an elegant modern author, the ever celebrated Mr. Addison, has wrote upon this subject:

"We find," says he, "in Architecture, the ancients much superior to the moderns. For not to mention the Tower of Babel, of which, an old author says, there were the foundations to be seen in his time, which looked like a spacious Mountain; what could be more noble than the Walls of Babylon, its Hanging Gardens, and its Temple to Jupiter Belus, that rise a mile high by 8 several stories, each storey a furlong in height, and on the top of which was a Babylonian Observatory. I might here likewise take notice of the huge rock that was cut into the figure of Semiramis, with the smaller rocks that lay by it in the shape of tributary Kings; the prodigious bason, which took in the whole Euphrates, until such a time as a new canal was formed for its reception, with the several trenches through which that

river was conveyed. "I know," adds our author, "there are persons who look upon some of these wonders of Art to be fabulous; but I cannot find any grounds for such a suspicion, unless it be that we have no such works amongst us at present." There were, indeed, many greater advantages for building in those times, and in that part of the world, than have been met with ever since. The earth was extremely fruitful, men generally lived on pasturage, which requires a much smaller number of hands than agriculture. There were few trades to employ the busy part of Mankind and fewer Arts and Sciences to give work to men of Speculative tempers, and what is more than all the rest, the Prince was absolute, so that when he went to war, he put himself at the head of a whole people; as we find Semiramis leading her three million to the field and yet overpowered by the number of her enemies.

It is no wonder then, when she was at peace, and turned her thoughts on building, that she could accomplish so great works with such a prodigious multitude of labourers. Besides that, in her climate, there was small interruption of frost and winters, which make the Northern workmen lie half the year idle. I might mention, amongst the benefits of the climate, what historians say of the Earth, that it sweated out a bitumen or natural kind of mortar which is doubtless the same with that mentioned in Holy Writ, as contributing to the structure of the Tower of Babel. "Slime they used instead of mortar." "In Ægypt we still see the Pyramids which answer to the description that have been given of them; and I question not but a stranger might find out some remains of the labyrinth that covered a whole province, and had a hundred temples dispos'd among its several quarters and divisions.

"The wall of China is one of these eastern pieces of magnificence which makes a figure even in the map of the world. Although an account of it would have been thought fabulous, were not the wall itself extant.

"We are obliged to devotion for the noblest buildings that have adorned the several countries of the world. It is this which has set men at work upon temples and publick places of worship, not only that they might, by the magnificence of the building, invite the deity to reside there; but

that such stupendous works might at the same time, pen the mind to vast conceptions, and fit it to converse with the divinity of the place."

This from our author; (and I am persuaded you have not thought me tedious in giving you so much of the works of that great man instead of my own.) From what he has said, the great antiquity of the art of building or Masonry may be easily deduced. For without running up to Seth's Pillars or the Tower of Babel for proof; the temple of Belus alone, or the walls of Babylon of both which the learned Dr. Prideaux has given ample accounts, which were built 4000 years ago, and above 1000 before the building of Solomon's Temple, are sufficient testimonies, or at least give great reason to conjecture that three in parts of four of the whole earth, might then be divided into
G. H., F. G. & M. H.

Now it is morally impossible, but Geometry—that useful and noble science—must have gone hand-in-hand with Masonry, for without it those stupendous and enormous structures could never have been erected. And tho' we have not the names of any great proficients so early as Babylon yet we have a Pythagoras, an Euclid, an Archimedes, flourishing in very remote ages, whose works have ever since been—and are at present—the basis on which the learned have built at different times so many noble superstructures.

(To be Continued.)

NOTES ON AMERICAN FREEMASONRY.

(Continued from page 65).

"Another matter which creates some interest in Masonic circles, is the fact that several religious denominations are opposing the progress of the institution, and have resolved that no members of the Order shall be in communion with their churches. Why this should be we cannot say, unless it is from mistaken views of the object of Freemasonry. Almost nineteen centuries ago the shepherds who watched by night their flocks on the plains of Judea, heard angelic choirs shout "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men," and the spirit of that

song Masonry has ever sought to realize in action. Her teachings have ever been "Give glory to God," and "confess his holy name," and peace, fraternity and good will toward all mankind have always been inculcated in all her lessons. St. James wrote: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." What institution assumes the care of the widow and the orphan with more unceasing effort than the Masonic Order, or does it more effectually? What institution inculcates purer lessons of morality, to aid in keeping the members unspotted from the vices that afflict our race? But religion is not the object of the association, although it inculcates its precepts. Any one who supposes it to be an enemy of religion knows nothing of the Order—nor are those who think that Masons consider it a substitute for the Church any better informed. It has no heavenly origin, but is of the earth, and of human invention. It seeks to improve the condition of mankind without regard to the religion they profess. The Atheist can never enter its portals, or be received into its brotherhood. Masonry makes no pretensions to be able to save a soul by its teachings, but it does profess to be able to make the rude more refined in feeling and sentiment, to make the avaricious more charitable and less fond of self; to humanize the heart and induce all within its influences to feel that as men they owe duties to their fellow-men which no human law teaches, and which nothing but the development of the principle of universal fraternity can stimulate to action. Why then should Churches war against our institution? Simply because as a body they are ignorant of its aims and its obligations. We request those who do so, to inform themselves on the subject before they deny their ordinances to the Masonic Order, or deprive them of Church privileges. If they allege many bad men are Masons, we answer they are members of the Order, not Masons. They in this respect resemble many who name the name of Christ, when they possess none of his spirit, and do not follow his teachings. We say to our opponents, live in charity with all, and speak not evil of those who do good in a way you will not learn from them and cannot comprehend. To Masons we say that, as we are thus misunderstood and misrepresented, it is our duty so to walk, that

it may be said even by our enemies, that our practice equals our profession, that we love each other as brethren, and go about doing good. Of this new manifestation of opposition we have no greater fears than we have of political persecution. The former will also fade in the sunlight of truth, when inquiring minds will discover the beauties of Masonry, and agree with us that although she is not religion, she is her aid and her assistant, who prepares the hearts of men for the reception of holier truths than she teaches.

"Before concluding this report, we desire to congratulate the fraternity upon their flourishing condition, and the large number of noble charities that, in the shape of schools, asylums, libraries and cemeteries, are springing up all over the country, under the auspices of our Order; and not only these, but histories are being written of the good and great men of Masonry. In our former report we said: "Many of the greatest, most learned and best men of Pennsylvania, have been Masons. The recollections of their actions and their virtues are fast fading away. Even now, many of them are traditional." But on this subject we then made no recommendation, but we do now; and beg leave to ask that a Committee be appointed on the Masonic history and biography of Pennsylvania."

MASONIC EDUCATION.

It is emphatically the duty of Masons to be educated in Masonry. Not very far on our journey towards the East, we are instructed that we are expected, before advancing farther, to become versed in the liberal arts and sciences, and thus render ourselves worthy of promotion.

In ancient times, when operative as well as speculative Masonry was practised, it is probable that those who aspired to be initiated into the "Sublime Degree" had to pass an examination before a board of grave old sages, and give satisfactory evidence, that they were mathematicians, astronomers, and rhetoricians before they were permitted to pass on.

Of course, when the Craft ceased to be a body of artisans, this educational training was no longer necessary, and the rule concerning it has been gradually relaxed, and at this day is little more than a mere formality.

But it does not follow, by any means, that Masonry no longer imposes any intellectual burdens upon those who would become sharers in the ancient mysteries. The Mason of to-day is bound in honour to make himself familiar with at least so much of the work, that he can without difficulty gain admission to

any regular lodge in the land, and in this jurisdiction, if the requirements of the Grand Lodge are obeyed by the subordinate Lodges, no brother will in any instance (save under dispensation) be advanced to a higher degree until he can pass a creditable examination in the one that precedes it. It is disgraceful for any Mason to be under the necessity of sitting like a statue in the anteroom until some brother can vouch for him to the lodge he desires to visit; and we hope to see the time when all lodges will so discharge their duty to candidates, that such a thing cannot occur.

But something more is requisite than a parrot-like ability to give set answers to a series of set questions, and to recite verbatim a part or the whole of the ritual of the several degrees. There are great principles underlying our fraternity which each brother must study and understand for himself, if he desires to receive any real benefit from Masonry, and to occupy any other position in the Masonic world, than one which might be filled about as effectively by a respectably carved figure-head.

THE MORAL OF SILENCE.

We are taught by the Divine Word, the maxims of Sages, and a hundred sacred and classical allegories the moral beauty and excellence of Silence in due season. In the Book of Ecclesiastes we are told, in language sublime through its marvellous simplicity, that there is "a time to every purpose under heaven;" and in an admirable enumeration of the varying phases of life which produce bright or shadowy thoughts, is included "a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. The philosopher, who advised his pupil—"if you think twice before you speak once, you will speak twice the better for it,"—gave an admirable practical interpretation of this passage from Ecclesiastes; as did Zeno also, when he admonished a "fast young man" of his acquaintance, who spoke too glibly or frequently, that "we have two ears and but one tongue, because we should hear much and speak little." The Apostolic James had a strong conception of the evils of much talking, since he calls the tongue "a world of iniquity."

We wish to deduce a moral from these remarks—a very simple one. We have heard (in a double sense), that talking in Lodges, during the performance of portions of the ceremonial, is becoming quite common. This we say at once is a serious mistake. It is distracting to the W.M., annoying to those brethren who have a right sense of decorum, and must be disedifying to Masonic neophytes. It is the plain and positive duty of every W.M., or whoever occupies the chair of K.S., to put down all such interruptions. It is needless to magnify the circumstance. Brethren who may have involuntarily indulged in conversational whispers during lodge work, have only to be reminded of their fault to amend it. They know very well silence is a virtue in itself, and a handmaid of other virtues. It exercises self-restraint, induces modesty of demeanour, and produces habitual attention and mental repose—conditions indispensable to the acquisition of knowledge.

This is not all. There is another violation of silence, in some respects more serious than that to which we have called attention. It is alleged that brethren sometimes canvass or discuss the business of their lodge, after lodge has been closed. This conduct cannot be too strongly deprecated. We presume it seldom, if ever, occurs, except when questions of more than usually agitating character have occupied previous attention, or when personal sensibilities have been offended. The brethren should, however, remember their Masonic engagements, and exercise the virtue of self-control. Neither lobby nor corridor is the place to adjust differences or arrive at wise conclusions. Opportunity is afforded every member of a lodge to express his opinions; if he will not express them at the proper time and in the right place, it is his manifest duty to remain silent.

We trust this reference to a delicate subject will not be misunderstood. In making it, we have had only one object in view—the good of Masonry.—*Australian Freemasons' Magazine.*

MASONIC JOTTINGS.—No. 55.

BY A PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

BEN JONSON.

It is true that Ben Jonson was at one time a bricklayer, and worked at that part of Lincoln's Inn called "The Old Square." But he was not a Freemason, he never belonged to a Lodge. And even if he had been a Freemason, and had belonged to a Lodge, it would not follow that he was a Speculative Mason—that he was more than an Operative Mason. There was always the germ of Speculative Masonry in the Lodge, yet it not unseldom, as in the instance of the famous Mother Kilwinning Lodge, remained undeveloped.

CHARGES OF 1723.

A learned brother thinks that the publication of the Charges of 1723, without anything more, was looked upon as a sufficient authority for reception in the Lodge of Christians, of all denominations.

THE ASSERTION.

The words of the assertion in the communication, "The Pseudo-Revival of A.D. 1717,* are "no proof of the pretended existence of our system of Freemasonry before 1717 has ever been given."

OUR PRESENT SYSTEM OF FREEMASONRY.

Our present system of Freemasonry is the

Freemasonry of the Revival. It can easily be traced to the four old London Lodges. The assertion in the preceding jotting is utterly without foundation. The proof abounds for him who knows what proof is.

RANK OF THE FOUR OLD LONDON LODGES.

The four old London Lodges enjoyed their rank under Constitutions said to be immemorial.

THE ENGLISH LODGE, THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The changes produced in the English Lodge by the Charges of 1738, may be likened to the changes produced in the House of Commons by the Roman Catholic Relief Act. In the former a few Natural Theists, Jewish Theists, Mahomedan Theists, and Parsee Theists occupy seats by the side of Christian Theists; and in the latter a few Roman Catholics occupy seats by the side of those possessed of earlier Parliamentary qualifications. In all other respects the lodge is what it was before, and the House of Commons is what it was before.*—From the papers of a Deceased

OLD FRENCH MASONRIES AND OLD GERMAN MASONRIES.

A corresponded writes that supposing "A Contributor's" assertion to be correct, that a Christian Masonry is not a true Freemasonry, it would ensue that not only none of the old Scotch Masonry was true Freemasonry,* but that none of the old French Masonry, and none of the old German Masonry was true Freemasonry.

LODGES.

It ought not to surprise us, if the religion of the lodge, in which none but Christians meet, is not the same as the Religion of the Lodge in which Christians, Parsees, and Natural Theists meet.

CHARGES OF 1723.

The Charges of 1723 are more appropriately called our "Fundamental Laws."

* It may be noticed that there being no limitation in the number of members in the lodge, the immigration of Natural, Jewish, Mahomedan, and Parsee Theists works no exclusion of Christian Theists; whilst there being a limitation in the number of members of the House of Commons the immigration of Roman Catholics works an exclusion of individuals possessed of earlier Parliamentary qualifications.

Brother.

* Freemasons' Magazine, vol. 23, page 368.

* See a jotting at page 46 of the present volume.]

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLISM—THE VESICA PISCIS.

The old christian emblem in the shape of a sharp-pointed oval which we so often meet with in the study of mediæval ecclesiology and which has been called under—perhaps a mistaken idea of its true allusion—the “*Vesica Piscis*” seems to me to contain within it some of the grandest and most precious ideas, or doctrines of the Christian faith. I believe this emblem refers to the wound made in Christ’s body, by the spear of the Roman soldier, as mentioned in St. John’s Gospel, XIX., 34, from this wound the blood of Christ’s heart flowed, which blood was the sign or seal of the new Covenant made between God and man; as per Hebrews XIII., 20, “Through the blood of the everlasting covenant.” Seeing therefore that the blood of Christ shed upon the cross ratified, sealed, or made sure the Covenant of Grace, forming it into “everlasting covenant,” it is not surprising that a representation of the wound from which said blood flowed should be used by the teachers, artists, and dignitaries of the mediæval church as an emblem having a highly symbolic meaning. It appears to me that such is the case, especially *e.g.*, in the seals used by Bishops and ecclesiastical establishments, which are often of this sharp-pointed oval form. This form when taken by itself and as a representation or emblem of the wound in Christ’s side might be called the *Christi Sigillum*, or seal of the new Covenant. In certain situations, however, this sharp pointed oval would naturally grow out of the pointed style of Architecture, and would come quite naturally as a centre opening between a two-light pointed window, *e.g.*, Glapthorn, Northamptonshire, &c., yet I conceive that said circumstance do not detract from the foregoing ideas, however, I should be happy to learn the opinion of any of your learned readers on the subject, more especially as in some works upon architecture, emblems, &c., which I have very little is said upon the matter. Some writers might be ready to hint at this sharp-pointed oval, having a pagan signification, but I respectfully reject that allusion as, under the circumstances, an unnecessary and unfair libel.—W. P. BUCHAN.

NEW FANGLED ORDERS.

I beg to call attention of the Manufacturers of the above, (and of Masonic Jewellers and Milliners) to the following extract:—

THE KNIGHTS AND NYMPHS OF THE ROSE.

Among the many degrees invented in France, that great hot-bed of Masonic innovations and Masonic light-o’loves, and known as Androgynous Masonry, was the one whose name heads this article. It was introduced about the latter part of the eighteenth century by M. de Chaumont, the Masonic Secretary of the Duke de Chartes, who was at that time Grand Master of French Masons. The principle seat of the Order was at Paris. The lodge room or hall of meeting was called the “Temple of Love.” It was ornamented with garlands of flowers and hung round with escutcheons, on which were printed various devices, and emblems of gallantry. There were two presiding officers a male and a female, who were styled “Hierophant,” and the “High Priestess.” The former ini-

tiated the men, and the latter the women, who were candidates. In the initiations, the Hierophant was assisted by a conductor or deacon called “Sentiment,” and the High Priestess by a conductress or deaconess, called “Discretion.” The Knights wore a crown of myrtle, the Nymphs a crown of roses. The Hierophant and High Priestess were, in addition, decorated with a rose-coloured scarf, on which were embroidered two doves within a wreath of myrtle. During the initiation, the lodge room was enlightened with a single dull taper, just giving light enough to make “darkness visible,” but afterwards it was brilliantly illuminated by numerous wax candles.

When a candidate was to be initiated, he or she was taken in charge, according to the sex, by the conductor or conductress, divested of all weapons, jewels, or money, hoodwinked, loaded with chains, sufficient of the legs and breast being bared to determine the sex, and in this condition conducted to the door of the Temple of Love, where admission was demanded by two knocks. Bro. Sentiment then introduced the candidate by the order of the Hierophant, or the High Priestess, and he or she was asked his or her name, place of birth, and condition of life: of which being satisfactorily answered, the candidate was then asked, “What are you seeking?” The reply to which was Happiness.

The next question proposed was: “What is your age?” The candidate, if a male, replies, “The age to love;” and if a female, “The age to please and be loved.”

The candidate was then interrogated concerning his or her private opinions and conduct in relation to matters of gallantry. If of amatory proclivities, the chains were taken off and replaced by garlands of roses, which were called the “chains of love.”

In this condition the candidate was made to traverse the apartment from one extremity to the other, and then back again in a contrary direction, over a path inscribed with love knots.

The following pledge was then administered:

“I promise, by the Grand Master of the Universe, never to reveal the secrets of the Order of the Rose, and should I fail in this my vow, may the mysteries I shall receive add nothing to my pleasures, and instead of the roses of happiness, may I feel nothing but the thorns of repentance.”

The candidate was then conducted to a place representing a mysterious grove, adjoining the Lodge room, or Temple of Love, where, if a Knight, he received a crown of myrtle; and if a Nymph, a simple rose. During this time, a soft, melodious march was played by the orchestra.

Afterwards, the candidate was conducted to the “Altar of Mystery,” and placed at the foot of the Hierophant’s throne, where incense was offered to Venus and her son. If it was a Knight who had been initiated, he exchanged his crown of myrtle for the rose of the Nymph he selected; and, if a Nymph, she exchanged her rose for the myrtle crown of a Brother Sentiment most agreeable to her fancy.—G. J.

THE FATHER OF THE STEAM ENGINE AND THE GLASGOW INCORPORATION OF HAMMERMEN.

“James Watt, on attempting to set up as an instrument maker in Glasgow, was prevented doing so

by the then privileged Incorporation of Hammermen, as not being free of the Craft. Attempts were next made for obtaining their leave for a small workshop wherein to make his experiments, but this was peremptorily refused. The University, however, in his difficulty came to his rescue, and granted him a room within the precincts of the College, which was free of the incubus of all guilds."—W. P. B.

ORDRE IMPERIAL ASIATIQUE DE MORALE
UNIVERSELLE.

In Notes and Queries 479, a correspondent "Muziffir" asks Dr. Bigsby, "The Grand Master Conservateur," some questions at length as to the Sultanate of Eldir in Asia, and the Sultana Aline of Eldir, the foundress of the Imperial Order.—J. C.

MR. PINKERTON THE ANTI-MASONIC WRITER.

Last year Mr. Pinkerton managed to draw out several correspondents in Notes and Queries by outrageous attacks on the history and morality of Masonry, but as to which he got good and sufficient answers.

He has been latterly assailing in the same publication Carolan, the famous Irish musician. His vituperative scepticism has met an able castigator, at page 80, in Mr. Maurice Lenihan, M.R.S.A., of Limerick.—J. C.

MASONIC SAYINGS AND DOINGS ABROAD.

MUSIC IN LODGES.

Good music is desirable at all proper seasons, in the church, the lodge-room and the home circle, but it is especially of music in the lodge that we would speak.

Many there are, and we think a majority of Masons prefer the good old style of congregational singing; others prefer to follow fashionable church style and have the music appropriate to the degrees given by a quartette choir of educated musicians, who will sing understandingly if not with the spirit; they are a large expense to the lodge, and we believe do not afford the actual satisfaction that the singing does that is done by the entire body, each one singing as much as he can and as well as he can. There may be objections to this style of music, that all have not cultivated tastes and correct ears, and there is considerable discord appreciable to the critical. What if there is some discord; it is mostly covered up by the body of song, which fills the ear, while the critical are slightly offended, the mass of hearers are much better pleased than with the scientific choir singing; besides, it is to most men an actual enjoyment to assist in the musical exercises. Music makes men better; fills the mind with nobler and better thoughts, and to the non-artistic, the one who sings not for pecuniary reward but for the love of it, the good effect is much heightened. We are not strong in our prejudices against quartette singing for the

lodge, but rather favourably inclined to congregational singing as most productive of good. We are gradually becoming educated, so that, like German lodges, we can some time have music given by almost an entire lodge of educated singers. Until that time, would it not be well to encourage congregational singing, as one strong incentive to those who have not sufficient knowledge to sing intelligently, to acquire the knowledge?—*Cosmopolitan*.

ISTHMUS LODGE, PANAMA, CENTRAL AMERICA.—St. John's Day of winter, December 27th, was kept by this American Lodge, and a sumptuous supper was provided. Many guests were present, and the parting hymn was "Home, Sweet Home." This lodge is distinguished for its benevolence.

MANZANILLO LODGE, ASPINWALL, CENTRAL AMERICA.—St. John's Day, was likewise celebrated with great enthusiasm by this lodge on December 27th.

SPIRITUALISM, OR MAGNETISM?

We extract the following article on the pretensions of Spiritualism from "Club Talk," appearing in a recent number of "The Exchange and Mart."

"In consequence of my comments on the pretensions of Spiritualism, I was invited to a private sitting with Mr. Home at the house of a friend. I certainly witnessed some strange phenomena, for which I must confess myself quite unable to account on any theory, even of spiritual influence. I saw an accordion played for at least twenty minutes, sometimes when held by Mr. Home or by one of the party at one end only, the airs being those wished, not asked for, by some one of us, and with accompaniments that would require two hands upon the keys. I was invited to sit close to it, and look at the keys, which moved for the music, though no touch was visible to me. I saw it do this floating in the air. A bell was carried tinkling all round the circle, and placed in my hand. Mr. Home, also, put his hands into the fire, took out a piece of red-hot coal as big as a cricket ball, carried it about in his hands, and put it upon his head while yet glowing, and not a hair was even singed. A piece of paper placed between the coal and his hand was instantly in flames. When he had thus held it for about five minutes, and it became black, I expressed a doubt whether the ascending heat would not leave the lower part so cool as to be endurable to the hand. By way of practical proof, he transferred it to my own hand, and I was compelled instantly to drop it with a cry. It burnt me so badly that I feel it now. I examined his hands and hair—there was not a trace of fire upon either. What is this magnetic influence from the body of the medium which repels even the passage of heat? for it is only by something of the kind interposed between the hot coal and the hand that the phenomenon we all witnessed could be produced. Science should see to this and trace it to its source. I should add that all was done in the light. I remember Lord Brougham telling me that he once had a sitting with Mr. Home, in company with Sir D. Brewster, and that a bell had been carried across the room and placed in his hand. Asking him if he thought it was a trick, he said, "Certainly not." "How then?" said L. "I cannot even conjecture," was his answer: "I only know that it was done."

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

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

THE NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENT.—On the 1st of October last the new postal arrangement came into operation, by which the postage of the MAGAZINE is reduced one-half, of which our subscribers will receive the full benefit. In future, those of our subscribers who pay one year in advance will receive the MAGAZINE post-free. The price of the MAGAZINE will thus be reduced from 17s. 4d. to 13s. per annum. Under this arrangement the following will be the terms of subscription:—One year, paid in advance, 13s.; six months, 7s. 7d.; single numbers, by post, 3½d. We hope that by thus giving the advantage to our subscribers they will, in return, use their best endeavours to increase our circulation, by inducing their friends also to become subscribers. Anticipating a large increase in our circulation, arrangements are in progress for the introduction of special new features in the MAGAZINE.

SCOTLAND.—NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—The Agency for the Freemasons' Magazine in Scotland is now conducted by Messrs. Strathern and Stirrat, 33, Renfield Street, Glasgow; and any Subscriber not receiving the Magazine as usual, will please notify the fact to the above Firm, or to the Company's Manager directed to the Office, 19, Salisbury Street, Strand, London, W. C.

MASONIC MEMS.

At the last meeting of the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar a motion was made by Lord Eliot, and seconded by Dr. Ramsay, which after a long discussion was carried by a vote which might be regarded as unanimous, "That the sum of £61 16s. 6d. be granted in favour of the Refugees Benevolent Fund." This laudable charity, from the present great, and doubtless greatly increasing, pressure on its resources, will require, for many months to come, all the aid a liberal public can bestow.

The next Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on Monday the 6th inst., at six o'clock p.m.

Bro. William Harling Baylis, W.M., Bros. Friend, Moring, and E. Coste, Past Masters of the Albion Lodge, waited on Bro. Burton, P.M. and Sec. (who has been compelled to resign the Lodge on account of ill-health), at his private residence, for the purpose of presenting that worthy and estimable brother with a very handsome silver snuff-box, with a suitable inscription, and a testimonial inscribed on vellum, as a testimony of sincere regard and fraternal feeling, reciprocated by every brother in the Lodge, for the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office, and for the great interest he had manifested on all occasions in aid of the various Masonic charities.

Bro. Col. Charles Lyne has received his patent as Prov. G.M. for Monmouthshire; and he has notified to the lodges in the province, that he has appointed Bro. George Homfray, of Tredegar, as his Deputy, and Bro. Williams of 16, Dock-street, Newport, as his Prov. G. Secretary. Colonel Lyne will be installed at Newport, in March next—and a grand day is expected; many of the heads of Masonry in the neighbouring provinces having already promised to attend.

The ball at Kidderminster on Tuesday, 17th ult., proved to be a most enjoyable and successful affair. Nearly 250 tickets were sold, and about 200 ladies and gentlemen were actually present

The Music Hall, where the dancing took place, presented a most pleasing effect, adorned with graceful greenhouse plants, ferns, and exotics, lent by Messrs. John Humphries, H. J. Dixon, M. Tomkinson, and G. W. Grosvenor. The supper was supplied by Mr. R. Lloyd, of the Lion Hotel, and was laid out in the corn exchange, which was converted into a tasteful *salle à manger* by Mr. Dawnton, and adorned with flags lent by Mr. A. Hancocks. Synger and Gilmer's unrivalled band was engaged, and their services were the theme of universal approbation. Dancing commenced at 9.30 p.m., and concluded about 4 a.m. There was a large gathering of the brethren from distant places, even from Halifax, and a fair display of the quaint costumes and emblematic insignia of the different Orders and Degrees, including the Royal Arch and Knights Templar. The Prov. Grand Master, R. W. Bro. H. T. Royds, presided at the supper table. The occasion was not only one of great pleasure to the company assembled, but is likely to result in a substantial profit of about £25 to the Infirmary.

The annual ball arranged by the Freemasons of Derby, and to which non-Masons were admitted, was held in the New Assembly Rooms, Derby, on Friday, 20th ult., and proved, like all former gatherings, a great success. The numbers present were not so large as on previous occasions, owing to a variety of adverse circumstances over which the ball committee had no control. Bro. Colville and the Hon. Mrs. Colville had announced their intention of being present, but were prevented through the death of Mr. Colville's aunt. The death of Mr. Alderman Gamble (who, as a distinguished Freemason, had always been a great promoter of the ball), the death of a sister of one of the stewards, another of the stewards having to attend a funeral on the day of the ball, and, lastly, the dense fog which prevailed on Friday evening, all operated against the gathering being a numerous one: but in spite of all this 165 ladies and gentlemen were present, and never was a party more thoroughly bent on enjoyment. The members of the Craft appeared attired in their respective degrees—Craft Masonry, Provincial, Royal Arch, and, in fact, every "degree" being represented, Bro. Cox, of Cambridge, appearing in the dress of a Knight Templar. The supper was again entrusted to Mr. Plock, of the Midland Hotel, Derby, who outvied all former efforts in laying before his patrons the best supper ever provided for a similar gathering. After supper, dancing was resumed, and kept up with great spirit until a late hour. Mr. Waring, of Derby, provided an excellent band, which gave the greatest satisfaction to all present. Bro. H. Carson acted as Hon. Secretary to the Ball Committee.

THE NORTH-EASTERN MASONIC CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION.

The first report of this Association has just been published. The nature of the Association it represents, is now well known, as many societies of the same kind are springing up in different quarters. By payment of a shilling a week into a common fund life-governorships of the various Masonic Institutions are obtained, the same being drawn for by the members as soon as there is a sufficient sum in hand to purchase one. It is a scheme which has rightly won great favour, as it has been the means of obtaining, by an easy process, very large sums to the charities. The number of members enrolled in the North Eastern Association during the past year has been 115, and the total amount of their contributions, £269 9s. 6d. With this sum, twenty-six members have obtained life-governorships, five choosing the

Girl's School, three the Boys', sixteen the Benevolent Institution, and two yet undecided. One member, who had obtained a life-governorship, died during the year, and his successful draw was transferred to another member, whilst the amount which he had paid to the funds of the Association was repaid to his widow—on what principle we are not informed—but we suppose it was through some charitable feeling, as the Association has paid not only the value of a life-governorship, but also the premium which purchased it. The report then diverges for the purpose of stating that out of the twenty-six successful members twelve have accepted the position of steward for the charities, and as it assumes that each steward, in addition to his life-governorship, will carry in a list of £30 worth of subscriptions, the total calculated to be carried into the Institutions from the last year's operations of this Society will be over £480. This is adduced as a proof of the practical good which these Associations affect. The balance now at the bankers' is £82 10s. 4d. The report contains a recommendation for the establishment of kindred societies, and concludes with a deserved tribute of thanks to the Hon. Secretary, Bro. James Terry, for his valuable services, and for the correct and admirable manner in which the books and accounts have been kept.

Craft Masonry.

ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND STEWARD'S LODGE.—The brethren of this celebrated lodge met on Wednesday, the 18th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Bro. Jabez Tupper was duly installed into the chair by Bro. H. Norman, P.M. The W.M. then invested his officers, viz., Bros. F. Binckes, S.W.; J. T. Swainston, J.W.; C. H. Waters, S.D.; J. S. Banning, J.D.; J. M. Stedwell, I.G.; R. Spencer, Treasurer; and Bro. W. Watson, Secretary. Bro. Noyes was unanimously elected a joining member. The Lodge was then closed.

ROYAL SOMERSET HOUSE AND INVERNESS LODGE (No. 4).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall on the 23rd ult. There were present Bros. Francis Roxburgh, P.G., Registrar; C. L. Wobb, P.G.D.; John Jordan, W.M.; W. F. Purvan, J.W.; G. K. King, S.D.; P.M.'s Gumbalgh, Joseph Lumley, Banning, P.M. and Secretary; Bros. Maltby, Royal Alfred, 1028; Sharp, Grove Lodge, Ewell. 410; and Mackintosh, Good Fellowship, 210 were present on the occasion. Bro. H. S. Carpenter was passed to the degree of F.C. The business included the election of W.M. and Treasurer.

TUSCAN LODGE (No. 14).—This lodge met on the 24th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, and the W.M., Bro. F. G. Conwell, passed Bro. Bothamley. Bro. Frank Richardson, the Immediate P.M., in the most impressive and accurate manner installed Bro. W. Bristow, as W.M. for the ensuing season, who appointed for his officers Bros. G. Hillyer, S.W.; W. Nettleship, J.W.; Standish, G.; Grady, S.D.; D. Makinlay, J.D.; H. H. Bothamley, I.G.; S. Field, P.M., Sec.; Stanley Robinson, P.M.; C. W. House, S.W. The lodge was then closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, presided over by the W.M. The customary toasts were given and duly honoured, and the proceedings were enlivened by some excellent music, provided by Bro. Ransford.

NEPTUNE LODGE (No. 22).—This Lodge met at Radley's Hotel, Bridge Street, Blackfriars, on Thursday, 26th ult., at 2.30, Bro. T. White, W.M., in the chair. The Lodge was opened at 2.45, and the minutes of the last meeting (in November) was read and confirmed. Ballot then took place for Messrs. Storr and Murray, which proved unanimous in each case, and those gentlemen were severally initiated into the privileges and mysteries of Freemasonry, the W.M. giving the charge. The installation of the W.M. for the ensuing year then took place,

the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. Partridge, P.M., assisted by Bro. Ashwell, P.M., as D.C. Bro. Waterall, the new W.M., appointed his officers as follows:—Bro. H. S. Crawford, S.W.; J. E. Russell, J.W.; C. W. Gray, S.D.; T. R. Eames, J.D.; A. Partridge, I.G.; C. Steer, D.C.; William Neats, Wine Steward; and E. Hughes, Hon. Sec. Bro. Wilcox P.M., was elected Treasurer, and Bro. Radford, Tyler. The banquet was attended by fifty-two brethren.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 19th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Bro. Samuel May, P.M., G.S., W.M., in the chair. J. Stedwell, Prov. G. J.W. (Middlesex), S. W. Johnson, J.W.; Hewlett, P.M., P.G.S., Treasurer; Matthew Cooke, P.M., Hon. Sec.; Brandt, S.D.; Warner, J.D.; D. Kitz, I.G.; and P.M.'s T. A. Adams, P.G.P.; W. Watson, P.G.S.; Kierby, P.G.S.; E. Page, P.G.S.; J. Bennett, P.G.S.; J. Brandon, G. Brandon, P.G.S., &c. The Lodge having been opened and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. Parkins was passed to the second degree. Bro. J. Stedwell, W.M. elect, was presented to the Lodge for the purpose of installation, and that ceremony was perfectly rendered by the retiring W.M., Bro. S. May, Bros. W. Watson and W. Smeed giving the concluding addresses. There were twenty-two W.M.'s and P.M.'s to witness the ceremony. The newly-installed W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows, viz., Bros. Brandt, S.W., Warner, J.W.; Hewlett, P.M., Treasurer; Dicketts, S.D.; Beale, J.D.; Webb, I.G., and Hoare, Tyler. Bro. Bennett, P.M., then announced his intention to act as Steward for the Girls' School. The W.M. presented Bro. S. May, I.P.M., with a very elegant gold Past Master's Jewel, with a suitable inscription, in appreciation of the able manner in which he had conducted the duties of the chair during his year of office. Bro. S. May briefly and appropriately thanked the brethren for the elegant testimonial. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren retired to the banquet provided by Mr. Francatelli, and superintended by Bro. Waters. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, including that of the Earl of Zetland and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The toast of "The Earl of Carnarvon and the rest of the Grand Officers," was responded to by Bros. Ough and T. A. Adams, Past Grand Pursuivants. The toast of "The W.M.," was proposed by Bro. S. May, in his usual felicitous manner. The W.M. very ably responded. The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bro. Kaufman, of the Renovation Lodge (Amiens), who returned thanks in French Ough, P.G.P.; W. Smeed, Prov. G.P. (Middlesex), P.M., 943; T. S. Mortlock, P.M., 186; W. Mann, W.M., 1306 and P.M. 186; Larcomb, P.M., 788; Donald King, Grand Master's Lodge; H. M. Levy, P.M. 188; J. Stevens, P.M., No. 9, and Dyer, P.M., 45. The toasts of the Past Masters, officers, and the Tyler's toast, brought a very delightful evening to a close. The musical arrangements were under the very ably direction of Bro. Mathew Cooke, and some very excellent songs and madrigals were sang by Bros. M. Cooke, Donald King, Young, &c., and Bro. Beale played a very beautiful fantasia on the pianoforte.

INDUSTRY LODGE (No. 186).—At the meeting of this lodge, held on the 24th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Bro. T. E. Hall was duly installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.

EUPHRATES LODGE (No. 212).—The installation of this Lodge was held on Wednesday evening at Mr. Gosden's, Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall Street. Bro. Lock, W.M., presided, when Bros. Perry and Hall were raised to the third degree, Broe. Fitzgerald and Barrard passed to the second degree, and Messrs. Moore and Walker initiated. Bro. Frank, S.W., was then installed in the W.M. chair, the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. Stean, P.M. Bro. Field was appointed and invested S.W., Bro. Hammond, J.W.; Bro. Rushton, S.D.; Bro. Thompson, J.D.; Bro. Dent, I.G.; B. W. Watkins, Treasurer; and Bro. Coverley, P.M., Secretary. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, which was served *a la Russe* in splendid style by Bro. Gosden, accompanied by some excellent wines, and the evening was spent most agreeably.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 871).—This Lodge met on Wednesday, 24th ult., at the White Swan, High Street, Deptford, Bro. J. Truelove, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. J. W. T. Barrett, S.W.; I. Kilmner, J.W.; H. A. Collington, P.M., Treasurer; F. Walters, P.M., Secretary; J. W. Reed, S.D.;

W. Myatt, J.D.; G. Andrews, I.G.; and many others. Bro' Wilson was passed to the second degree, and afterwards Bro. W. Andrews, P.M., was elected W.M., and Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The Lodge was then closed, and slight refreshment followed.

BURGOYNE LODGE (No. 902).—The brethren of this Lodge met on the 23rd ult., at Anderton's Hotel, and was very well attended. The W.M., Bro. William Yevers, was in the chair, supported by Bros. H. Smith, S.W.; William Simmons, J.W.; S. Poynter, P.M. and Treasurer; L. R. Rogers, S.D.; R. Field, J.D.; T. Allen, I.G.; Past Masters H. Allen Gastrick, E. H. Page, E. Legg; and many members of the Lodge; Bros. F. Walters, P.M. 76; Parker, 250, and C. E. Thompson, S.W., 1158, were visitors on this occasion. The Lodge was opened, and the names of several gentlemen were submitted to the ordeal of the ballot-box, and the result being favourable in each instance, Messrs. H. Smith, G. P. Smith, and Sharman, were severally introduced and received the benefits of initiation; after which Bro. Hermann Hencke was passed to the second degree, and the brethren then proceeded to elect a Worshipful Master, Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year, the result being that the Senior Warden was chosen W.M. for the ensuing year, and the Treasurer and Tyler were unanimously re-elected. Nothing further being offered, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquetting-hall, where a repast awaited them.

SOUTHERN STAR LODGE (No. 1158).—The brethren of this Lodge held their regular bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, 22nd ult., at the Montpelier Tavern, Walworth. Bro. D. S. Bayfield, W.M., occupied the chair throughout the evening, and discharged the onerous duties devolving on his position in a manner which elicited the warmest encomiums from all who had the advantage of being present. Two brethren were raised to the sublime degree, the W.M. giving the traditional history so often omitted on such occasions. We ought to mention that on this occasion the W.M. and his officers exhibited a punctuality in their attendance which might with advantage have been copied by others concerned, and a hiatus was filled up by the working of the 4th section of the first lecture, Bros. H. Thompson and T. H. Pelsford, P.M.'s, discharging that duty. Bros. Freeman and Bevan were then passed to the Fellow Craft degree, and Messrs. W. Gould and A. P. Pollard initiated into the order; after which a brother of the Peckham Lodge (No. 879), was received as a joining member, and the Lodge was then closed. We are informed that a considerable increase in the initiation fee of the Southern Star Lodge is about to be imposed in order to confine it within due limits. Certainly its success up to the present time has been astonishing, and speaks volumes for the energy of its founders. A banquet was served when the Lodge was closed. Bro. Walter Joyce and other brethren lent their willing aid to promote the harmony of the evening. Bros. J. H. Ebblewhite, No. 9; J. Speed, W.M. No. 141; B. Russen, P.M. No. 177; and G. L. Elliott, No. 749, were visitors.

PROVINCIAL.

HAMPSHIRE.

FAREHAM.—*Lodge of Harmony (No. 309).*—The annual meeting of the members of this Lodge was held at the Red Lion Hotel, Fareham, on Thursday, the 5th ult., when Bro. A. Riddell, S.W., was installed as the Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. There was a large attendance of the Brethren. The ceremony of installation was performed in a very able and impressive manner by Bro. S. D. Forbes, P. Prov. S.G.W., Essex. The W.M. then invested his officers for the year as follows:—Bros. G. A. Green, I.P.M.; J. P. Goldsmith, S.W.; W. Johnstone, J.W.; W. Edmonds, P.M., Treasurer; W. A. Wolfe, P.M., Secretary; A. G. Morrison, S.D.; J. F. Moon, J.D.; and J. Whale, I.G. Those present afterwards sat down to an excellent banquet.

GOSPORT.—*Gosport Lodge (No. 903).*—There was a numerous attendance of the members of this Lodge, at the Market House, High-street, on Tuesday, 17th ult., on the occasion of the installation of the W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. Lieutenant W. T. Miller, R.M. Bro. Hyde Pullen, the late Deputy Grand Master of the Isle of Wight, kindly acceded to the request of the W.M. elect, and, in spite of the inclement weather,

came down to Gosport for the purpose of performing the ceremony of installation. The ceremony concluded, the W.M. invested his officers for the year as follows:—Bro. H. Groves, I.P.M.; W. D. Harvey, S.W.; H. Sleeman, J.W.; O. H. Jew, Treasurer; John Hall, Secretary; H. C. Hall, S.D.; Dikken, J.D.; Maling, I.G.; E. Othen, D.C.; Drover and Davy, Stewards; and Caurin, Tyler. The banquet took place at the India Arms Hotel, and was served in capital style, under the superintendence of the host, Mr. Chick.

PORTSMOUTH.—*Portsmouth Lodge (No. 487).*—The installation of the W.M. of this Lodge for the ensuing year took place at the Masonic Hall, Portsmouth, on Thursday, the 19th ult. The choice of the brethren fell upon Bro. E. M. Wells, P.M. (Alderman and J.P. for the borough.) The ceremony of installation was ably performed by Bro. M. E. Frost, P.G. Treasurer; Hants and Isle of Wight. The W.M. afterwards invested his officers as follows:—Bros. A. Cudlipp, I.P.M.; R. H. C. Ubsdell, S.W.; G. S. Lancaster, J.W.; M. E. Frost, P.M., Secretary; H. Threadingham, S.D.; J. Payne, J.D.; J. Maltby, I.G.; and Watson and Exell, Tylers. At the banquet which followed, about thirty brethren sat down, the W.M. presiding. The catering of Bro. G. Wilkins gave great satisfaction.

PORTSEA.—*Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 342).*—The installation of the Worshipful Master of this Lodge for the ensuing year (Bro. J. Morgan, S.W.) took place on Wednesday, 16th ult., when about fifty of the brethren attended at the Freemasons' Hall, Portsea. The ceremony was ably conducted by Bro. J. Ogburn, and the W.M. afterwards appointed his officers for the year as follows:—Bros. J. Stapleford, jun., I.P.M.; J. Page, S.W.; C. Loxton, J.W.; W. C. Redward, P.M., Treasurer; J. R. Wilson, P.M., Secretary; Ellis, S.D.; R. Barnes, J.D.; Turney, I.G.; Mares, Director of Ceremonies; and J. Arnold and S. Edwards, Stewards. After the installation nearly forty of the brethren sat down to a banquet, provided by Bro. Wilkins.

WINCHESTER.—*Lodge of Economy (No. 76).*—The members of this lodge met on Monday the 23rd ult., at the Masonic Hall, Parchment Street, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. W. Whale. The lodge met at 2 o'clock, soon after which the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. A. W. B. Beach, M.P. entered the lodge, attended by several of his officers, and was duly received with provincial honours. Among the visitors present were Bros. G. L. Feare, Pro. G.S.; W. Hickman, Prov. G.S.W.; W. Lemon, Prov. G. of Wks.; Bro. Wheeler, W.M., 694; Eoughton, Allen, J. J. Strutt Bird, of the Oakley Lodge; Butliffon, 406; Bonham Carter, M.P., and the following members of the lodge:—Bros. Everett, W.M.; H. Whale, S.W., W.M. elect; E. Snelling, J.W. Prov. G. Steward; E. Sheppard, P.M. and S.; T. Stophill, P.M. Sec.; Binchett, as S.D.; H. Puddis, J.D.; W. Lumsden, I.G.; James Hams, I.P.M.; J. Harish, P.M.; G. Oakshott, P.M.; J. Hale, Mathams, Salter and others. The R.W. Prov. G.M. who had kindly consented to perform the duties of Installing Master, having taken the chair, duly performed the ceremony of Installing Bro. Whale in the chair of K.S. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Everett, I.P.M.; Snelling, S.W.; D. Heale, J.W.; Sheppard, P.M., Treas.; Stephen, P.M., Sec.; F. J. Warner, S.D.; Lumsden, J.D.; Latu, I.G.; Hatt, Org.; Marsh, P.M., D.C.; Marsh, Steward; Puddis, Assist. do.; Bishop, Tyler. The interesting ceremony was rendered by the Installing Master in a manner peculiarly his own, and which rendered it particularly interesting and impressive. A vote of thanks to the R.W. Bro. was proposed by Bro. Marsh, and carried by acclamation, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. The banquet, which was served at 4.30, in the Masonic Hall, and highly creditable to Bro. Puddis, the caterer on this occasion.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, CITY.

—The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor has kindly consented to preside at the Anniversary Festival of this excellent Charity on Thursday, April 27th, 1871. The aggregate number of Patients relieved during the year ending Jan. 28, was 836 Medical; 600 Surgical; total 1436 of which 558 were new cases.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of the Dist. Grand Lodge of New South Wales was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Sydney, on Monday, 17th Oct., 1870.

Present:—R. W. Bro. Arthur Todd Holyrod, Dist. Grand Master in the chair; V. W. Bro. Earnest O. Smith, Deputy Dist. Grand Master.

W. Bros. Alfred J. Lewington, Dist. G.S.W.; Charles Watt, Dist. G.J.W.; Rev. Beg. Dist. G. Chap.; W. H. Simpson, Dist. G. Treas.; T. S. Bullard, P. Dist. G. Treas.; Frank Senior, P. Dist. G.S.W.; Adolph Shadler, P. Dist. G.J.W.; C. F. Eichler, Dist. G. Reg.; John A. Matthews, Dist. G. Sec.; George Merrett, Dist. G.S.D.; W. Cassidy, Dist. G. Sup. of Works; T. T. P.P. B. of G. of Purposes; R. J. Ainsworth, Dist. G. Purs; G. H. Smith; Nicholas Hopson, and Francis Spence, Dist. G. Stewards, and numerous Worshipful Masters of the various lodges.

The R.W., the District Grand Master, opened the District Grand Lodge in due form at 7.45.

The minutes of the last Quarterly Communication were read and confirmed.

The District Grand Master read the Grand Secretary's letter of the 11th January last, returning the bye-laws of the "Committee of Benevolence," which had been approved of by the Grand Master, subject to an alteration in law No. 4; and informing the District Grand Lodge that the Grand Master had been pleased to approve of the increase of fees payable to the District Grand Lodge, by private lodges in the District.

The District Grand Secretary read the report, from the Committee of General Purposes:—which stated that during the hearing of a case which had been submitted to them for investigation, a point had arisen as to the status of the brother making the complaint—who had called off his lodge—and was not a subscribing member to any lodge. It was urged that he could not make a complaint against a brother; and that the Committee had no power to entertain it. The Committee decided that they had such power, proceeded with the investigation, and dismissed the case. The District Grand Secretary had been requested to obtain the opinion of District Grand Lodge upon the point, to guide the Committee of General Purposes in future.

The District Grand Master was of opinion that the Committee ought not to have proceeded in the matter until the decision of the District Grand Lodge had been obtained. They had, however, adjudicated on the matter.

W. Bro. Shadler said, if he understood the question correctly, the opinion of the District Grand Lodge was required for the future guidance of the Committee.

W. Bro. A. J. Lewington stated that was the wish of the Committee.

Deputy District Grand Master thought the Committee wished to know the position of a brother who had withdrawn from his lodge; he was of opinion, that a brother could not be deprived of the right to complain until the expiration of twelve months from the time of his secession from the Craft.

The Dep. G. Master called upon Bro. Simpson to support his notice of motion to discontinue the printing of the Quarterly Reports of the proceedings of the D.G. Lodge.

W. Bro. Simpson said that if the printing of the reports of the D.G. Lodge were discontinued it would be a saving of about £12 per year. He was glad to hear that the Grand Master had approved of the increase of fees payable to the D.G. Lodge, which was in debt, and this they should try to reduce. The Sydney Lodges were aware of what took place in the D.G. Lodge—and the country Lodges could obtain information through the *Freemason's Magazine*. He had little doubt that the proprietor of the *Freemason's Magazine*, would make known in its pages all the information requisite for the members of the Craft. He therefore moved "That with a view to reduce the expenditure of the D.G. Lodge, the printing of the reports of the D.G. Lodge be discontinued."

W. Bro. SHADLER seconded the resolution.

W. Bro. LEWINGTON required to know the cost of printing the reports.

D. G. Secretary said about two guineas per quarter, independent of postage and other expenses.

Bro. S. Moore, S.W., 817, said he was quite willing to give a

statement of the proceedings of the District Grand Lodge, in the Magazine; the cost would be trifling, about ten or twelve shillings per quarter, and he would undertake the insertion of these reports for the next twelve months.

The District Grand Master said, with the greatest economy the funds of the District Grand Lodge were not adequate to the expenditure. He approved of Bro. Moore's proposition, and believed it would answer every purpose, and country lodges could be informed of the proceedings of District Grand Lodge, through the "*Freemason's Magazine*." The proposal was worth a trial, and he expressed his thanks to Bro. Moore for his liberal offer.

The District Grand Master then put the motion, which was carried.

The District Grand Master read the draft of two letters which had been prepared,—as requested at the last Quarterly Meeting. One to the Earl of Zetland, P.G. Master, on his retirement from office, and the other to Earl de Grey and Ripon, the present Grand Master, offering the congratulations of the District Grand Lodge on his appointment.

The District Grand Master suggested that he should sign the letters on behalf of the District Grand Lodge, and forward them to England, by the next mail.

W. Bro. A. Shadler moved, and

W. Bro. C. Watt seconded,—“That the draft of the letters to the Earl of Zetland on his recent retirement from the office of Grand Master, and that to the Earl de Grey and Ripon, upon his exaltation to the high office of Grand Master, be adopted, which was carried.

W. Bro. Shadler wished to inform the District Grand Lodge that the Freemasons' Hotel would be opened by Bro. Bradford, on the 8th November, and suggested that some demonstration should take place on that occasion.

The District Grand Secretary said he had just been reminded that the new lodge room had not been consecrated.

District Grand Master thought this might be done at the opening of the hotel.

The District Grand Master having referred to the Book of Constitutions, said that the approval of the Grand Master of the increase of fees payable to District Grand Lodge, must be made known to all the lodges.

The D.G. Secretary said a circular, giving this information, had been sent to all the Lodges.

A discussion ensued upon this matter, when

W. Bro. Bullard moved, and

W. Bro. Chatfield seconded "That the proposed increase of fees from two to four shillings per annum, payable to D.G. Lodge, and carried in D.G. Lodge, on the 18th October, 1869, and confirmed on the 11th January following, and approved by the Grand Master, be confirmed, and that the Lodges under the E.C. be requested to pay the increased fees, from the 1st day of July last," which was carried.

W. Bro. Bullard said, as one of the bye-laws of the Committee of Benevolence had been altered by the Grand Master, he was of opinion that they also should be confirmed.

W. Bro. Lewington thought this unnecessary. A discussion ensued, whereupon W. Bro. Bullard moved and W. Bro. Chatfield seconded "That the bye-laws of the Committee of Benevolence, as altered by the Grand Master, be confirmed," which was carried.

The business of D.G. Lodge having been disposed of, the D.G. Master closed the D.G. Lodge in due form, at half-past nine p.m.

[The following are the letters referred to in the above report.]—
To Sir Thomas Dundas, Knight of the Most Ancient and Honourable Order of the thistle, Baron Dundas of Aske, County York, Lord-Lieutenant of Yorkshire, Earl of Zetland, &c.

Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,—We, the representatives of English Freemasons in the colony of New South Wales, in District Grand Lodge assembled, desire, upon your retirement from the office of Most Worshipful Grand Master of English Freemasons, to express our high admiration and appreciation of the great and unceasing ability which you have displayed in the government of the Craft, during your long and successful tenure of office; and to express our belief that Freemasonry, under the English Constitution, is mainly indebted for its prominent and useful position, to the efficiency of the working of Grand Lodge, under your Mastership.

We sincerely trust, Most Worshipful Sir, that you may long

live, to view with satisfaction the development of the many useful Masonic measures that you have had the privilege of initiating, or encouraging, as Grand Master; and, also, that you may enjoy the peace and satisfaction which a mind conscious of rectitude alone can experience; and when your sand has run, that you may be found in the Grand Lodge above—there to receive the just reward of a faithful stewardship, from the World's Great Architect.

We remain, Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,
With Gratitude and Respect,

Yours fraternally,

Signed for and on behalf of the D.G.L. of N.S.W.,
A. T. HOLROYD, D.G.M.

J. A. MATHEWS, Secretary.
Sydney, 17th October, 1870.

To the Right Honorable Sir George Frederick Samuel Robinson, Baronet, Earl de Gray and Ripon, Viscount Goderich of Noeton, and Baron Grantham, of Grantham,—The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of English Freemasons, &c.

Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,—We, the representatives of English Freemasons in the colony of New South Wales, in District Grand Lodge assembled, avail ourselves of this early opportunity of conveying to you our respectful congratulations upon your assumption of the high and dignified office of Most Worshipful Grand Master of English Freemasons, and to express our fervent hope that you may long be spared to continue to devote your wisdom and energy in furtherance of the useful and legitimate progress of our noble institution.

We feel satisfied that you will zealously emulate the bright example afforded by your immediate predecessor in office, whose able coadjutor you were for many years; and that the Craft has much cause to rejoice in having secured as Grand Master one who has hitherto served it with such faithfulness and independence.

We trust that you will pardon our taking the liberty of assuring you of our heartfelt sympathy with yourself and the members of your family in the terrible death of your noble-minded young kinsman—one of the victims of the late cruel massacre in Greece—and to hope that in this, as in all matters affecting you, whether privately or publicly, you may ever have extended to you, the consolation, guidance, and wisdom of the Great Architect of the universe.

With the deepest respect,

We are, Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

For and on behalf of the D.G.L. of N.S.W.,
A. T. HOLROYD, D.G.M.

J. A. MATHEWS, Secretary.

SYDNEY.

SAMARITAN LODGE, No. 578.—The regular monthly meeting was held on Friday, 9th Nov. The Lodge was opened at 8 o'clock, with a fair attendance, the D.D.G.M. and P.M. taking the chair. The minutes of the former monthly meeting were read and confirmed; balloted for a joining member from the Scotch Constitution; also for two candidates for initiation, who were admitted and initiated. A ballot then took place for W.M. for the ensuing year, when Bro. S. W. Berney was unanimously elected. Bro. S. Chatfield was also unanimously elected Treasurer. Two circular letters from the D.G. Secretary, of date 11th and 24th October last, having reference to the opening of the Hall Hotel, and the time when the new regulations respecting payment of the increased duties to the D.G. Lodge should commence, were read. Bro. Berney briefly returned thanks to the brethren for the honour conferred on him, considering that he was at some disadvantage in having been preceded by several Masters distinguished for ability and standing in the Craft, but he trusted to the support of the D.D.G.M. and brethren to enable him to carry through his duties satisfactorily. The Lodge closed at 10 and the brethren then spent half-an-hour in refreshment.

THE AUSTRALIAN LODGE OF HARMONY (No. 556).—There was a large amount of business on for their last regular night, and that night was the 9th November, the Prince of Wales' birthday—a public holiday. Many and worthy brethren suggested a postponement, but, instead, the W.M. (Bro. George H. Smith) summoned the meeting one hour earlier, viz., at six o'clock; and strange to say the brethren obeyed and mustered well.

The minutes were read and confirmed; Grand Lodge certificates distributed, correspondence read, £5 additional voted to be sent to England for more books; five gentlemen, previously proposed were balloted for as candidates for initiation and subscribing members of the Lodge, and one other was proposed for next night. One brother was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Two brethren were passed to that of Fellow-Craft. Three gentlemen were initiated. The Worshipful Master (elect) and Treasurer for ensuing year were severally balloted for. The Tyler was elected; and all the work done by 10 o'clock. Some of the brethren then retired, and the remainder, amounting to forty-five, accepted the invitation of the Worshipful Master, and adjourned for three-quarters of an hour to the refreshment room, where a slight refreshment had been hastily prepared for them.

ZETLAND LODGE OF AUSTRALIA, (No. 655) E.C.—The 2nd Tuesday of the month (November 8th) being the regular monthly night, the officers and members of this Lodge assembled in obedience to summons; also a number of visiting brethren, among whom was noticed W. Bro. W. Vial, P.M., S.C. The Lodge was duly opened in the 1st degree by the W. M. Bro. Nicholas Hopson, at eight o'clock. The minutes of the previous monthly meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for a candidate who had been formally proposed at the last meeting, the result of which proving favourable (and he being in attendance) he was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, according to ancient custom. The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, for the purpose of passing an E.A. to the degree of F.C. After this solemn rite was performed and the degree conferred, the Lodge closed and resumed in the first. The important business of the evening, viz., the election of W.M., Treasurer, and O.G. for the ensuing year then took place, with the following result:—Bro. C. Harper, S.W., W.M. elect; Bro. F. A. Bliss, P.S.W., Treasurer, re-elected to that office; also W. Bro. P.M. Delissa, to that of Tyler. The Treasurer submitted his financial statement up to the third quarter of the year, which proved highly satisfactory, shewing the Lodge to be in a very flourishing condition, having a good cash balance in hand, and a very creditable sum in the savings bank at interest. Some ordinary business having been disposed of, the Lodge closed in peace, love, and harmony, at 10 o'clock, when the brethren and visitors withdrew to the refreshment room, where a sumptuous and elegant repast (embracing every delicacy of the season) was provided by the worthy host, Bro. Bradford. In the course of the evening the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, interspersed with some choice selections of vocal music by the brethren, who finally dispersed at 11.30 p.m. until "our next meeting," which will be the installation of the W.M. elect by the outgoing W. Master, Bro. Nicholas Hopson.

CAMBERLAN LODGE OF AUSTRALIA (No. 656) E.C.—The regular monthly meeting of the above Lodge was held on the 14th Oct. A gentleman was initiated, and a Bro. raised to the third degree. After the usual business the Lodge was closed in solemn form at 9.40.

GOULBURN LODGE OF AUSTRALIA (No. 57).—The regular monthly meeting was held Nov. 8th, the W.M. Bro. W. H. Maybury in the chair—a large number of brethren in attendance. Minutes and correspondence read; the brethren formed a procession and proceeded to lay the foundation stone of the Ross Monument. They returned to Lodge room, and a ballot was taken for two joining members. Lodge was opened in the second and subsequently in the third degree, and a candidate raised. The names of brethren eligible for chair were read by the Secretary. The W.M. Maybury, P.M. Clarke, and P.M. Read having declined to stand, a ballot was taken, and F. S. Cohen, S.W., unanimously elected. Bro. Joseph Collins was unanimously elected Treasurer, and the Tyler re-appointed. Two brethren were then proposed as joining members. A vote of thanks was warmly accorded to the W.M., P.M. Clarke, and Rev. Bro. R. Leigh, for the energetic part they had severally taken in the laying the stone. A committee was appointed to make and carry out arrangements for unveiling the monument. Lodge closed in love, peace, and harmony. A slight refreshment afterwards closed the best meeting held for many years. The new Lodge room is found to be very convenient. The following particulars in reference to laying the foundation stone of the monument are taken from a local paper:—The Rev. W. Ross, for many years Presbyterian Minister, of Goulburn, was an old and ener-

getic member of the Masonic body, and was one of the originators of the Goulburn Lodge, of which he was the first Master, officiating in the same capacity at intervals during several subsequent years. On his death, which took place on January 19th, 1869, the members of the Craft determined to erect a suitable monument as a record of their appreciation of his virtues and of his services. The site having been selected in front of St. Andrew's Church, of which the deceased had been the minister, and the work having reached a sufficiently forward stage, the laying of the foundation stone afterwards took place with due masonic forms. It was, we believe, desired that Masons only should have been present at the ceremony; but some publicity having been obtained there were a few non-masons present. At five o'clock the brethren of the Craft assembled for the first time in their new lodge-room, formerly the Presbyterian school-room, adjoining the church, where the lodge was opened in the first degree. About six o'clock the members came from the lodge-room and, forming into procession, went to the site of the monument. Having arrived and taken up position on the ground, the Worshipful Master called upon P.M. Clarke to lay the foundation-stone with the usual ancient ceremonies. P.M. Clarke then said:—This monument, of which the first foundation-stone is now to be laid, is designed to do honour to the memory of our late brother, the Rev. Wm. Ross, whose mortal remains were interred in the Presbyterian Cemetery, in January, 1869. Our late reverend brother was held in high esteem, not only by the members of the Goulburn Lodge of Australia, but by all who were acquainted with him. He was in the strictest sense a sincere and honest man, one of the few in this world to whom we could entrust our reputation, honour, and even our life. As a brother he was always ready with his duties, and felt a pleasure in rendering assistance to the younger members of our lodge. He was one of a kind and charitable disposition, and always showed by his actions what the principles of Freemasonry are. Of him it may truly be said—

—The actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in the dust,

And let us hope, my brethren, that this monument to after ages may recall the memory of "one whose life was gentle, and in whom the elements were so mixed up that nature might stand up in the face of the whole world and say, 'this was a man.'" The P.M. and assistants having spread the cement, the scroll, placed in a box together with a photograph of the deceased, the two latest numbers of the "Freemasons' Magazine," and a copy of the "Goulburn Herald" was placed in a cavity beneath the stone. Prayer was then offered up by the chaplain. The P.M. having called on the officers to explain the uses of the square, the level, the plumb-rule, and to apply the same to the stone, and they having reported that it was square, level, and plumb, and that the craftsmen had performed their duty. The P.M. said:—The foundation-stone has been tested by the proper implements of Freemasonry, and it is found that the craftsmen have skillfully and faithfully performed their duty. It now remains for me to finish the work. [The P.M. here struck the stone three times with a mallet and proceeded.] And I declare this stone to be well formed, true and trusty, and correctly laid according to the ancient rules and customs of our order. The chaplain then offered up an appropriate prayer; the P.M. delivered the working implements to the architect, and the proceedings closed.

LODGE OF ST. JOHN ARAUEN, No. 452., (S.C.)—The usual monthly meeting was held at lodge room, on Wednesday, 2nd Nov., Bro. F. H. Brown, W.M., in the chair. There was a pretty good muster of the brethren. Bro. Corlette apologised for absence of Bro. Pegus. The revision of the bye-laws was proceeded with, which were, after a few amendments, passed. The nomination of officers followed. Bros. Dr. Llewellyn, F. Lewis, and B. Bolt for R.W.M. Bros. F. Lewis, Parker, and Pegus for Secretary. Bros. W. C. Corlette, Pegus, Wardens, &c. Several other brethren were nominated for the various offices for the ensuing year. It is satisfactory to learn that the lodge is in a very good condition as regards financial matters. The number of members on the roll is forty-five. The brethren from the Braidwood Lodge, E.C., occasionally visit it, and have frequently expressed themselves highly pleased with the manner in which everything is conducted.

INDIA.

BRITISH BURMAH.

TOUNGHOO.—*Lodge Greenlaw* (No. 1095, E.C.)—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 7th November, 1870, Present:—W. Bro. B. L. Sinner, W.M.; W. Bro. Petley, I.P.M.; the officers of the lodge, and many members and visitors. The lodge room was appropriately draped in black and the several stations covered with the same emblem of mourning in consequence of the decease of R.W. Bro. Greenlaw. In the centre of the room was placed a catafalque on which was placed an urn covered with black drapery—lighted tapers at the corners; and upon it a pair of white gloves, lambskin apron, and other appropriate insignia. All the brethren appeared in mourning. The lodge was opened in due form in the first degree with solemn prayer. The members of the lodge unanimously voted in response to an appeal from the Worshipful Master a sum of Rs. 50 from the funds, supplemented by subscriptions of brethren in aid of the bereaved wives and families of those lost in H.M.'s S. Captain, foundered at sea. The W.M. then called and opened a solemn Lodge of Sorrow to honour the memory of R. Wor. Bro. Greenlaw, Grand Master of this District, whom death had recently taken from us, to contemplate his worth, and his loss to us; and by the remembrance of immortality to raise our souls above the considerations of this transitory existence. During the ceremonies, which were most interestingly and impressively carried out, the Worshipful Master delivered an address on the melancholy occurrence, and concluded by trusting that the bright example set before us by R.W. Bro. Greenlaw as a Mason would incite us so to fill the brief span of our existence, that we may like him, leave to our survivors a sweet savour, and resolve so to work, that when we lay us down to our last sleep, it may be the privilege of the brethren to strew white flowers upon our graves and keep our memories as a pleasant remembrance. The labours of the Lodge of Sorrow were then ended with an invocation to the throne of grace on behalf of the late District Grand Master's wife and family. It was then proposed and carried that a copy of this day's minutes, together with a letter of condolence and sympathy, be transmitted to Mrs. Greenlaw. The lodge was then closed in due form with solemn prayer. Great praise is due to Bro. Franklin, J.W., and Treasurer, for the tasteful manner in which he arranged the proceedings of the evening.

LANOWLEE.—*Lodge Barton* (No. 475, S.C.)—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 25th October. There were present:—W. Bros. P. Geering, R.W.M.; J. Harris, S.W.; Davey, J.W.; Hales, Sec.; Pestonjee, S.D.; Edginton J.D.; Neal, I.G.; Timooljee, Tyler; Eduljee, McInyre, and others. The ballot was taken for Bro. J. Walkington, as a joining member, and he was unanimously elected. Mr. J. W. Hartley, who had passed the ballot at a previous meeting, was admitted properly prepared, and initiated into the mysteries of the first degree. A voluntary subscription in aid of the funds for the relief of the sick and wounded in the present war was proposed and seconded. There being no further business, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

BANGALORE.—*Bangalore Lodge* (No. 1043, E.C.)—The lodge met on the 1st October at 7 p.m., being the regular meeting of the month. Present:—W. Bros. C. Angew, W.M.; J. J. Franklin, I.P.M.; Rev. E. H. Du Bos, P.M., and Chap.; E. Shepherd, S.W.; G. N. Smith, J.W.; J. F. Flood, Treas.; J. O'Donnell, Sec.; J. L. D. Stuart, S.D.; J. Price, J.D.; J. H. Thompson, Steward; F. Going, D. of C.; F. A. Taylor, Assist. do.; R. Kenny, I.G.; G. Whiting, Tyler.—Members.—Bros. Mullen, Wallace, Gibson, Knox, Brown, Butler, Bradshaw, Edgell, Wynter, Voight, Harley, Walmsley, Bonifacio, Hamond, Burton, and Heymer.—Visitors.—W. Bro. Gordon, Bros. Buckle, Dodd, Irvine, Murray, Pownall, Graham, and Storey. The lodge was opened in the 1st degree, and the minutes of the last regular and emergent meetings were read and confirmed. The brethren then proceeded to ballot for Sergeant Major Goode, R. H. A., candidate for initiation, and Bro. Storey as joining member, who were proposed at last regular meeting; the ballot was clear in each case. Messrs. Spencer and MacLeod, who were ballotted for at previous meetings, being in attendance, were admitted separately, properly prepared, and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. Five candidates were proposed for initiation, and five brethren as joining

members. Read the monthly accounts, which having been found correct, were duly passed. The Charity Box was passed round. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed in peace, love and harmony at 9.45 p.m.

The LODGE BANGALORE, met on the 15th October, at 7 p.m., at an emergent meeting. Present:—W. Bros. C. Agnew, W.M.; J. J. Franklin, I.P.M.; E. Sheppard, S.W.; G. N. Smith, J.W.; J. F. Flood, Treas.; J. O'Donnell, Sec.; J. L. D. Stuart, S.D.; J. Price, J.D.; J. H. Thompson, Steward; R. Kenny, I.G.; S. Whiting, Tyler.—Members:—Bros. Mullen, Pouifacio, Hamond, Heymer, and Wahmsley. The lodge was opened in the 1st degree, and the summons convening the meeting was read. Serjeant Major Goode, R.H.A., being in attendance was admitted, properly prepared, and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. Bros. Hamond and Heymer were then called before the pedestal and examined as to their proficiency in the E.A. degree, and having satisfactory acquitted themselves, were entrusted and passed out, all E.A. having previously withdrawn. The lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, and Bros. Hamond and Heymer were re-admitted and passed to the F.C. degree. The lodge was lowered to the 1st degree. It was proposed that a donation of Rs. 50 be made from the lodge funds in aid of the sick and wounded soldiers in the French and German Armies. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed in peace, love, and harmony at 10 p.m.

EGUPOORA.—*Lodge Friendship and Harmony* (No. 1270, E.C.)—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 26th November, 1870. Present: Wor. Bro. C. Hyne, W.M.; Bros. R. Rayner, as S.W.; J. Stewart, J.W.; W. Eason, Sec.; W. T. Curtis, S.D.; E. J. Webb, J.D.; Rev. T. Corfield, Chap.; J. Critchley, D. of C.; J. Seaman, I.G.; F. C. Jowett, Tyler.—Members: Bros. J. Butler, W. Catrall, and J. Hartley.—Visitors: Bros. H. Prescott, and W. P. Sayers. The lodge, having been properly tyled, was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The accounts for the last quarter were read by the Treasurer and approved. The Worshipful Master made excuses for the non-attendance of several Past Masters, and stated that in consequence the ceremony of again placing him in the Eastern Chair would have to be postponed, but that he still purposed appointing the officers for the ensuing year. The Worshipful Master then appointed his officers as follows:—R. Rayner, S.W.; J. Stewart, J.W.; Rev. T. Corfield, *M.A.*, Chap.; W. Eason, Sec.; W. T. Curtis, S.D.; E. J. Webb, J.D.; J. Critchley, Dir. of Cer.; J. M. Wade, I.G.; J. Butler, Steward. Bro. M. Cresswell, who was elected as Treasurer, was absent at Bombay on urgent business. Read an appeal from Bro. H. Prescott for relief in behalf of the widow and child of a deceased brother. Also a letter from W. Bro. C. Beard, excusing his non-attendance, and telegram excusing W. Bros. Dixon and Avron. One candidate was proposed for initiation. There being no other business, the lodge was closed in love and harmony at 8 p.m., when all adjourned to the festive board and enjoyed a social evening.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The usual quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, on Wednesday, 1st of February, at 7 o'clock.

Comp. Pattison, Past Grand H, acting as Grand Z.; Comp. The Hon. R. Hamilton, Dist. G. Supt., Jamaica, as Grand H.; Comp. E. Duncan, Dist. G. Supt., British Burmah, as Grand J.; Comp. J. Hervey, Grand Scribe E.; Comp. Symonds, acting as Grand Scribe N.; The Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Soj.; S. L. Tomkins, and H. G. Browse, Assist. Soj's.; Comp. Thos. Penn, Sword Bearer; Comp. Joseph Smith as Dir. of Cers.

The following companions were also present: C. C. Dumas, F. Bemoch, A. Bradford, E. S. Snell, H. Muggeridge, J. Boyd, J. L. Thomas, W. Smith, C.E.; W. Ough, R. Motion, J. Foxall, H. Massey, E. J. Barron, F. Walters, W. M. Bywater, and F. K. Stevens.

There were only two members of the General Committee present, viz., Comps. Browse and Joseph Smith.

Grand Chapter was opened at a few minutes past 7. Comp. Scribe E. read the minutes of the last quarterly convocation Grand Chapter—including a grant of £100 for the relief of the north-east of France,—which were put and carried. The report of the Committee of General Purposes was then read as follows:—The Committee of General Purposes beg to Report that they have examined the Accounts from the 19th October, 1870, to the 17th January, 1870, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

To balance 19th October	:	:	£444	6	5
Subsequent Receipts	.	.	213	8	0
			£657	14	5
By Purchase of £200 Consols, at 92½	.	.	185	5	0
Disbursements during the Quarter	.	.	128	19	10
„ Balance	.	.	343	9	7
			£657	14	5

which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee beg to report that they have received petitions—

1st.—From Companions Stephen Walter Rains, as Z.; Chas. Henry Dallas, as H.; Joaeph George Hokson, as J., and six others for a Chapter, to be attached to the Yokohama Lodge, No. 1092, Yokohama, to be called the "Yokohama Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Yokohama, Japan.

2nd. From Companions George Frederick East, as Z., Henry Blackley, as H.; Norris Beaver, as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Integrity, No. 163, Manchester, to be called the "Integrity Chapter," and to meet at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper Street, Manchester, Lancashire.

3rd. From Companions Charles Fryer, as Z.; Henry William Johnston, as H.; Henry Steib, as J.; and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Unanimity, No. 113, Preston, to be called the "Chapter of Unanimity," and to meet at the Bull Inn, Preston, Lancashire.

The foregoing petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

4th. The Committee have also received a petition from John Bedford Kerswill, as Z.; John Hill, as H.; William Coad, as J.; and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Eliot Lodge, No. 1164, St. Germans, to be called the "Eliot Chapter," and to meet at private rooms, St. Germans, Cornwall.

This petition is regular, with the exception that the written consent of the Lodge is not attached thereto. Should this consent be signified before the meeting of Grand Chapter, the Committee recommend that the prayer of this petition be likewise granted.

The Committee have received a communication from Companion John James, Z., of the Victorian Chapter, No. 530, Melbourne, Victoria, in reference to the report of the Committee to Grand Chapter in July last, and the decision of Grand Chapter, consequent thereon at the meeting of the Supreme Grand Chapter on the 3rd of August, 1870. The question was whether a Companion a member of an English Chapter was eligible to be installed as the third Principal of the Chapter; he, although a Past Master of an Irish Lodge, never having served as Master of an English Lodge. The Committee, after referring to Article 8, page 16, of the Royal Arch Regulations, expressed their opinion "that to render a Companion eligible to be elected a Principal of a Chapter under the English Constitution, he must be the actual Master or Past Master of a Craft Lodge under that Constitution," which opinion was confirmed by the Grand Chapter holden on the 3rd of August, 1870. This opinion is in conformity with a resolution of the Grand Lodge of England, holden on the 2nd September, 1863, upon a question which had been raised as to whether a brother, a member of an English Lodge, who had served as Warden in an Irish Lodge, was eligible to be elected Worshipful Master of the English Lodge, and which resolution declared that such brother was not eligible until he had regularly served as Warden in the English Lodge.

Companion John James, however, refers the Committee to a resolution of the Supreme Grand Chapter, at the Grand Chapter holden on the 6th August, 1862. "That in the opinion of the Grand Chapter he words—'the actual Master or Past Master of a Craft Lodge,' occurring in the 6th and 7th lines of Article 7, page 15 (now Article 8, page 16), of the Regulations, should be deemed and construed to mean (and does mean) the actual Master of a Craft who has been duly elected and installed; or such Past Masters who shall have served as Masters for the full period required by the respective Grand Lodges under which they hold, and which are recognized by the Grand Lodge of England as regularly constituted Masonic Bodies," and requested a decision as to the effect of the conflicting resolutions.

The Committee have fully and anxiously looked into the subject, and taking into consideration the resolution of Grand Lodge come to after that of the Grand Chapter of the 6th of August, 1862, and the desirability of a conformity in the Constitutions of Grand Lodge and the regulations of Grand Chapter, adhere to the recommendation to, and affirmed by, the resolution of the Supreme Grand Chapter on the 3rd of August, 1870, and they most respectfully recommend that that resolution be confirmed. That the resolution of the Supreme Grand Chapter of 6th August, 1862, be formally rescinded, and that, if necessary, the Article 8, page 16, of the General Regulations be altered in conformity with this recommendation, in order that there may be no further questions in relation thereto.

(Signed) W. PULTEMY SCOTT,
President.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C.,
18th January, 1871.

After the report had been read, the four petitions for new chapters were taken seriatim. In the absence of the President of the Committee, Comp. W. Pultemy Scott, Comp. Joseph Smith moved that the first petition on the list, viz., that for the Yokohama Chapter, No. 1092, be granted, this was duly seconded, put, and carried.

In like manner the petition for the Integrity Chapter, No. 163, Manchester, and the Chapter of Unanimity No. 113, Preston, were granted.

The Grand Scribe E. announced that with reference to the fourth petition, for the Eliot Chapter, 1164, the written consent of the lodge having been received since the date of the report, and the petition being, therefore, now in all respects in order, the granting of the petition was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Grand Scribe called attention to the commendation of the Committee of Grand Chapter as to the clauses and the general regulations to which attention had been called by Comp. John James, Z., of the Victorian Chapter, No. 530, Melbourne.

After the subject had been briefly explained to the M.E.Z., by Comp. Hervey, Grand Scribe E., Comp. Joseph Smith moved that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted, and Comp. Snell briefly referring to the somewhat involved state of the question, seconded the motion of Comp. Smith. Some further discussion then arose, and Comp. Prowse, Assist. G. Soj., undertook to explain the views of the Committee of Grand Chapter, and their reasons for submitting their present recommendation. Comp. Symonds took exception to the recommendation of the Committee, and a long and animated discussion ensued, ending in Comp. Symonds proposing an amendment that the portion of the report of the Committee contained in the last three paragraphs be referred back for their consideration.

The Grand Scribe E., Comp. Hervey, then interposed, and some explanations ensued, he also read a letter from the Grand Scribe N., regretting his inability, owing to indisposition, to attend Grand Chapter, and suggesting that should any serious objection be raised to the recommendation of the Committee,

the further discussion upon, and consideration of the subject, should be postponed till the next meeting of Grand Chapter.

Comp. C. C. Dumas approved of that portion of the report being referred back to the Committee, rather than that the subject should be discussed.

Comp. Duncan, Dist. G. Supt., British Burmah, said, from his experience of Freemasonry in the Colonies, the subject was one of great importance, and it demanded the serious attention of Grand Chapter. Companions at home knew nothing of the difficulties which surrounded Freemasonry in the colonies, and more especially the regular working of Royal Arch Chapters, and he did not believe that Grand Chapter would throw unnecessary difficulties in the way of the Companions in the Colonies, who desired to carry out Royal Arch Masonry in a strictly constitutional manner. Some of the regulations were obscure, and involved doubt in the minds of brethren who, at a great distance, had no opportunity of consulting the Grand Scribe whenever a difficulty arose, and he trusted that all questions affecting Colonial Chapters more especially, would be thoroughly dealt with by the Committee of Grand Chapter, and proper consideration shewn to the difficulties of Colonial Companions.

Comp. J. L. Thomas said he agreed entirely with the remarks that had fallen from the acting Grand J., and from his experience in Antigua, great difficulty had been found to exist, arising from the exclusion of Irish and Scotch Companions from the third chair, although they had been duly installed Masters of craft lodges, and had performed all the duties of W.M.

Comp. Barron also suggested that the matter should not be further discussed, but be referred back to the Committee for their consideration. The Grand Scribe E. again interposed, and suggested the technical difficulties which he, as the executive officer of Grand Chapter, saw in carrying out any resolution of that meeting which would be contrary to the resolution carried on the 3rd August last, and confirmed at the quarterly convocation in November last, which must be carried out by him in its integrity, but he suggested that notice of motion might be given at the next convocation of Grand Chapter.

The M.E.Z. having been appealed to for an expression of his views on the subject, agreed that it would be better that it should be referred back for consideration; and as two amendments to that effect had been proposed, that proposed by Comp. Barron, and seconded by Comp. Fenn, was then put by the M.E.Z., when there were thirteen for the amendment, and two against it, therefore that portion of the report of the Committee comprised within the last three paragraphs was referred back.

It was then moved that the report of the Committee except the last three paragraphs be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes; this was carried, and Grand Chapter was then closed.

METROPOLITAN.

MOUNT LEBANON CHAPTER (No. 73).—The election meeting of this chapter was held on the 26th ult., at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, Comp. J. W. Avery, M.E.Z. opened the chapter at 6 p.m., when the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. There being no candidates in attendance the companions proceeded to the election of M.E.Z., the choice of the companions resting on Comps. Thos. J. Sabine, 2nd Principal; John Trickett, C.E., was elected H, and Comp. Meyer Loewenstark, J. Comp. A. D. Loewenstark, was for the seventh time re-elected Treasurer; J. Thomas Moss, S.N.; and E. Harriss, P.S. A P.Z. Jewel was voted to the retiring Z, for his efficiency and courtesy whilst presiding, and the chapter subscribed for three shares in the Southwark Masonic Charitable Association in

order to enable it to become a Life Governor of the three Masonic Institutions. The Association, which was founded by the members of the chapter, now numbers thirty-four subscribers; and, two Life Governorships were drawn for, on this their first ballot, one of which fell to the lot of a subscriber, who was educated in one of the Institutions, and who out of a sense of deep gratitude, thus becomes qualified as a Life Governor of that Institution.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Chapter* (No. 471.)—The usual monthly meeting took place on Friday last, and as it was the proper time for the election of principals and officers there was a very good attendance. Several Royal Arch Masons from the Newport Garrison were present, and they met with a hearty and Masonic welcome. The M.E.Z. Companion Hellyer was in the chair, and the following appointments were made for the ensuing year:—Comp. Oliver, Z.; Fox, H.; Gratte, J.; Jockford, Treasurer; Williams, Assistant Secretary; Randall, E.; Tweedy, N.; Lawrence, Princ. Soj.; Fothergill, Organist; McFee and Fletcher, Janitors. The installation will take place on the last Friday in the present month, when the Comps. will dine together at the King's Head Hotel. Four new candidates for exaltation were proposed, and the Lodge was closed in harmony at about 9.45 p.m.

MARK MASONRY.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Keystone Lodge* (No. 109).—The usual bi-monthly meeting was held last Monday, and in the absence, through illness of the R.W., the P.G.M., who is W.M. of this lodge. Bro. Daniel Roberts, of Cardiff, G.S.B., in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masens took the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot took place when Bro. Egbert Horlick, of Tredegar, Secretary to the St. George's Lodge, 1098, was unanimously admitted, and that brother being in attendance, was advanced as a M.M.M., the ceremony being most correctly rendered by the W.M. It was then proposed and carried that a congratulatory address be presented to the W.M., Colonel Lyne on his appointment as R.W. Prov. G.M., for Monmouthshire, and a similar address was ordered to be presented to the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Homfray, of Tredegar, (also a member of 109). An address of condolence was directed to be sent to Bro. Fothergill, S.O., on the death of his wife, and another to Bro. Charles D. Phillips, on the death of his wife. A vote of thanks was recorded to Bro. Roberts for presiding, and to two officers from the Bannock, M.M.M., for their visit this evening, and the lodge was closed in harmony at 8.40 p.m.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The General Committee of this Institution met on Thursday Jan. 26th., at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. J. A. Rucker, V.P., in the chair. There were also present Bros. Thomas W. White, F. Walters, Major J. Creton, H. Massey, and E. H. Patten, (Secretary.)

On the motion of Bro. Major Creton, seconded by Bro. F. Walters, the allowance to the medical attendant of the Institution was increased from £25 to £40 per annum.

The House Committee having recommended that, in consequence of the great attention paid by the medical attendant to the inmates of the School during the late severe illness which has prevailed there, a gratuity of 100 guineas be presented to him.

Bro. Major Creton proposed, and Bro. Thomas W. White, seconded, that the General Committee recommend the grant to the Quarterly Court; which was carried unanimously.

Bro. Patten informed the Committee that the Directors of the Crystal Palace Company and the Lessees of Covent Garden Theatre had most kindly invited the pupils of the Masonic Girls' School to the entertainments at those establishments, but that the House Committee, taking into consideration the epidemic which had lately prevailed at the Institution, had deemed it advisable, though reluctantly, to decline the invitation. At the same time, however, they begged to tender their warmest thanks for the kindness offered.

One candidate was put on the list for the October election, and the Committee then adjourned.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

THE WEST LANCASHIRE MASONIC BALL.

The annual ball, and the second of its kind given under the favour of the Freemasons of Preston, took place on Wednesday evening the 18th inst. The assembly was exceeded by its predecessor; but here anything like adverse comparison must cease, and room be made for varied proofs wherein superiority might, if need arose, be asserted. Possibly the only ground on which any weighty regret could be based, would be that the special object of charity regarded by the brethren in their efforts this year,—the Infirmary, will benefit less largely than did the Soup Kitchen a twelvemonth ago: but even here it would be hasty to judge by appearances.

The whole of the building, from basement to roof-tree, was for the nonce handed over to the committee for the purpose of the assembly. At the head of the first broad flight of stairs were displayed the four principal banners of the Royal Arch Chapter, and on each side downwards to the doors were the symbolical representations of the Twelve Tribes of Israel arranged on one side, and on the other the twelve bannerets of the Royal Arch Degree, intermixed with which were those of the Knights Templar. The banners of the Lodge of Unanimity, No. 113, and of the Lodge of Concord, No. 343—the two Preston Lodges of the Order—found effective places also in the display; and groups of fine ferns exhibited their graceful fronds, in pleasant relief to the richer hues of the painted emblems. Splendid contributions in the way of natural ornamentation had been made by Lord Skelmersdale, Lieut.-Col. Birchall, and Mr. W. Troughton. From *Iathom House* had come a fine donation of camellias and azaleas for the supper table, of which more anon: Mr. Troughton had furnished some of his choicest specimens of tropical and flowering ferns, and from Ribbleson Hall an abundance of similar treasures from the conservatory had been generously forwarded. The guests were received by ranks of the brethren, in the costumes of their several degrees, stationed on the stairs; and high above was lodged the band of the 1-12th Regiment, who greeted the visitors with martial music as they were sat down in rapid succession. As last year, the supper-room, for which important department the Exchange news room had been set apart, was opened to the public during the afternoon; and thus by a side stroke of charitable business an acceptable harvest of superfluous coppers was reaped in favour of the Blind Institute. Masonic Benevolence is large-hearted and diffusive. At half-past four o'clock the tables were passed under review by a stream of visitors. Mr. Robinson, of the King's Arms, Church Street, supplied the refreshments, and had certainly entered on his duties spiritedly, and as spiritedly carried them out. Mr. Robinson had laden the couple of hundred feet of tabling erected for him by his brother craftsman, Mr. Richard Jackson, of Cannon Street, with an endless variety of things so good as to leave no room for further gratification; and under the control of Mess-Sergeant Brown, of the 3rd Royal Lancashire Militia. Handsome presents of game had been made by Lord Skelmersdale; Sir Thomas George Fermor Hesketh, Bart., M.P., Rufford; Edward Hermon, Esq., M.P.; J. T. Clifton, Esq., Lytham Hall; Lawrence Rawstron, Esq., Hulton Hall; and T. H. Miller, Esq., Singleton. The "bill of fare" comprised pretty well everything that could be brought into apposition of a character comestible. There was a liberal display of plate, lent by Mr. Whitehead and other friends; and the show of ferns and cut flowers was superb. The centre table, for the convenience of service, bore several finely raised ferns of the larger kinds; and a well-grown acacia, a true Masonic plant, lent by Lieut.-Col. Birchall, amongst his other contributions, added greatly to the beauty of the scene. Specifi-

mens of the choice tropical and hardy ferns—including the variegated reed or bamboo fern, maiden hair, fennel, flowering heath, and winter cherry—were arrayed at intervals, their dark green foliage and graceful form being set off admirably by the cut flowers. We have surely said enough to show that this prosaic matter of eating and drinking had been invested with poetical surroundings; and that the spectacle should have been eagerly visited is not a matter for especial wonder. Over 400 persons paid for the pleasure of it alone.

The guests numbered about 300, and there was a pretty fair balance of the sexes. Above stairs, the committee-room was set apart as a tea and coffee room; the Council chamber as a promenade and card room; the Mayor's parlour was devoted to the purpose of the Committee, and the ladies were accommodated with the two retiring rooms over the main entrance. Overhead, the members of the Order found a hat and coat room; and beneath, the office of the Borough Treasurer offered accommodation to non-Masons. The company began to arrive about half-past eight o'clock, and up to half-past ten these arrivals were continuous. Dancing was opened near the hour of nine. Bro. C. J. Yate's band occupied the right wing of the orchestra, and the band of the 1-12th the left; and the music was played alternately. All the members of the order wore Masonic clothing. The company adjourned to the supper room in relays, from about half-past eleven to near two o'clock; and their comfort and delectation was administered to with celerity, without inordinate bustle and, as an inevitable consequence, confusion. The *coup d'œil* at the height of the ball was of rich and varied colouring. A few of the guests left soon after two o'clock; but for very long after that the great majority remained; and it was well nigh four before the merry scamper "Sir Roger" told that the Masonic Ball of 1871 had run its happy length:

FESTIVAL BALL OF ST. JOHN'S LODGE, STOW.

The annual ball of St. John's Lodge, No. 216, came off on the evening of Friday, January 27th, in the Town Hall, Stow, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, under the superintendence of Bro. Gerrard, of Torsouce. The materials of ornamentation were evergreens and artificial flowers, which, wrought into festoons, were hung gracefully athwart the hall, crossing at the Gasaliers, and also formed into panels on the walls, the centres being filled up with Masonic emblems &c. The whole, with the gay dresses of the ladies, and the full Masonic costumes of the gentlemen, had a very pleasing effect, under the brilliant gas-light.

Between eight and nine o'clock the carriages brought in the ladies, and the lodge having been opened in another room, by R. W. M. Kerr, at half-past nine the stewards ushered in the M. W. Grand Substitute Master of Scotland, Bro. Henry Inglis, of Torsouce, who expressed pleasure at being again present at the annual ball of 216. The proceedings were then opened by him leading off the Grand March. There were about forty couples present, including brethren from Grand and other lodges, Edinburgh, Portobello, London, &c., and ladies from Edinburgh, Galashiels, Laner, and district around Stow. Bros. Middleton, Duff, and Harper acted as Masters of Ceremonies, and under their excellent arrangements, with the exception of an interval for supper and refreshment of tea, &c., dancing in a very harmonious and enjoyable manner, was kept up till an advanced hour in the morning, when the lodge was closed. The music was provided by the Messrs. Kennedy's Quadrille Band.

NEW EDUCATIONAL SENSATIONS.—Education is made much of here. Some of the schools are very fine. I went over the Lincoln 'grammar,' or, as we should call it, 'national' school, though the scholars remain longer than they do with us. It has more than 1,000 boys in attendance, and is divided into ten grades or standards, the lowest being the tenth. All but two are taught by mistresses. It is curious to see strapping young fellows

of sixteen, with an incipient moustache, quietly obedient to a woman. The discipline is excellent. I never saw a school in better order. The writing of the tenth grade, where the children were six or seven years of age, was very good. The attainments of the scholars, so far as I could examine into them in two visits, where about equal to those of a very good national school in England. I asked one of the mistresses what work most of the children in her 'grade' were intended for. 'Work!' she replied, 'we don't work here, we use our brains.'—[From the *People's Magazine*, of February, 1870, an excellent Publication.—Ed. F.M.]

Poetry.

A BROKEN LINK.

BY BERTIE LAWRENCE.

Down to the margin of the shadowy river,
Thy feet are pressing now;
And the bright glory from the upper temple
Is resting on thy brow.
Soon shall the hand that mine so oft has folded
Sweep o'er a harp of gold;
And thy worn feet, with all their wanderings ended,
Rest in the Master's fold.

But I shall be so lonely! When the morning
Breaks up in one glad wave,
How dim its light shall seem, because its shining
Falleth across thy grave!
And when the stars are dead along the brow of Heaven,
And gathering tempests moan,
My heart shall echo back their bitter wailing,
For I shall be alone.

No more my friend. The angel bands have won thee,
And far from earth's regret,
In the bright city with its many mansions,
Thou wilt at last forget—
Forget the heart that in its holiest holy
Enshrined thee all life's years
Forget the eyes so weavily uplooking
Through mists of gathering tears.

And yet farewell; I will not seek to keep thee,
But let life's severed bands
Draw my oppressed and fainting spirit nearer
Its house not made with hands.
And when beside my lonely heartstone kneeling,
I hush my heart for prayer,
Nearer shall seem that bright, celestial city,
Because thou dwellest there.

"THE FIRST GREAT LIGHT IN MASONRY."

"This sacred book upon the altar,
The first great light in Masonry,
Whose glory ages cannot alter,
It shines through vast eternity.

"This sacred book is Heaven's express
To guide us to the lodge above,
In paths of truth and righteousness,
Through faith, and hope, and perfect love.

"For ever be this book my guide,
It bids me in this lodge to-night
To pray the peace of God to abide
On East and West, on left and right.

"Now to the East I lift mine eyes,
Where is enthroned our Solomon,
Dispensing knowledge which I prize,
The wisdom of King David's son.

"With reverence I shall take a place
With fraters of the mystic tie,
Humbly permitted by His grace
With them to raise the prayerful eye."

LIST OF LODGE MEETINGS &c., FOR WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 11TH, 1871.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS.

Monday, February 6th.

LODGES.—Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle, Tavern, Leadenhall Street; Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall; Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street; United Lodge of Prudence, Albion, Aldersgate Street; St. John's, Radley's Hotel, Bridge Street, Blackfriars; St. Luke's, Pier Hotel, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea; Joppa, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street; Union, Freemasons' Hall; Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.

Tuesday, February 7th.

Colonial Board at 3.

LODGES.—Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, Freemasons' Hall; Albion, Freemasons' Hall; Old Dundee, London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street; Temple, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street; Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall; Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street; St. James', Leather Market Tavern, New Weston Street, Bermondsey; Grosvenor, Victoria Station, Metropolitan District Railway Station; Pimlico; Duke of Edinburgh, New Globe Tavern, Bow Road, Golden Rule, Great Western Hotel, Bayswater; Royal Standard, Marquess Tavern, Canonbury.—CHAPTERS.—Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall; Temperance, White Swan Tavern, Deptford; United Pilgrim, Horn's Tavern, Kennington.

Wednesday, February 8th.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institute at 3.

LODGES.—Fidelity, Freemasons' Hall; Enoch, Freemasons' Hall; Union Waterloo, Masonic Hall, William Street, Woolwich; Kent, Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham Street; Vitruvian, White Hart, College Street, Lambeth; Justice, White Swan Tavern, High Street, Deptford; Pilgrim, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street; Belgrave, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street; Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett Road, Limehouse; Montefiore, Freemasons' Hall; MacDonald, Head Quarters, 1st Surrey Volunteer Corps, Brunswick Road, Camberwell; Beacontree, Private Rooms, Leytonstone; Hervey, Iron School Room, Moore Park, Walham Green; St. John of Wapping, Gun Tavern, High Street, Wapping.

Thursday, February 9th.

LODGES.—R. Athelstan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street; Regularity, Freemasons' Hall; Friendship, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street; Bank of England, Radley's Hotel, Bridge Street, Blackfriars; Polish National, Freemasons' Hall; Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street; Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Dock, West Ham; Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sisters Road, Holloway.—CHAPTER.—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.

Friday, February 10th.

LODGES.—Brittania, Freemason's Hall; Caledonian, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street; Bedford, Freemason's Hall; Domatic, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.—CHAPTERS.—Friendship, Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's.

Saturday, February 11th.

LODGES.—London, Freemasons' Hall; Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall; Granite, Freemasons' Hall.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF
INSTRUCTION.

Monday, February 6th.

LODGES.—Temple, Old George, St. Mary Axe, E.C.; Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-rd, Deptford; St. James's Union, Swan Tavern, Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.; Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st.; Crystal Palace, City Arms Tavern, West-sq., South, wark; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham; Eastern Star, Royal Ho., Burdett-rd., Mile-end-rd.; Camden, Adelaide Tavern, Haverstock Hill; Tower Hamlets' Engineers, Duke of Clarence, Commercial Road, E.; Union Waterloo, King's Arms, Woolwich; Old Concord, Turk's Head, Motcomb, Street, Belgrave Square; Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Fenchurch Street.

Tuesday, February 7th.

LODGES.—Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metrop. Dist. Rail., Victoria Station; Domatic, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell; Jordan, Alwyne Castle, Canonbury; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John's Tavern, St. John's-wood; Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney; Royal Albert, White Hart, Abchurch-lane; Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich; City London, Shepherd and Flock Tavern, Bell-alley, Moorgate-s New Wandsworth, Freemasons' Ho., New Wandsworth British Oak, Silver Lion Tavern, Pennyfields, Poplar.—CHAPTER.—Metropolitan, Price's Portugal Ho., Fleet-st. Mount Zion, White Hart, Bishopsgate-st.; Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's Lane.

Wednesday, February 8th.

LODGES.—Confidence, Railway Tavern, London-st.; United Strength Bull and Gate, Kentish Town; New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton; St. Mark's, Mawby Arms, Mawby-st., S. Lambeth; Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham-Rye, Temperance in the East, George the Fourth, Catherine-st., Poplar; Prosperity, Gladstone Tavern, Bishopsgate-street; Royal Union, Bro. Duddy's, Winsley-st., Oxford-street.—CHAPTER.—St. James's Union, Swan Tavern, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square; Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall.

Thursday, February 9th.

LODGES.—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 Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich; Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-st., Berkeley-square; Tranquility, Sugar Loaf Tavern, Great St. Helen's, E.C.; Whittington, Crown Hotel, 41, High Holborn; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tavern, Deptford; Burdett Counts, Approach Tavern, Victoria-park, at 7; City of London, Shepherd and Flock Tavern, Bell Alley; St. John's, Hollybush Tavern, Hampstead; Merchant Navy, Jamaica Tavern, W. India Dock Road, Poplar.—CHAPTER.—Joppa, Prospect of Whitby Tavern, 57, Wapping-wall.

Friday, February 10th.

LODGES.—St. Luke's, Pier Hotel, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea, Temperance, Victoria Tavern, Victoria-road, Deptford, Unions (Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.), F.M.H.; United Pilgrims, Horn's Tavern, Kennington; Westbourne, the Grapes, Duke-st., Manchester-square; Wellington, Lord Duncan Tavern, Broadway, Deptford; Florence Nightingale, Freemasons' Tavern, Woolwich; Ranelagh, Royal Sussex Hotel, Broadway, Hammersmith; Belgrave, Duke of Wellington, Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; St. James's, Gregorian Arms, Jamaica-row, Bermondsey; Doric, Three Cranes, Mile End-rd.; Victoria, Anderton's Ho., Fleet-st.; Hervey, Britannia, Walham-green; Metropolitan; Price's Portugal Ho., Fleet-st.; Charter House, Hat and Feathers Tavern, 27, Goswell-rd.; Robert Burns, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st.; Rose of Denmark, White Hart, Barnes; Lily, Greyhound, Ho., Richmond; Stability, Guildhall Tavern, 33, Gresham Street; Royal Standard, Marquess Tavern; Canonbury.—CHAPTERS.—Domatic, Fisher's Restaurant, Victoria Station.

Saturday, February 11th.

CHAPTERS.—Mount Sinai, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street; Domatic, Horns, Kennington.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

REPORTS of Lion and Lamb Lodge of Mark Masters, and several others, arrived too late for insertion, but will be given next week.

T.B. We have received your letter, with others, upon the subject of "Masonic Innovations," and, from the insertion of the several letters and articles recently appearing in the Magazine upon that subject, you will see that we are desirous it should have every publicity, and be kept prominently before our readers.

A COLONIAL SUBSCRIBER.—You are wrongly informed: the present Grand Master of the Order in France is Bro. Babaud Lambiere. General Mellinet retired from the Grand Mastership on the 5th June last, having filled the chair since the 9th June, 1865. The *Rite* you mention is not recognised, Inquire of the S.G.C. 33, Golden Square, W.