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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1871.

MASONIC CHARITY.

Masonic charity, or love, is the law of human association. The common origin of the human family proclaims that law to be supreme. A chain of dependence upon each other binds all of humanity. There are destroying elements beneath the surface of this earthly life. The mystery of evil is unceasingly at work. There is everywhere need of the redeeming virtues. Man can only triumph over vice through justice, mercy and truth, and these heroic virtues are matured through labour, and trial, and pain.

Although true charity, as affirmed, is found in the exercise of every virtue, it must have a pure and sanctified motive. The wants and weakness of our nature demand it; the mutual relations we sustain in the world, demand it; our hopes and our fears in the solemn future demand it; the prevalence of sin, and misery and death throughout all time demand it. But above this, above all, the love of the Great Architect of the Universe should constrain us. Gazing out upon the ever moving displays of His perfections in the universe, lifting one after another the sublime veils of nature, or beholding the glowing pictures of revelation, that come like photographs from Heaven, we are lost in adoration of the God of Nature, and naturally exclaim, "Not unto us, but unto Thy name be the glory."

Masonic charity must be exhibited without

stint or measure. As the earth is full of want and woe, as disappointment flings its ghastly shadows upon every human heart, as the cataracts of calamity ravage every pleasant vale, as the sinews of toil are often withered by affliction, as an undertone of anguish burdens every breeze, the wisdom that is from above requires that we should be "full of mercy and good fruits."

Again, is man a creature of infirmity? is he liable to misapprehension and mistakes? Is he addicted to folly and foibles? Charity, as taught in our Masonic lessons, comes in like an angel of mercy, and constrains us to bear each other's burdens, and so fulfil the law. She speaks to you through the Great Light of Freemasonry. Hearken: "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good, do good unto all men, but especially to the household of faith. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemingly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh not evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth." "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" is the summary of a Freemason's duty to his brother, and to all mankind.

Charity teaches Craftsmen to promote the happiness of each other. Our hearts should be the sacred lodges of our confiding brothers. We should warn a brother of approaching danger, and support his falling fortunes; and when his character is unjustly assailed, and the fangs of evil gather around him, charity leaves him not bleeding by the wayside, but pours in freely the wine and oil of consolation, and bears him safely to the home of mercy. Thus, in relieving the destitute, we manifest the true spirit, the leading characteristic of charity. Every step of our journey through life we meet with occasions of usefulness. There, in that rickety tenement, or in that obscure neighbourhood, lives a man who is straining the sinews of industry to gain a scanty subsistence for his family. He rises early to his toil, but misfortunes will come. His children are doomed to ignorance. His wife is broken down by care and affliction, and yet she would drain out her heart's blood for the welfare of her family. Ghastly disease now lays the strong man low. Every moment of his labour is needed for those dependent on him. But many days of sickness

are appointed to him. A burning fever is coursing through all his veins; but a hotter fire is scorching his soul with agony—the cries of his children for bread! Death, yes, worse than death—death by starvation—is staring his little ones in the face! The clammy moisture thickens upon his brow. His last hour approaches. What glad sound is that which revives him? what voice is that which assures him his loved ones shall not want? It is Masonic Charity that has found him in the depth of his obscurity. He dies in peace, and is buried in hope.

Silently and unobtrusively the spirit of charity pursues her way, drying the orphan's tears, and causing the widow's heart to sing for joy. The poor rise up and call her blessed, and ministering angels seem to dwell with man. While ambition would roll his chariot wheels over the dearest rights of man to gain the dazzling summit of fame; while avarice wrings the last mite from the suffering poor, and clothes him in the very shreds of want and agony; while envy poisons every sunny nook, and tortuous suspicion trails its slime over the loveliest flowers of social joy, and melancholy would wrap the earth in a winding sheet of woe, amid the strife of elements and the war of revolution, when charity, like a scared bird, would plume its flight for a more congenial clime, where does it find a home? In our sacred retreats of brotherly love, and in the hearts of the fraternity.

We call on all Freemasons to cultivate this generous virtue. Let not the sigh of distress fall coldly on the Mason's ear. Let not the Masonic heart be insensible to the misfortunes of others. Wait not until squalidness shall plead, and destitution impels to crime! Wait not until shrunken forms and goblin cheeks shall meet your charity. Wait not until the glassy look of the dying shall reproach you! To cheer the sorrows of a brother is a work of humanity; to relieve the miseries of mankind is to imitate the goodness of the Great Architect of the Universe, but to aggravate the sufferings even of an enemy is the dread folly of a fiend. Brethren of the Mystic Tie, we and trust that you will never forget that Charity is the greatest of the Masonic virtues; for though Faith may be lost to sight, and Hope ends in fruition, yet Charity extends beyond the grave, even to the broad realms of Eternity,—Pomeroy's Democrat."

MASONIC CURIOSITIES, No. 1.

BY A MASONIC INQUIRER.

Continued from page 482, Vol. xxiii.

But I must not trespass too much on your patience, and shall therefore, though unwillingly, pass over the building of Solomon's Temple, a building where God himself was the Architect, and which, to all Masons is so very particular that 'tis almost unpardonable to neglect it.

But that with the repairs of it by Josiah, rebuilding by Zerubbabel and Herod, to the final destruction by Titus Vespasian, together with the history of the Grecian and Roman Orders and Architects, the Gothick intrusion over all, and its late resurrection and present growing greatness may be subjects sufficient for several discourses; which, since I have ventured to break the ice, I hope some abler hand will carry on.

I shall now, in conclusion, beg leave to subjoin some observations and apply them more particularly to our antient Lodge and to our present meeting at this solemnity. And here I know you'll excuse me from unveiling our Mysteries, though I am speaking to my brethren, when you see the reason I dare not plain in my hand.

Since, as has been said, Human Society has always been so useful, it cannot be wondered at, that this of ours should have so very ancient an original. I have already shown you that Masonry is the oldest science the world has produced, the first, the earliest ages employ'd their whole study and industry upon; and for this reason the fundamental rules of this art have been handed down from age to age, and very justly thought fit to be made a mystery of. A Mystery, however, that has something in it apparent to the whole world, and which alone is sufficient to answer all the objections that malice or ignorance can throw or has urged against us; of which, to mention no more, our three great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth to one another, are very shining instances. A Foundation laid in Virtue by the strictest Geometrical Rules, is a Point of such Moment, that each Line describes its Strength and Stability, and a Mason must have a very superficial, and far from a solid Judgment, that can doubt of its Duration to the End of all Things.

The Pen, the Pencil, and the Trowel, have always been thought by the greatest Monarchs the World has produc'd, the properest Instruments to

convey their Names and Actions to the latest Posterity. The two former are certainly capable of flattering either their Vices or their Persons; but the honest *Trowel*, as the best and most durable Register, must be allowed to bid the fairest for eternizing of them, and has in their erecting Cities, Castles, Palaces, Amphitheatres, &c., brought down for many Ages, and does not only convince us at present of their distinct Genius, Riches, Religion, Politicks, and Power, but their very Names have been stamp'd, and are still current among us; for Instance, *Constantinople*, *Cesarea*, and *Alexandria*.

What Wonder after this, that so many Kings, Princes, and Noblemen, have at all Times honoured this Society with their Peculiar Patronage and Protection, have taken it as an Honour to have been initiated into the mysterious Part of it, and thought it no Degradation for a Mason to say he was a Brother and Fellow to a King?

Europe came much later to the Knowledge of this Art, than the Eastern Parts of the World; and this Island, as far as I can find, the latest of all: For tho' by our Records we learn it was brought into *France* and *Germany* by * one who was actually at the building of *Solomon's Temple*, yet it was long after that, when † *St. Alban*, the Proto-Martyr of *England*, along with Christianity, introduced Masonry. To the *Romans*, indeed, our Ancestors owe the Origin of useful Learning amongst them, which made a very good Exchange for the Loss of their Freedom; for *Cæsar* in his Commentary tells us, that the *Britains* had no walled Towns, nor Houses, but only fortified their Dwellings with Woods and Marshes: But when after that, our first *Saxon* Kings, having thrown off the barbarous Ignorance of *Paganism*, were by the Light of the Gospel more civiliz'd, and shewn the Usefulness of Arts and Sciences, this of ours answering the necessary End of Self-Preservation, as well as Grandeur and Devotion, must be allowed to be first sought after; and tho' Old *Verulam*, since ‡ call'd *St. Alban's*, may justly claim Precedency as the first-built Town in *Britain*, yet you know we can boast that the first Grand Lodge ever held in *England*, was held in this City; where§ *Edwin*, the first Christian King of the

Northumbers, about the Six Hundredth Year after *Christ*, and who laid the Foundation of our|| Cathedral, sat as Grand Master. This is sufficient to make us dispute the Superiority with the Lodges at *London*; But as nought of that Kind ought to be amongst so amicable a Fraternity, we are content they enjoy the Title of Grand Master of *England*; but the *Totius Angliæ* we claim as our undoubted Right.

And here I have a fair opportunity to enlarge upon those Encomiums due to our Present Grand Master, whose Regard for his Office, Proficiency in the Science, and His Great Munificence shewn to the Society, can never be forgotten; *Menat alta mente repostum*: We must all acknowledge him to be the Foundation-Stone of its Present and Growing Grandeur.

But His Command prevents me from proceeding in this.

Mr. Deputy Master has likewise executed his Office throughout the whole Year with great Pains and Industry; and every particular Member of the Lodge owes him all imaginable Gratitude for it.

For my *Brother Warden* and myself, I leave our Conduct to your own Judgment: Our Accounts have been examin'd; and we hope we have not any Ways wrong'd the Great Trust you repos'd in us.

A Word of Advice, or two, and I have done. To You, my Brethren, the Working Masons, I recommend carefully to peruse our Constitutions: There are in them excellent Rules laid down for your Conduct, and I need not insist upon them here.

To you, that are of other Trades and Occupations, and have the honour to be admitted into this Society, I speak thus: First Mind the Business of your Calling: Let not *Masonry* so far get the Ascendant, as to make you neglect the support of yourselves and Families. You cannot be so absurd as to think that a Taylor, when admitted, a Free Mason, is able to build a Church; and for that Reason your own Vocation ought to be your most important Study. False Brethren, 'tis true,

§ Edwin's Chief Seat of Residence was at Derventio, now call'd Auldby, six Miles from York, Rapin p. 162.

|| A Church of Wood was hastily run up at York for the new Converts, which were very numerous. Shortly after Edwin laid the Foundation of a Church of Free Stone, but finish'd by Oswald, his Successor. Rapin p. 246. Bede, L. 2, c. 13.

* Ninus.

† This from an old Record preserv'd in our Lodge.

‡ Camden.

may build Castles in the Air; but a good Mason works upon no such fickle Foundation: So square your Actions, as to live within Compass: Be obedient to the Officers chose to govern the Lodge: consider they are of your own appointing, and are trusted with an unlimited Power by you. As well henceforwards, as this Solemn Day, let each salute his Brother with a cheerful Countenance; that as long as our feet shall stand upon this earthly Foundation, we may join Heart and Hand, and, as it were, with one Voice issuing from the the same Throat, declare our Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, to one another. After which, and a strict observance of our Obligations, we can be in no danger from the Malice of our Enemies without the Lodge, nor *in Perils amongst False Brethren within*.

And now, Gentlemen, I have reserved my last Admonitions for You: My Office, as I said before, must excuse my Boldness, and your Candour forgive my Impertinence. But I cannot help telling you, That a Gentleman without some knowledge of Arts and Sciences, is like a fine Shell of a House, without suitable Finishing or Furniture: The Education of most of you has been Noble, if an Academical one may be called so; and I doubt not but your Improvements in Literature are equal to it: But if the Study of Geometry and Architecture might likewise be admitted, how pleasant and beneficial they would be, I do not presume to inform you.

—Ingenuas didiciffe fideliter artes,
Emollit mores, ned finit esse feros,

says *Ovid*. And it is likewise said, That a Man who has a taste for Musick, Painting, or Architecture, is like one that has another Sense, when compared with such as have no Relish for those Arts. 'Tis true, by Signs, Words and Tokens, you are put upon a Level with the meanest Brother; but then you are at liberty to exceed them, as far as a superiour Genius and Education will conduct you. I am creditably inform'd, that in most Lodges in *London*, and several other Parts of this Kingdom, a Lecture on some Point of Geometry or Architecture is given at every Meeting. And why the *Mother Lodge* of them all shou'd so far forget her own Institutions cannot be accounted for, but from her extreme old age. However, being now sufficiently awaken'd and reviv'd by the comfortable Appearance of so many worthy Sons, I must tell you, that she expects

that every Gentleman, who is called a Free Mason, shou'd not be startled at a Problem in Geometry, a Proposition in *Euclid*, or at least be wanting in the History and just distinctions of the five Orders of Architecture.

To sum all: Since we are so happily met to celebrate this Annual Solemnity, let neither *Dane* nor *Norman*, *Goth*, nor *Vandal*, start up to disturb the Harmony of it; that the World may hear and admire, that even at this critical Time all Parties are buried in Masonry; but let us so behave ourselves here and elsewhere, that the distinguishing Characteristicks of the whole Brotherhood may be to be called good Christians, Loyal Subjects, True Britons, as well as Free Masons.

MASONIC JOTTINGS.—No. 56.

By A PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

ACCESSION OF GEORGE I.—FREEMASONRY.

"A Correspondent" will find in Bro. Findel's book a statement of how matters stood in regard to Freemasonry when George the First ascended the throne.*

PRESUMPTION OF LAW.

With the information we possess, the presumption of law is that the Freemasonry of the four old London Lodges was before the Revival what it was after the Revival.

FUNDAMENTAL LAWS.

Brother, — The Revival Fundamental Laws were the ante-Revival Fundamental Laws as

* Bro. Findel, after stating that the York Lodge, and the Lodges in the South of England, which besides were by no means numerous, had scarcely resumed their former appearance, when they decreased to such a degree that there were indeed very few left, proceeds as follows:— "Thus matters stood with regard to Freemasonry, when, in the year 1714, George I. ascended the throne. There were notwithstanding many noble minds of all creeds, and differing in their religious and political views, who, wearied with the fierce contest to which party spirit had given rise, were yearning for a haven of rest where they might find that repose and strength, which should fit them for a superior sphere of activity. Besides the accepted brethren amongst the Freemasons would doubtless feel most sensibly the danger threatening the Institution which had been promoted by them, and would cherish the fervent wish to reform and reorganise it in accordance with the spirit of the age."

revised by Anderson, and slightly amended by the Revival Committee.

SPECULATIVE MASONRY COMING INTO EXISTENCE.

The mind which knows not that Religion is a necessary ingredient in Speculative Masonry, will never comprehend its coming into existence.

DR. PLOT'S SOURCES.

As to two sources from which Dr. Plot obtained his information respecting Freemasonry "A Correspondent" may look at a note in Bro. Findel's History, page 125, First Edition.

THE OLD WARRINGTON LODGE.

The old Warrington Lodge probably became extinct in Ashmole's life-time. The only Lodges known in 1717 to exist, both in the North and in the South of England were, I believe, the old York Lodge and the four old London Lodges. "A Correspondent" should write to Bro. H. B. White, to whom, it may be mentioned, that the Craft is indebted for many valuable communications to our periodical.

A BELIEF FIXED DEEP IN THE MIND.

The Mason finds that comparatively all in this world has dwindled into insignificance, when he has fixed deep in his mind the belief that the day must come on which the good done by him will be put into one scale of the balance and the evil done by him into the other scale, and the Great Architect of the Universe may say that the latter outweighs the former.

THE CHARGES OF 1738.

As respects Christianity, the Charges of 1738 made no innovation.—Old M.S.

THE HENRY VI. EXAMINATION.

Lessing was the first who declared it to be counterfeit.

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

"THE ORDER OF WHITE CROSS KNIGHTS."—"THE SAINT LAWRENCE DEGREE.

During a brief stay in Rochdale, I came across a local calender of Masonic meetings in East Lancashire, compiled under the authority of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Lodge, in which I find the above "Order" and "degree" included amongst the Masonic bodies meeting in Rochdale. Can any of your readers enlighten me as to the meaning of the so-called order of "White Cross Knights," and the "St. Lawrence Degree."

Have they, or either of them, any connection with the Order of Knights Templars? or, with any of the degrees or bodies, recognised by the Supreme Grand Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite? If not, under

what warrant, charter, or other authority do they claim to have a status: Perhaps one of the "Knights or Saints," will enlighten the darkness of "a Sinner."

HOW MASONRY CAME TO BE CALLED FREEMASONRY A PECULIARITY OF HUMAN NATURE.

"Undoubtedly in its origin Masonry was an association for the preservation and improvement of the useful arts; and in the first stages the name was a descriptive one. It came to be called Freemasonry, because those studying its sciences, and being on account of high attainment raised to the honourable position of masters of its arts, became free from the necessity of servile labour, and able to devote themselves to the study of those highest matters which have been treasured by them, and handed down to us."

It is a fact attributable to a peculiarity of human nature, that it is generally those who have possessed high qualifications, and made high attainment in any art or science, who have jealously guarded the results of their labours, and transmitted them only to those who, by a like apprenticeship to that fulfilled by themselves, had become fitted to appreciate and wisely to use the discovery of the masters. In an appeal to history, even the history of the last century, as well as to the customs of many countries in the present day will prove this; and we find the secrets of every Craft carefully treasured by its members and defended by law; none being permitted to engage in the practice of art or profession, until the term of apprenticeship or study had been faithfully served." From a bundle of Masonic Excerpts.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

LODGE BYE LAWS.

As a preface to the bye laws of a lodge in Cornwall we find the following:

"A RECOMMENDATION."

"In order to avoid as much as possible the unpleasantness attendant on the black-balling of a candidate, it is strongly recommended that any brother who shall have good grounds of opposition to any gentleman proposed for initiation, or to a brother wishing to join the lodge, shall previously to the ballot, communicate his objection privately to the Worshipful Master, so that the candidate's name may be withdrawn."

Does not this defeat the object for which the ballot was instituted?

To the following, which appears in the same bye laws, there can be no objection:

"A CAUTION."

"As it is of the highest importance that Masonic business should not be made the subject of loose or idle conversation out of the lodge, brethren are cautioned against so serious an error, and warned that to be found so transgressing will subject them to the severest strictures of all prudent brethren, and to be deemed unworthy members of the fraternity."

"DELTA."

SMYRNA,—R.A. CHAPTER.

A Chapter is about to be worked under a Scotch warrant, Comp. O'Connor, First Principal, Comp. Captain Stab, Second Principal.

SMYRNA JEWISH LODGE.

It is stated that a Hebrew Lodge is being constituted at Smyrna under an English warrant, Dr. Levy (who was educated in England), W.M. The Jews are the only community in Turkey not having a lodge. There are many Jewish Masons under the English, French and Italian jurisdictions.

BIBLE—PENTATEUCH—ALCORAN.

"In an address of Bro. De Witt Clinton which recently appeared in an American Masonic periodical, there is the ensuing passage:—"As Christian Masons acknowledging the divinity of Christ, we have introduced the Bible into our lodges, to manifest our belief in the doctrines which it inculcates. In like manner the followers of Moses and Mahomet may introduce into their Masonic assemblies their Pentateuch, and their Alcoran and yet the unity of Masonry would remain,—the essential principles upon which she moves would be the same. She would still declare to her votaries, venerate the popular religion of your respective countries; follow the lights of your understanding; forget not, however, the doctrines of the religion of Nature; adore the Great Architect of the Universe, acknowledge the immortal soul, and look forward to a state of future retribution, when the brethren of all religions and countries shall meet together and enjoy never failing bliss."—From a bundle of Masonic Excerpts.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

JEWISH PASSWORD.

According to a tale of the war, current among the Jews, there is a Jewish password. Two suttlers in the French army, they say, one a Christian, one a Jew, were brought before a French drum-head court-martial on the charge of being spies. Both were found guilty, the Christian was taken out and shot. As the Hebrew was going out he thought of saying a word. This he did. The major, who was president, said to the members this case demands inquiry. Further enquiry was made, and he was acquitted. The major was a Jew. The Jew suttler was saved, but the equally innocent Christian had already lost his life.

Do any of your readers know this Hebrew word?

THE MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL FORCES IN MAN.

Man has two forces working within him, the static and the dynamic. The static or moral force is always the same. The dynamic or intellectual never rests. Both these forces must be developed, or imperfection will result. The Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, and now the French, highly exalted and cultivated the intellect, while morals were considered to be of comparatively small importance, and the result in each case was disaster. The English, Americans, Germans, Dutch, Scandinavians, and Anglo-Saxons generally will be found to have done more for the progress of civilization than other nations, because in them was found to exist a more perfect balance of the two forces working in humanity.*—W. P. B.

ANCIENT AND MODERN MASONRY IN INDIA.

"Explore the rock-cut temples and monasteries of India, and then inspect the great railway works of the nineteenth century, the excavations of Adjunta and Ellora, and the excavations of the Bhoré Ghaut Tunnel. In both the patient labour of man—the might of the many handed multitude—is proclaimed by gigantic results. The actual workmen, the hewers, the carvers, the diggers, were probably well-nigh the same. They wore the same clothes; they ate the

* See page 311 of "The Building News" for October 28th 1870.

same food; they toiled in the same way; perhaps they were moved by the same common impulses. Knowing as little and caring as little about what they were making.* But how different the directing minds—how different the language in which the work of men's hands addresses itself to the imagination—how different are the sentiments which they inspire! The extremes of Mysticism and Utilitarianism are there to be seen in striking contrast." From "India Ancient and Modern," by Wm. Simpson.—W. P. BUCHAN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

Dear Sir and Brother,—There has lately been published elsewhere, a letter and statement from Bro. Yarker, in which, I think, he either says too much or does not say enough. As he is not afraid to publish the verdict, I think he ought to publish the offence of which he has been accused, and for which he is suffering Masonic punishment. The Supreme Grand Council cannot publish it, as if they did they might be liable to an action at law. Without giving any opinion as to this particular offence, or its punishment, I am glad to see that Masonic authority is a reality, and that it is not afraid to make itself felt; I wish the same zeal were extended to some other ruling Bodies, we should not then have to exclaim with the prophet Jeremiah, "O that my head were waters, &c."

* **

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

I send you a cutting from a newspaper recently sent to me. If you think our ceremonies ought to be trumpeted forth in this manner it is at your service for publication, my own opinion is that "W. P. L." should experience some of the discipline that has been administered to Bro. Yarker.

* **

"FREEMASONRY. — The first council of the United Rougeant and Coryton Chapter (Rose Croix) was held on Monday, the 5th inst., at 2 p.m., at Pople's New London Inn. Bro. Montagu came expressly from London to represent the Supreme Council for England and Wales, and (in the absence of Bro. Capt. C. Dick, who subsequently was present at the banquet) superintended the Exeter Council as M.W.S. Seven candidates' names were on the list for the honour of receiving the degree (18°) of Knight of the Pelican and Eagle and Sovereign Princes Rose Croix, namely, Bros. the Rev. J. Dickenson, M.A.; and P. Prov. G.C.; Rev. Nassau Clark; Davey; Rev. Dr. Wm. Langley Pope, D.D., Senior P.G.C., Devon, and Hine-Haycock. Amongst the official brethren were the Rev. R. Bowden, M.A., Rector of Stoke Gabriel, P. Prov. G.C., &c.; Dr. B. T. Hodge, of Sid-

* This last remark will apply in many cases to natives of our own island as well as to those of India, e.g., I have been told by a "Sculptor" that all he cared about in his work was simply to get it taken off his hands, and get the money for it. Small chance of any great artistic improvement wherever that spirit prevails, or holds sway. Yet who is to blame?—W. P. B.

mouth; W. S. Pasmore (Recorder), Exeter; Bayley, Esq., Wakefield House, Taunton; Dr. Woodford, Dickes, and others. After the conclusion of the mystically grand ceremonies, several gentlemen and ladies (from higher motives, it is to be hoped, than mere curiosity) were permitted to gratify themselves by taking a view of the Grand Council Chamber of Sovereigns and Princes. The extreme grandeur and simplicity of the Altar erected seemed to awe them into admiration; thirty-three lights, in the form of three equilateral triangles, placed thereon, served as an emblem of the Divine Trinity in Unity. The red rose, scattered in this winter season, in full beauty, with prodigality on the sacred floor, also served as a tribute of this day and generation, to England's characteristic gem of flowers, the other specimens of their tribe; (sic?) they were not left like Moore's to "pine on their stem," but died doing their duty, and Christians can do no more. —W.P.L.

MASONIC SAYINGS AND DOINGS ABROAD.

Ill Bro. F. J. Tisdall, Masonic Editor of "Pomero's Democrat," had a large and appreciative audience in attendance to his lecture at Mistletoe Lodge, Brooklyn. At the close of the lecture, Bro. Tisdell, on behalf of the brethren of the lodge, presented P. G. M. Evans, first W.M. of Mistletoe Lodge, with a magnificent gold-headed cane and a certificate of life membership.

Rev. Bro. Dr. Talmage's lecture at the Tabernacle, Brooklyn, New York, in aid of the Hall and Asylum Fund, was a grand success; two thousand deeply interested auditors were present. The next lecture will be early in February, at the same place, and will be an entirely new lecture, prepared for the occasion by Rev. Mr. Gallaher.

The "Masonic Tidings," says:—"We are indebted to Bro. Frederick Weber, 33 deg., for a copy of some ancient Masonic marks in his possession. They were copied from an old ecclesiastical structure in Youghal, Ireland; from old buildings and the old lodge book at Brechin, Scotland, from the Cathedral at Strasburgh, France; and from the Cathedral of Presburgh, in Hungary. They are very curious in form, embracing the triangle, the delta, the circle, the square, compasses, &c.

W. Bro. George F. Illsley, one of the choicest of good spirits and brightest of Masons, a practical printer, a man of sound sense and a brilliant writer, has purchased the right, title, and good-

will of the "Landmark," the only journal in New York devoted exclusively to Freemasonry.

The following we clip from the New York Dispatch, — "Mount Neboh Lodge, 257, has published in a neatly printed pamphlet, the details of its charitable operations for the last year, and favoured us with a copy. Will the brethren excuse us for saying that this publication had better been made only to the persons on whom the lodge benefactions fell? The spirit of Masonry does not admit of publicity in such matters, and shrinks from saying to the world how much has been given in her name. We notice that other lodges have exhibited a tendency in the same direction, but we trust that it may stop here. Give, brethren, with open hands, but let your giving be known only to yourselves and the recipients, and He who watches you in secret will reward you openly." Good sense every word of it. Bro. Simmons has hit the nail on the head.

It is not unfrequently heard among the less thoughtful brethren that Freemasonry is progressive. This, as so stated, is an error. If by progressive, is meant that novelties and mere attractions, an adaption to passing fancies, to the forms which futile through glittering superficialities assume, to supersede the real and true then Masonry never so contradicts its character and origin. It is the highest glory of the Order that it is steadfast and established. It resists innovations with a power which has never been overcome. Its landmarks are the towers of its strength. They may be assaulted, but never destroyed. Freemasonry is a citadel in which its mysteries are guarded by its usages and customs. They never sleep or slumber. The watchful eyes of these guardians are never closed. By the Masonic light, which is inextinguished, the approach by force or stealth of hostile aims is directed. Progress may assume to be a virtue, but progress not based on the severest application of admitted truths cannot enter our temple gates. The advancement we admit is proficiency required for further advancement. Let us reject the seductive influence of that progressive spirit which seeks to build by destroying the foundation. The world is full of such progress and its track is marked by the ruins it has made.—*Vaux.*

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.

A movement is on foot among the members of the Masonic Body, having for its object the presentation to Lord Dalhousie of a testimonial, in acknowledgment of the distinguished services he has rendered to the Craft during nearly half a century. It is proposed that the testimonial take the shape of a bust, in duplicate, one copy to be presented to the noble lord, and the other to be placed in Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh.

It is intended to erect a new Masonic Hall at Haversfordwest.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual Festival of this Institution, which provides annuities for aged and decayed Freemasons and old and distressed widows of deceased brethren, was celebrated on Friday night, the 3rd February, at the Freemasons' Tavern. The chair was to have been taken by the Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex, Colonel Francis Burdett; but the death of a near relative of that distinguished brother having just occurred, he was obliged at the last moment to obtain a substitute. This was found in the person of Bro. Samuel Tomkins, Grand Treasurer, who had the gratification of presiding over a very large assembly, of which above 100 Stewards for the occasion formed part. Among the best known brethren present were Bros. John Ll. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; Rev. C. J. Martyn, G. Chaplain; Major Creaton, P.G.D.; Benjamin Head, P.G.D.; G. Gumbleton, No. 10; S. L. Tomkins, P.G.D.; E. H. Ratten, P.G.S.B.; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; John Hervey, G.S.; G. Cox, P.G.D.; H. Browse, P.G.D.; Captain R. Cope, P.G.S.B.; E. Cox, V.P.; John Bodenham, Prov. G.D., Staff; F. A. Philbrick, V.P.; R. Spencer, V.P.; W. Hepworth Radley, P. Prov. G.W., Lincolnshire; H. G. Buss, J. Macrae Moir; G. M. E. Snow, V. P. and P. Prov. G.W. Kent; W. Farnfield Sec.; E. M. Hubbock, Treasurer of Stewards; J. A. Rucker,

President Board of Stewards; W. Smith, C.E., P.G.S., P.M. 33, &c.; James Brett, G.P.; John Coutts, Assist. G.P.; Wm. Ough, P.G.P.; F. Binckes, Sec. Boys' School; Henry Smith, Prov. G. Sec., West Yorkshire; M. Cooke, Sam. May; G. Fym; Barnes, P.M. No. 993; Joseph Tauner, P.M. (No. 101); George Kenning; James Terry, P.M. No. 228, &c.; A. D. Loewenstark; Ed. Baxter, P.G.S.; Wm. Sneed; Alfred Layton, S.W., No. 181; T. Cubitt, E. J. Barron, R. W. Little, William Clouston, J. T. Moss, Albert Glover, Israel Abrahams, H. Keeble, Thos. Meggy, F. Walters, A. A. Pendlebury, and W. Dodd.

There was in addition a large number of elegantly dressed ladies, who after the banquet graced the hall with their presence.

When the banquet had been partaken of, the anthem "For these and all Thy Mercies" was sung by the vocalists, and the toasts of the evening were proposed by the Chairman, who pre-faced them by requesting the indulgence of the Brethren for himself, as, through a family bereavement of Colonel Burdett, that Brother had been obliged to retire from the chairmanship of this festival, and at the last moment to depute him (the Chairman) to perform his duties.

The toasts of "The Queen" and "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.G.M.," "The Earl of Zetland and the Prince of Wales, Past Grand Masters," and "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Present and Past Grand Officers" having been duly proposed and honoured, the last toast was responded to by

Bro. L. Evans, who, after referring to the motion of the Earl of Carnarvon in Grand Lodge last September, by which a gift of £500 was given to the distressed by the War, and to the admirable manner in which, whenever he was called upon to discharge duties, he did so, said that for the rest of the Grand Officers they were all anxious to discharge their duties to Grand Lodge and the Craft, and whose approbation was their sufficient reward.

The Chairman, in proposing "Success to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution," said: It is unnecessary that I should say one word to you as to the present Masonic Charity. Your presence here is a proof that you both feel the obligation, and that you appreciate the pleasure to support it. What would Masonry be without its charities? They are an essential feature of the Institution, and to see them flourish is the most gratifying thing that can happen to any Mason. Why do they flourish? Because a great many Brethren, as they gradually rise in Freemasonry feel an interest in the Charities of the Craft; they first take the Stewardship of one Charity, then of another, then of a third. They also enlist their Brethren and their friends, and keep up the traditional practice of charity in the Craft, and the noble annual subscriptions that we see announced at our various Festivals are the result. Without this good feeling on the part of the Craft and the Brethren who come forward to work the Charities as Stewards they would present a very different figure to what they do, and it is a matter of profound gratification to every one in Freemasonry to see how the Charities flourish. This charity was the last of the three Charities in the date of its formation, but without it the Masonic scheme of Charity would have been at fault. It was perfectly necessary that such a Charity should exist to do justice to the scope and bearing of the charity we ought to exercise, and to the charity we feel towards our unfortunate Brethren. It is a very gratifying point that for some years past the amount collected annually for our Charities has been much larger than it

used to be in times past. This is an unmixed source of gratification to every Mason; but I think we ought not to forget that while this is owing partly to the exertions of the Stewards, partly to a better feeling prevailing in the Craft, it is in a certain measure owing to the increased numbers. And what I want to draw your attention to is that these great numbers will infallibly, in the ordinary vicissitudes of human life, produce a certain number of brethren who will require assistance in the annuity fund, whose widows will likewise require to be assisted by the annuity fund, and whose children will also require assistance in the schools. While we congratulate ourselves on our prosperity as a Charity, that charity is largely owing to our increased numbers, and the increased numbers will bring increased claimants on our charity. All honour to the Stewards; all honour to the Craft; but except we are actuated by the same feeling of charity, our Charities will not come up to our increased numbers, and therefore it is necessary that on this occasion this principle should be strongly felt that, owing to our increased numbers, the amounts raised by the Craft, though very gratifying, require to be kept up; and if we only bear this in mind, if we are thankful for the progress we have made, but are determined that that progress shall only lead to further success, we are quite right; if we rest on our oars we are quite wrong.

The Institution for Granting Annuities to Aged Freemasons was suggested by the M. W. Grand Master, His late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in the year 1842, since which 316 aged Brethren have been elected on the Funds, to whom have been paid, up to December, 1870, £34,845 5s. Od.

After the election in May last there were 100 male annuitants, each receiving £26 per annum—£2,600

The Permanent annual income for the male annuitants at the present time is from Grand Lodge, £500; Grand Chapter, £100; Dividends on Funded Property, £688 10s. Od.; balance, £1288 10s. Od.

The residue of the income, including the working expenses of this branch of the Institution, is made up from annual subscriptions, and two-thirds of the donations. The other has to be invested.

There are 21 approved male candidates on the list for the next election.

The Freemasons' Widows and Orphans' Fund was established under the sanction of the late M. W. Grand Master the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland, in 1849, since which period 128 widows of our aged Brethren have been recipients from the funds, to whom have been paid, up to December, 1870, £15,538 10s. Od.

After the election in May last there were 69 female annuitants, each receiving £25 per annum—£1738 10s. Od., in addition to which there are seven widows entitled for three years to half their deceased husband's annuity, unless elected annuitants in the meantime.

The permanent annual income for the widows at the present time is from Grand Lodge, £300; Grand Chapter, £50; Dividends on Funded Property, £403 10s. Od.; balance, £753 10s.

The residue of the income, including the working expenses of this branch of the Institution is made up from annual subscriptions, and two-thirds of the donations; the other third has to be invested.

There are 20 approved female candidates on the list for the next election.

There is an asylum at Croydon, attached to the Institution capable of affording accommodation for 34 inmates, each of whom have two rooms, and at present there are 32 occupants,

the other annuitants, male and female, are permitted to reside where they please.

The whole of the building has been paid for, and there is a sustentation fund of £1000 stock, the interest of which is applied to the repairs of the edifice, so that the subscriptions for annuities are not applied for the purpose of maintaining the building I think that is a most gratifying account. But while there are so many poor and distressed brethren and widows claiming assistance, you see there is strong reason for increased support of the institution. I wish its advocacy was in better hands than mine, but I trust to your Masonic feeling to do what is requisite, knowing that while you are thankful to the Great Architect for giving you the means of living in comfort yourselves, you will do your best to assist your poorer brethren. (Applause.)

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, and the lists of subscriptions were read by Bro. Farnfield, jun., the total, amounting to £3377 16s. fourteen lists still remaining out.

This announcement was received with great cheering, so large a total not having been realised for many years.

The Rev. C. J. Martyn, G. Chap., rose to propose "The Health of the Chairman." In doing so he alluded to the high estimation in which that brother was held in the Craft, as testified by his having held the office of Grand Treas. for 19 years. Such a servitude fell to the lot of very few, and spoke more for him than any words could. It must be particularly gratifying to him to have presided over a meeting where the subscriptions had been so large; it was a circumstance, in fact, that one might be proud of, because if the funds were not forthcoming, the affairs of the Institution could not go on at all. It was to be regretted that the Masonic charities were not better supported. He was sorry to find from the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE that four-fifths of the *Masonic Lodge* did not subscribe at all, which was a disgrace to the order that ought to be wiped out. At the joint committee of the Boys' and Girls' Schools a recommendation was made to the Craft to increase the funds of those Institutions by inducing all brethren with whom they came in contact to become subscribers. As it was the drop of water that wore away the stone, so each brother, putting his shoulder to the wheel, would make the subscriptions three times what they were that night. Returning to the subject with which he started, the name of Bro. Tomkins, he wished them to receive it with great heartiness. It was but seldom a brother came forward at such a short notice to take the chair, and though of course they expected to see the Prov. G. M. for Middlesex; there was no one they would more desire for a president than Bro. Tomkins.

The Chairman said it was a pleasure to preside at these festivals, to find the charities flourish, a pleasure to see the interest the brethren took in them, and a pleasure to find the brethren tell such truths as the Grand Chaplain had, which were acceptable to every one. He hoped they would take these truths home, weigh, consider, and bring them into practical operation. They all had one object, the success of Freemasonry, and that could not flourish unless the Institutions were supported.

The Chairman then gave "Success to the other Masonic Charities," and stated that the Boy's School Festival would be held on the 8th of March, and that of the Girl's School would be held in May, that the Prince of Wales would preside at the latter, but it remained with His Royal Highness to fix the date.

Bro. Binckes replied for the Boy's School. It was a curious coincidence that the Girls' School had a Chairman for its Festival, but the day on which it was to be held was not fixed: while the Boy's School Festival was fixed for the 8th of March, but it had not a Chairman. But there were other circumstances pres-

sed on the Boy's School even more than the want of a Chairman. It was in want of funds, and the rival attractions this year of the Sister Institutions, and the large amount of Charity which had been sent abroad to relieve the distress occasioned by the war, must necessarily interfere with the success of the Boys' School. He hoped their good friends would not forsake them altogether, but would come forward in goodly number to their relief. The Aged Freemasons' Institution had £35,000 invested and the Girl's School £28,000; and each of those Institutions, if its income fell short of its wants in any one year could sell stock to supply the deficiency. He begged them to remember that this was not the case with the Boy's School; it had not a shilling of stock it could fly to, while such large amounts were contributed to relieve distress abroad, it would be a shame—if he might use the term—if our own household were to suffer for lack of support. He was earnest in his appeal, because he felt himself in a measure responsible for the maintenance and education of the 128 boys in the school, and he trusted that Stewards would rally round him on the 8th of March on account of the difficult position in which he was placed. No matter what a few isolated members in the outer world might say; every shilling the Institution spent was carefully laid out; the affairs of the School were narrowly watched; the contributions were thankfully received, and he pledged his word, every shilling was faithfully applied.

Bro. Binckes resumed his seat amidst hearty cheers.

Bro. Patten replied for the Girl's Institution, and hoped that the many friends he saw around him would support the School which he represented at its next Festival. They had done him great service in the past, and he appealed to them for further aid in future.

The Chairman proposed "The health of the Ladies," whose powerful influence was of great assistance to all the Masonic Institutions.

Bro. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B., and D. Prov. G.M., Oxon, replied, and in the course of his remarks said that though ladies were not yet admitted to the mysteries of the order, the time might not be far distant when when they would be, as they had already obtained the largest number of votes for the London School Board, and a sister of one of the most eminent of the Oxford professors, had been returned at the head of the poll for the School Board of that city: Whether as wives or sweethearts, sisters, or daughters, their assistance might always be relied on in furtherance of the Masonic Charities.

Bro. J. A. Rucker, President of the Board of Stewards, replied for that body. They had certainly had some trouble; but they had entered on their business with cheerfulness, pursued it with diligence, and terminated it with satisfaction. Their lists bore witness to their diligence; and the cordial drinking of this toast was an evidence that they had discharged their duties to the satisfaction of the company.

The evening was enlivened by the performance of vocal and instrumental music, under the direction of Bro. Lawler, by Madame Launch, and Misses M. Johnstone, Montague, and Marion Severn, and Bros. Young and Montem Smith, and Mr Linley. After the toasts had been disposed of, the company repaired to the Freemasons' Hall, where a delightful concert wound up the evening.

Bro. Thomas Spencer, who acted as toast-master at the banquet, discharged his duties in his usual able manner.

Craft Masonry. ENGLISH CONSTITUTION. METROPOLITAN.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Monday, 6th inst. There were present Bros. C. A. Leng, W.M.; Welsh, as S.W.; T. Arnold, J.W.; Wingham, S.D.; E. W. Long, J.D.; Thos. Powell, I.G.; John Dyte, Secretary; P.M.'s Watson, Hartley, Welch, Dicketts, Bley, Robinson, Clements, and Caldwell. The visitors present were Pestonjee Baganjee, P.M. 1189, Bengal; John Savage, P.G.D.; Binckes; J. Smith, P.G. Purst.; Samuel P. May, G.S.; J. Lewellyn Jones, 715; C. W. Duke, I.P.M., 40; Wm. Ough, P.G.P., 749; Wm. Smith, C.E., P.G.S., P.M. 33; Christopher, R. Baurley, 4; W. Thomson, H. Johnson, J. Denton, P.M., P. Prov. G.P., Yorkshire; G. Christy, John, Boyd, 534; R. H. Temple, Distin, 175; Carter, 382; T. White, 22; S. Piles, &c. Messrs. Rolins, Dunn, and Stokes were initiated. The business included the installation of the W.M., Bro. Arnold, by Bro. Long, W.M., and the appointment of officers was as follows:—Wingham, S.W.; E. W. Long, J.W.; Powell, S.D.; White, I.D.; Doody, I.G.; Lord, C.S.; Welsh, Treasurer; and Dyte, Secretary; W. Watson, P.M., W.S.; and Dicketts, D.C. About sixty brethren sat down to a banquet. The musical arrangements were efficiently conducted, under the management of Bro. Wingham, of the Royal Academy of Music, assisted by Bros. Barnby, Carter, and Theodore Distin. Bro. Wingham's performance on the pianoforte gave the utmost gratification to the brethren present, and was very deservedly appreciated.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 101).—At the installation meeting of this influential Lodge (which was held at the Ship and Turtle Leadenhall Street, on Tuesday, the 7th inst.), the highly-esteemed Master, the W. Bro. F. J. Cox, was supported by P.M.'s Tanner, I.P.M. and Hon. Sec.; Bond, Treasurer; S. May, Hastelow, D.C.; Perrin (the Father of the Lodge); Farthing; J. H. Wynne; T. Beard, Scott, W. W. Wynne; Bros. Grimble, S.W.; Youle, I.W.; Reynolds, S.D.; Farthing, Jun., I.G., and a numerous assemblage of Brethren. The degree of F.C. was conferred on Bro. Nicholas. Bro. S. Grimble was installed into the chair of K.S. in a most correct and impressive style. He appointed and invested his officers, with appropriate addresses to each, as follows:—Bro. Youle, S.W.; Reynolds, J.W.; Bond P.M. Treasurer; Tanner, P.M., Hon. Sec.; Hastelow, P.M., D.C.; Farthing, jun., S.D.; Clark (P.M. 554) J.D.; Flusk, I.G., and Vesper, P.M., 554, &c., Tyler. The W.M. having closed the Lodge, the brethren adjourned to the banquet room, where the Bros. Painter served one of the recherche banquets for which they are justly celebrated. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed by the W.M., in a most able manner, particularly in his address, when presenting a handsome P.M.'s jewel to the W. Bro. F. J. Cox, I.P.M., made by Bro. J. J. Caney, of 44, Cheapside, the Jeweller of the Lodge. The evening was enlivened by some capital songs by Bro. Perrin, P.M., and others. The visitors were Bros. J. T. Moss, W.M., 169; F. J. Barnes, I.P.M., 554; Rev. Bro. D. Shaboe, P.M., 664 and Prov. G. Chaplain Middlesex; Atkin, Dr. Henderson, 420, Scotland; C. H. Driver, S.W., 905; C. Gale, 1056; F. and C. Wilcox, 975; Perrin, jun., 1056; Goodwin, 55; Willing, 177; Harding, 231; and Bristo, P.M., 860.

BRITISH UNION LODGE (No. 114).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Ipswich, on Thursday, the 2nd inst, when the following brethren were present:—Bros. P. Cornell, W.M.; Rev. E. J. Lockwood, D.P.G.M.; — Long, S.W.; W. Boby, P.M., J.W.; A. J. Barber, I.P.M.; Emma Holmes, P.M.; Dr. Beaumont, R.N.; W. Spalding, P.M., Sec.; Dr. Muir; C. Schulen, P.M.; N. Tracey, P.M.; Rev. R. N. Sanderson, P.M., P. Prov. G. C., &c. The Lodge having been opened in ancient form, the ballot was taken for Bro. R. W. Beaumont, Staff Surgeon of H.M.S. Penelope, who was unanimously elected as a joining member. The W.M. then proceeded to initiate Licut. Harry C. Fox, of the Royal Engineers, the working tools being presented by the S.W., and the charge delivered by Bro. Schulen, P.M. The Lodge being raised to the second degree, Bros. Warren (of the Royal Engineers) and James M. V. Cotton (of the 21st Inniskilling Regt.), were severally passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The other

business of the evening having been completed, the brethren retired for refreshment. On the removal of the cloth, the usual toasts, loyal and Masonic, were done ample justice to by the brethren. Bro. Sanderson, in responding for the P. Prov. Grand Officers, took occasion to announce that a meeting would be held at the house of the D. Prov. G.M., shortly, to which some of the most experienced P.M.'s would be invited, to consult as to the meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge, which is to be held at Ipswich in July next. Bro. Emra Holmes, in assuming, by permission the W.M.'s gavel, proposed the health of the brethren who had been passed to the degree of F.C., coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Warren, to whose brother—the now celebrated Captain Warren—Masonry owed so much as the explorer of buried Jerusalem, which he (Bro. Holmes) remarked must be especially interesting to Mark and Royal Arch Masons, for the Masonic proofs which had come to light in that exploration. Bro. Warren responded, in brief terms, and said that he had been with his brother and seen those evidences of Mark and Royal Arch Masonry to which Bro. Holmes had alluded. In the name of his brother and for himself he begged to thank the brethren for the kind way in which his brother's and his own name had been received. Some of the brethren having contributed to the harmony of the evening, and the Secretary's and Tyler's toasts having been duly given, the brethren separated at a late hour, after a very agreeable meeting.

BRITISH OAK LODGE, (No. 831).—The brethren of this lodge met at the Bank of Friendship Tavern, Bancroft Place, Mile-End the 30th ult. Present: Bros. Ovitts, W.M.; Barnett, S.W.; Spoerer, J.W.; Williams, S.D.; Hackwell, J.D.; Hemming, I.G.; Bro. Harris, P.M.; Heckell, P.M., Sec.; and several other brethren. Bros. Scurr, Potts, Barns, Jeffry, G. Brown, Walters, the W.M. of the Yarborough Lodge, W.M. of the Capper Lodge, W.M. of the Duke of Edinburgh Lodge, W.M. of the Doric Lodge, and many other P.Ms. and W.Ms. of various lodges. Mr. Hans Petterson was initiated. Bros. Brown, Nicholson, and Shorey were raised. The initiation was performed by the newly installed W.M. in a most creditable manner with his new staff of officers, and all worked to perfection. The W.M., Bro. Barnett, having been duly installed, appointed his officers as follows: Bros. Spoerer, S.W.; Hackwell, J.W.; Heckell re-elected Sec.; Ovitts, Treas. pro. tem.; Hemming, S.D.; Ford, J.D.; Hallett, I.G.; Hoare, Tyler; Heckell, Org. A vote of thanks was proposed and carried to Bros. Scurr and Potts for their able assistance rendered to the lodge. The brethren sat down to a splendid banquet, and all parted in love and harmony.

HERVEY LODGE (No. 1260).—A meeting of flourishing Lodge was held on the evening of the 8th inst., at the Iron School Room, adjoining St. James's Church, Walham Green. Bro. George King, W.M., was in the chair, supported by Bros. P. H. Jones, S.W., J. Way, J.W.; T. B. Ayshford, Treasurer, George King, jun., P.M. Secretary; A. Czarnicke, I.G.; E. Thomas, W.S.; W. Dawson, Org.; E. T. Speight, Tyler. The following members were present. Bros. E. F. Hyde, J. G. Bell; T. C. Davidson; Malloy, Burton, Derrick, J. L. McCabe; Dr. T. Godrich, W. Smith, C.E., &c. Bro. T. Farrell, No. 975, was present as a visiting brother. The Lodge having been duly opened and the minutes of the last regular and emergency meetings having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for the initiation of J. H. L. P. Portner, which having proved unanimous in his favour, that gentleman was duly initiated, and retired. The Lodge having been opened in the second degree, Bros. Bell and Clyde having proved themselves as Craftsmen, they retired, and on the Lodge being opened in the third degree, they were admitted and raised to the sublime degree. The ceremonies were executed with that accuracy for which this young lodge is celebrated, and the manner in which the W.M., and officers performed their respective duties, was highly creditable to them. The lodge having been lowered down to the E.A. degree, all the brethren were admitted, and this being the evening for the election of Worshipful Master and Treasurer for the ensuing year, the election was proceeded with and Bro. Jones, S.W. was unanimously elected to the chair of K.S., Bro. J. B. Ayshford was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. C. T. Speight was re-elected Tyler. A P.M.'s jewel was unanimously voted to Bro. King, I.P.M. in recognition of the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office. After several propositions of candidates for initiation and for

joining members, had been received the lodge was closed accordingly to ancient custom, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, and the meeting separated at a timely hour. The happiness of the brethren was promoted by some excellent singing on the part of Bro. Dawson and other obliging brethren.

ROYAL STANDARD LODGE (No. 1298).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Marquess Tavern, Canonbury, on Tuesday, the 7th inst., at 6 p.m. Present Bros. Lieut-Col. W. Wigginton, P.M. 902, P. Prov. G.D.C. Worcester, W.M.; R. Lee, P.M. 193, S.W.; H. Ballantyne, P.M. 754, J.W.; R. Shackell, W.M. 30, P. Prov. G.P. Hants, Hon. Sec.; J. F. Wilson, S.D.; W. J. Woodman, J.D.; W. J. Jameson, I.G.; G. Motion, P.M. 453, Steward; C. Woodman, H. Dudden, F. M. Sweetland, E. G. Modridge, A. Dupont, G. W. Rutterford, Capt. J. P. Cheyne, H. W. Cattlin, E. Whillier, W. E. Collins, E. F. Willoughby, J. W. Wright, F. B. H. Rafter, S. Sansom, and E. Whillier. The Visitors present were Bros. S. E. Moss, P.M. Tranquility, and Themans. The lodge was opened in due form, and Bro. S. Sansom, was raised to the third degree, Bro. E. Whillier was passed to the second degree, and Bro. S. T. Cleaver was initiated. Bro. Lee, P.M. 193, was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; W. Wigginton, P.M. 902, P. Prov. G.D.C. Worcester, Treas.; Hilchrist, P.M. Tyler. It was resolved unanimously that in consideration of the valuable services rendered by Bro. Wigginton, as the first Worshipful Master, a Past Master's jewel together with the freedom of the lodge, be presented to him on the next lodge night. That in consideration of the valuable services rendered by Bro. Shackell, the Hon. Sec., in the formation of the lodge, as well as that of the Lodge of Instruction, in connection therewith, the best thanks of the same be given to him together with the freedom of the lodge, and that it be engrossed on vellum and presented to him on the next lodge night.

CONSECRATION OF THE STOCKWELL LODGE (No. 1339.)

This lodge was consecrated on Thursday evening the 2nd inst., at Bro. Timewell's, the Duke of Edinburgh, Soepherd's-lane, Brixton. The ceremony was admirable performed, and assisted by some well-executed music on the harmonium. Bro. W. Worrell, the Organist of Beckenham Church, Bro. Charles Hamerton, the first W. of 1339 was installed by Bro. H. E. Francis. After which the following office bearers were appointed by the W.M.:—Bros. W. Worrell, S.W.; J. C. Pain, J.W.; H. E. Francis, P.M., Sec.; Brigh-en, S.D.; I. M. Klenck, J.D.; D. Stoltz, I.G.; and Grant, Tyler. Messrs. I. G. Lambert, G. Chapman, H. Lee, and J. A. Williams were proposed for initiation at next meeting. Votes of thanks were accorded to Bros. H. E. Francis, for installing the W.M. Bros. James Stevens and H. Thompson, as P.M.'s of sister neighbouring lodges, congratulated the members on the establishment of the Stockwell Lodge. The W.M. then closed down, and the brethren partook of a banquet, supplied by Bro. Timewell, and did not separate till late. The following brethren were present:—Bros. T. A. Taylor, 1,158; J. W. Child, 72; H. Thompeon, P.M. 177, and 1,158; George Shuck, 857; James Dawn, 72; James Wyld, 511; John Thomas, P.M. 507; H. Mills, 547; A. Timewell, T. H. Barnes, P.M. 933; W. Hambly, W.M. 857; James Stevens, W.M. 1,216; J. B. Woolpert, P.M. 720; H. Massey, P.M. 619; and D. Stoltz. During the ceremony of installation the brethren had an opportunity of hearing Bro. Stevens' song, "What better theme than Masonry," as arranged for a march by Bro. Worrell, and the effect was very good.

INSTRUCTION.

CHARTERHOUSE CLUB.—On Friday, the 3rd inst., this useful and flourishing Masonic School (held at Bro. Simpson's, Hat and Feathers Tavern, corner of Wilderness Row, Goswell Road, every Friday at 3), the first and third ceremonies were ably worked by Bro. D. Forbes, S.W., of 813, supported by Bro. Mather, the respected Preceptor of the club, their esteemed and able Organist, Bro. Bilby (P.M.), and Organist of the Lodge of Finsbury, on the effective harmonium of the club, and about twenty-five out of its eighty members will commend this club to the notice of all our junior brethren who seek to make themselves proficient for office in their respective lodges.

PRINCE REGENT CLUB OF INSTRUCTION.—A preliminary meeting of brethren assembled at Bro. Windsor's the Prince Regent Tavern, Egst Road, City Road, was held on Monday, the 30th ult., when it was resolved unanimously that the fourteen brethren present should form a club of Instruction to be denominated "The Prince Regent Club of Instruction," to be held every Monday at 8 and close at 10, at the above house, with Bro. W. Hames, J.W. of 907, as Preceptor, Bro. Winder, Treas., and Bro. Vesper, P.M. of 554, as Secretary, and that the first meeting for instruction be held on Monday the 6th inst., this club doubtless will be a boon to the numerous brethren residing in Hovton and its vicinity, as well as to many other Masons. On Monday last twenty-one brethren were present, when Bro. Dottridge worked in first-rate style the first, and Bro. Hames the third ceremony, nineteen members joined, and Bros. Stein and Vesper were elected honorary members.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge* (No. 710).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 6.30 p.m. Among those present were Bros. W. Cuning, W.M.; Dr. Hopkins acting as I.P.M.; Niner, S.W.; J. Heath, acting as J.W.; De Schmid, S.D.; Watson, P.M. Sec.; Dyer as I.G. The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Goodridge was examined as to his proficiency, entrusted, and dismissed for preparation. The lodge was opened in the second degree, Bro. Goodridge was re-admitted and duly passed to the degree of Fellow-Craft by the W.M., Bro. Niner, S.W., explaining the working tools, and Bro. Dr. Hopkins giving the lecture on the Tracing Board. The lodge was closed in the second degree. The ballot for a candidate previously proposed was deferred, and the name of another candidate was given and recorded for discussion at the next meeting. Some private business, not of general interest, was transacted, and the lodge was closed at 8 o'clock.

PLYMOUTH.—*Lodge Harmony*, (No. 156).—On the 6th inst the members of this lodge held their annual festival, in commemoration of St. John the Evangelist. They first met at the Huyshe Masonic Temple, where, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Henry Dubosc, they confirmed the minutes of regular and emergency lodges, after which they adjourned to the Globe Hotel, where they partook of a most excellent dinner, provided by Bro. Isaac Watts, who is one of the Past Masters of the lodge. The dinner was served with the promptitude and in the satisfactory manner which always distinguish the dinners at the Globe hostelry. The following comprises a list of the company:—Bros. Henry Dubosc, W.M.; H. F. Hearle, S.W.; W. T. Pidditch, J.W.; R. R. Ellis, P.M.; L. P. Metham, D. Prov. G.M.; I. Latimer, P. Prov. G.S.; R. R. Redd, P.M. 105, P. Prov. G.R.; S. Jew, P.M. 105, P. Prov. G.T.; T. B. Harvey, P.M., P. Prov. G.D.C.; J. B. Gover, P.M. 70, P. Prov. G.A.D.C.; W. R. Mitchell, P.M., P. Prov. G.A.D.C.; I. Watts, P.M., P. Prov. G.T.; Triplett, P.M.; S. Clarke, P.M.; Yeo, P.M.; Kessell, P.M.; V. Bird, P.M. 944; Rider, P.M. 1,136; Andrews, W.M. 70; J. Ellis, W.M. 1,212; Bignell, W.M. 105; Cornish, W.M. 223; E. Aitken Davis, W.M. 1,099; Cox, P.M. 105; Manning, Treas.; Fewins, Down, Staddon, Carwithen, P. Chapell, Bennett, (105), Hodge, Hawke, Hoar, W. Holten, S. B. Harvey, (1,255), Lewis, D. Box, S. Hyne, Hall, Keen, Chabrol, (105), Avery, Thorning, Peake, Lawrence, Smith, (Tyler), Martin, Prince, J. Butler, Smythe, Duggan, Bauleh, Lander, Rosamond, Atkinson, Phillips, Dyer, Macey, W. H. Herbert, (Richmond Lodge, No. 63, Maine, United States), Hayes, (944), Murphy, Clutterbuck, Gould, Price, (St. John's, Waterford, Ireland), Thomas, (Sincerity). After the removal of the cloth, the W.M. proceeded to give the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were drunk with enthusiasm.—Bro. Mitchell next proposed the health of the Prov. G.M. of Devon, the Rev. John Huyshe, and the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Metham, both of whom he very warmly eulogised, remarking that the Prov. G.M. carried in his countenance an index to a most warm and benevolent heart.—Bro. Metham, D. Prov.

G.M., in acknowledging the compliment, said that Bro. Mitchell's estimate of the character and kind-heartedness of the Prov. G.M. was most true. He was staying with him a short time since, and then Mrs. Huyshe said that they had now been married for fifty years, and during the whole of that time she had never once seen him out of temper. "When I came home and told this to my wife," said Bro. Metham, "She expressed a hope that Freemasonry would have a similar effect upon others." The R.W. brother concluded by proposing the health of the W.M., Bro. Henry Dubosc, which was received with the heartiest applause. The W.M. received thanks, and expressed his great gratification at meeting them on this festive occasion. Bro. I. Latimer, P. Prov. G.S., then proposed the health of the Past Masters of Lodge Harmony, and remarked that there could be no better evidence of the valuable aid that they had afforded to the lodge than the presence of the large and influential gathering that was then assembled. Bro. Ellis, I.P.M., returned thanks, and spoke of the prosperity of the lodge, which was in a most satisfactory financial position, for they had not only money enough to meet all their wants, which they dealt with in a liberal spirit, but they had a good balance to be devoted, after due consideration, to charitable purposes. In reply to the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary, Bro. Mitchell stated that he should be glad to throw open the books and accounts of the lodge to any of the members, for he held it to be their right to know all that they wished to know about the affairs of the lodge and the management of those funds which were indeed their own. The health of the other officers of the lodge was duly proposed and responded to. "The toast of "Our Visiting Brethren" called up Bro. Herbert of Richmond Lodge, Maine, United States, who expressed the gratification that he felt in having been present at this festival, and said he should be very glad if opportunity ever served to give a most cordial welcome to any of the brethren in his own little republic. Bro. Chabrol also responded to the toast, remarking that he did not in any lodge feel himself to be a visiting brother, for there was a brotherhood in Freemasonry that made him feel at home wherever there was a lodge. He enlarged upon the philosophy of Masonry, and said that there was a principle in it more favourable to humanity than existed in any other organization whatever. Other speeches were made, accompanied by cheerful interjections of Masonic airs, and a most pleasant, rational, and sensible evening was brought to a termination by the Worshipful Master closing the lodge, and the company separating at a quarter-past nine.

LANCASHIRE (EAST).

OLDHAM.—*Lodge of Friendship* (No. 277).—The annual Festival of St. John the Evangelist was celebrated by this Lodge in the Masonic Hall, Angel Hotel, on Friday evening, the 3rd inst., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. William Bagshaw, who was supported on the right by Bro. Tweedale, P.M., and P. Prov. G. Reg.; and on the left by Bro. Croxton, P. Prov. G.S.D.; Bros. P. B. Ponsoby, Greaves, Cranswick, of the Robert Burns, 999; H. B. Bagshaw, Moira Lodge, and others were present upon the occasion. After banquet, the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair, when the W.M. called upon Bro. Ponsoby, P.M., to propose "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers." Bro. Ponsoby, in proposing the toast, said that the Army and the Navy had always in times gone by efficiently discharged their duties to their country, and although the volunteers were, happily, as yet an untried force, he did not doubt that, being made of the same metal as the army and navy, being patriots, they, too, would efficiently discharge their duties, if called upon in case of danger; that they would prove equal to the occasion, and successfully defend our hearths and homes. Bro. Ponsoby said it was a somewhat remarkable fact that the best and most efficient officers of the Volunteer Corps in Oldham were also leading members of the Masonic Body. The I.P.M. of No. 277, Bro. J. G. Blackburne, stood at the head of the Volunteer movement here Lieutenant-Colonel. Bro. Tweedale, P.M., was captain of a company, but he would connect the name of Bro. Greaves, P.M., with the toast, as he believed Bro. Greaves had recently received his commission as ensign—a commission which he had gained, not by purchase, but by hard work, diligence, and self-sacrifice, and he heartily congratulated him on the honourable distinction to which he had attained. The toast was duly honoured by the brethren, and in response, Bro.

Greaves, P.M., said he was greatly obliged to Bro. Ponsonby for the terms in which he had proposed the toast, and especially for the complimentary manner in which he had spoken of him in connection with the volunteer force. He had always striven to do his duty since he had joined the corps, now twelve years ago, and he had recently been rewarded by his promotion. He believed that whatever was worth doing at all was worth doing well, and that this remark applied not only to military but equally to Masonic matters. He had no doubt that should the necessity arise, the Volunteer forces of this country would be able to make their corner good. He thanked the brethren on behalf of the Volunteers. Bro. Hodgkinson, J.W., made a suitable acknowledgment on behalf of the army. Bro. Braddock, S.W., proposed "The Health of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.G.M., and expressed the pleasure he had experienced from being present on the occasion when the Earl presided in Grand Lodge. His efficient manner and amiable bearing on that occasion convinced him that the Earl, as G.M., was the right man in the right place, and that the duties of Freemasonry occupied a foremost rank in his social engagements. Bro. Greaves, P.M., gave "The Health of Earl Carnarvon, R.W.D.G.M., and alluded in terms of praise to the manner in which that nobleman performed the duty of installing the present P.G.M., in November last. The advice which on that occasion was given to the newly-installed Prov. G.M., and to the members of the Craft present, convinced him that the G.M. could not have a more suitable Deputy than Lord Carnarvon, whilst the manner in which he spoke of Freemasonry in Lancashire commended him to the esteem of every brother in the province. Bro. Tweedale, P.M., P. Prov. G.R., proposed the next toast, "Bro. Nicholas Le Gendre Starkie, Prov. G.M. E.L." Before addressing himself to the subject of his toast, Bro. Tweedale paid an eloquent and feeling tribute of respect to the memory of the late Prov. G.M., Bro. Stephen Blair, whom, he remarked, since the celebration of the last Annual Festival had been removed by the hand of Death from his sphere of usefulness below, and transferred to the Grand Lodge above. With his successor, Bro. Starkie, he had only recently become acquainted, but that acquaintance led him to believe that he would prove worthy of the distinguished, honourable, and responsible position to which the Grand Master of England had called him. The toast was duly honoured, after which the W.M. called upon Bro. Cranswick, I.P.M., of Robert Burns Lodge, to propose the health of Bro. W. Romaine Callendar, jun., D. Prov. G.M.E.L., and the other provincial officers, Past and Present. Bro. Cranswick said it required no recommendation from him to ensure for the toast of D. Prov. G.M. E.L. a hearty reception. The name of W. Romaine Callendar, jun., was familiar to every Mason in the province of East Lancashire, and wherever known it was esteemed. With regard to the Provincial Officers, there were two Past Provincial Grand Officers present, and he had very great pleasure in proposing the toast, coupling with it the name of Bro. Croxton, P. Prov. G.S.D. The toast was most enthusiastically received, Bro. Croxton, in responding on behalf of the D. Prov. G.M., alluded to the enthusiastic reception given to Bro. Callendar on the occasion of his being re-installed in November last in his chair by the Earl Carnarvon. He believed the D. Prov. G.M. to be in every way worthy the position he held, and the reception to which he alluded showed the highest appreciation on the part of brethren over whom he had presided for the past two years of his services. With regard to the P. Prov. Officers, Bro. Tweedale and himself, he might say the laurels they wore they had worked for, and they would continue to work for Freemasonry. They had achieved success once and they would do it again. Bro. Croxton next gave "The Health of the W.M. of Friendship Lodge," Bro. William Bagshaw. He said the duty he had recently been called upon to perform, that of installing Bro. Bagshaw, in the chair he now occupied, was one of the most gratifying he had ever performed in connection with Freemasonry. He had long been acquainted with the W.M., personally and Masonically. Personally, their acquaintance had been one of uninterrupted friendship and good feeling. Masonically, he had had the pleasure of receiving the assistance of Bro. Bagshaw as Junior and Senior Warden during the two years he had the honour to occupy the chair of Friendship Lodge, and he could say, with perfect truth, that a more industrious and persevering officer it had never been his lot to meet and act with. He did not doubt but that the same energy which had characterised him as an officer of the Lodge would continue to be manifested by him now he had attained the position of W.M. Alluding to

the new Freemasons' Hall erected in Oldham, and to the probability of its being opened ere long, Bro. Croxton said he did not doubt the W.M. had a year of hard work before him, but he trusted that when the Lodges had removed into that building, the conveniences of which would greatly facilitate their labours, they should be able to take a position in the district which present arrangements precluded, and he had no doubt, under the auspices of the present W.M., that result would be attained. The toast was drunk with Masonic honours. The W.M., Bro. William Bagshaw, responded. He thanked Bro. Croxton for the eloquent and flattering terms in which he had proposed his health, and the brethren present for the truly Masonic manner in which they had received the toast. The confidence in him which the brethren of Friendship Lodge had recently shown by electing him to the position he had now the honour to occupy—the uniform kindness which he had received from the brethren since his initiation into Freemasonry culminating in the hearty reception they had just given to the toast of his health were felt by him to be incentives to greater exertion and increased assiduity in the discharge of his Masonic duties. He accepted the position of W.M., prepared for hard work, and on reliance upon the assistance and co-operation of the P.M.'s and brethren who had consented to take office with him, and he trusted the expectations of the lodge would not be disappointed, but that he should be enabled to hand over to his successor—pure and unsullied that reputation of the Lodge of Friendship, for beauty of Ritual and exactness of working, which had been bequeathed to him by his predecessors in the chair of King Solomon. With regard to the removal to the New Hall in Union Street, alluded to by Bro. Croxton he could not close his eyes to the fact, that some dissatisfaction existed amongst the brethren and especially shareholders, as to the manner in which that work had been carried out, but he trusted the building was now in a likely state for completion, and that they would soon be able to hold their meetings there. He hoped and believed the brethren of Friendship Lodge would support him, and that the W.M. of the Sister Lodge of Tudor, whom he was happy to see present, and the brethren of that lodge would co-operate with Friendship in endeavouring to give to Freemasonry in general and to that of Oldham in particular, the prestige which he believed would be gained by the removal to the new hall. Bro. Hodgkinson, J.W. proposed in suitable terms the health of Visiting Brethren. Bros. Cranswick and Bidder responded in very appropriate speeches: Bro. J. Brierley, W.M. of the sister Lodge of Tudor, expressed the pleasure he felt in being present, and his willingness on all occasions to co-operate in any movement which had for its object the advancement of the interests of Freemasonry. Bro. E. Whittaker proposed the health of Bro. John G. Blackburn, I.P.M., who in the unavoidable absence of the I.P.M., were responded to by Bro. Ponsonby. Then followed the toasts of "The Wardens and other officers of the lodge," proposed by Bro. Prestwick and responded to by the Senior Warden, and the Tyler's toast, and the proceedings were brought to a termination. During the evening the happiness of the brethren was enhanced by the singing of Glees, Solos, &c., under the able conduct of Bro. Clifton, Organist to the lodge, to whose efforts and those of Bros. J. Lees, Pianist, and Pass, Organist of the Lodge of Tudor, the brethren are indebted for one of the most pleasurable evenings ever spent on a similar occasion by the brethren of Friendship Lodge 277.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge* (No. 279).—The brethren of this lodge assembled for the first time since the annual festival, at the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 1st inst., the W.M., Bro. C. Stretton, P. Prov. G. Reg., being in the chair. There were also present Bros. Kelly, P.M. and Prov. G.M.; Clarke, P.M.; Weare, P.M. and Treas.; Crow, S.W.; Palmer, S.D.; Smith, J.D.; Halford, I.G.; Bembridge, Tyler, and others. Visitors: Bros. Bird, W.M.; Treadwell, S.W., and Veasey, of the Lodge of Rectitude, No. 502, Rugby; Buzzard, W.M.; Toller, I.P.M.; Smith, P.M.; Sculthorpe, S.W., and Partridge, S.D., of No. 523, Leicester. The preliminary business being concluded, the lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bros. Pye and Beeton were examined as to their proficiency therein, and the result being satisfactory they were raised to the degree of M.M., the ceremony, at the request of the W.M., was very impressively performed by Bro. Toller, Prov. G. Sec., the effect being greatly enhanced by the performance of the musical chants by Bro. Charles Johnson, P.M., and P. Prov. G.O., on the

organ. A passing, which was due, was postponed until the next meeting. The lodge was lowered to the first degree, when the Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, read a letter from Bro. W. J. Hughan, thanking the brethren for the handsome manner in which his former donations of books to the library of the Masonic Hall had been acknowledged, and now presenting, through Bro. Kelly, a further donation of Masonic publications, Bro. Hughan writing:—"You are heartily welcome to these for the library, and kindly say that if the members will only make the library worthy of the Province, I will not forget the shelves, they may be certain." Bro. Kelly, after eulogising Bro. Hughan for his handsome presents to the library, and especially for the valuable aid he had rendered at the two last elections to their local candidate for the Boys' School, Bro. Alfred Nutt, son of the late Bro. John Nutt, of this lodge, proposed that, as a slight mark of esteem and gratitude, Bro. Hughan (in addition to a vote of thanks) be elected an honorary member of the lodge. This was seconded by the W.M., and heartily concurred in by the brethren. On the proposition of the Prov. G.M., seconded by the W.M., a vote of condolence was passed on the recent decease of Bro. Robert Crawford, a P.M. of the Lodge, and a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Province, who was for upwards of a quarter of a century an active member of the lodge, and during a considerable portion of that time the Treasurer of the lodge. A Committee, consisting of the Prov. G.M., the W.M., Wardens, and Secretary, were appointed to revise the bye-laws, preparatory to a new edition being printed, and two gentlemen having been proposed for initiation, and some further business of a routine character having been transacted, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

MARKET-HARBOROUGH.—*St. Peter's Lodge* (No. 1330).—A monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Assembly Room, Three Swans Hotel, on Friday, the 3rd inst. The following brethren were present, viz.:—Bros. W. Kelly (R.W. Prov. G.M.), W.M.; Rev. J. P. Halford, *M.A.*, J.W.; Waite, P.M. Treas.; Marris, P.M. Sec.; Douglass, J.D.; Macaulay, *M.L.C.S.*, I.G.; Harrison, Martin, Freestone, Heygate, *M.R.C.S.*, Shovelbottom, Whitehead, Dixon, Platford, and Bembridge and Clarke Tylers. Visitors: Bros. Buzzard, W.M. 523 (who in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Sir H. St. John Halford Bart., officiated as S.W.), and Charles Johnson, No. 523, P.M., and P. Prov. G.O., who presided at the harmonium. On the conclusion of the preliminary business, Bros. Dixon and Platford, after being duly examined, were raised to the third degree, and Messrs. Joseph and Healey and James Gibbs, who were unanimously elected, were initiated into our mysteries. Two passings and a raising stood over, the candidates not being able to attend. After the transaction of some further business the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEWPORT.—*Silurian Lodge*, (No. 471).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Dock-st, on Friday, 3rd inst. The W.M., Bro. Gratte, in the chair, and there was a very good attendance. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed the ballot took place, when two new candidates were admitted. The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Hall was passed as a Fellow Craft. The Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and Bro. Judd was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The Lodge was then closed down to the first degree, when a committee was appointed to revise, alter, and amend the bye-laws. A scheme is also to be set on foot to apply a certain part of the funds for educational and charitable purposes, of which we will give an outline in our next. The W.M. then read a letter he had received from the Grand Secretary, informing him that the M.W. the G.M. had been pleased to appoint Bro. Colonel Lyne as R.W. P.G.M. for Monmouthshire. Also a letter from Colonel Lyne, announcing his appointment, and that he had appointed Bro. George Homfray as his Deputy, and Bro. Williams, of 16, Dock Street, as his Secretary, whereupon it was proposed by the Secretary, seconded by the W.M., and carried unanimously, "That an address of congratulation (then read) be presented to the R.W. the P.G.M., on his appointment; also another address to the D.P.G.M. on his appointment. The Brethren also agreed to an address of condolence to the S.W. Bro. Fothergill, on the bereavement he has recently sustained by the death of his wife. The usual subscriptions to the Masonic and local charities were then ordered to be paid, and five new candidates were proposed

for admission at the next meeting. The W.M. then notified to the Mark Master Masons present that a Mark Lodge would be held at Cardiff next Monday, and the Mark Masters agreed to go and pay their Cardiff friends a visit. Several brethren of distinction from the barracks honoured the Silurian Lodge this evening with a visit, and amongst the visitors present we noticed Bro. L. A. Homfray, Mayor, who is an active member of the Isca Lodge. The Lodge was closed in harmony at 10 p.m.

ABERGAVENNY.—*Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 818).—Our numerous readers will regret to hear that the W.M. of this Lodge, Bro. Wm. Williams, junior, has met with a severe accident caused by being thrown out of his gig. We, however, are glad to report that he is progressing favourably.

NORFOLK.

LYNN.—*Philanthropic Lodge*, (No. 107).—On Saturday, 4th inst., Bro. H.R.H., the Prince of Wales, Past Grand Master, who is a member of this lodge, was present. He was attended by the Bro. Rev. W. Lake Onslow, the Prince's private chaplain, and chaplain to the lodge, and Bro. Francis Knollys, of the Westminster and Keystone Lodge, No. 10. The brethren of the lodge, to the number of about 25, assembled in the lodge room, at the Globe hotel. A private room adjacent to the lodge was placed at the service of H.R.H., and having been clothed in his Masonic regalia, he passed up the lodge room between the brethren, who gave the "grand and royal" on his arrival. Having taken his seat on the right of the principal chair, H.R.H. commanded Bro. J. T. Banks, the officiating Worshipful Master, to open the lodge. The usual ceremonies were then proceeded with, and Bro. Fras. Knollys was advanced to the degree of a Fellow Craft Freemason. The tracing-board in the second degree being explained by Bro. G. S. Woodwait, S.W. and W.M. elect. At the conclusion of the business of the evening, the Prince addressed the assembled brethren in a very feeling and impressive manner upon the principles and benefits of Freemasonry, expressing his earnest desire for their wide extension both within and without the craft—adding with much emphasis: "And then we shall have peace." His Royal Highness also spoke in terms of gratification of the reception he had met with and the manner in which the duties of the lodge had been performed. The lodge was then closed. Before returning to Sandringham, the Prince honoured with a visit Bro. T. M. Kendall, (a Past Master of the lodge, and surgeon to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales,) at his residence, in St. James's Street.

WILTSHIRE.

DEVIZES.—*Lodge of Fidelity*, (No. 663).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place at the lodge room, at the Town Hall, on Tuesday the 24th ult. The ceremony, it had been arranged should be performed by the R.W. Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Wittey, but he was unfortunately prevented by illness; he had, however, an excellent representative in Bro. R. de M. Lawson, of 632, Trowbridge, P. Prov. J.G.W., Wilts, who, having taken the W.M.'s place, received the W.M. elect, Bro. T. G. O'Reilly, (who was presented by Bros. Nott and Holloway, P.M.'s.) and in a most impressive manner installed him into the chair of K.S. The newly installed W.M. afterwards invested his officers as follows:—Bros. F. V. Holloway, I.P.M.; M. McHugh, P.M., as S.W.; J. J. Jeffries, J.W.; Rev. T. F. T. Ravenshaw, Past G. Chap., of England, as Chap.; J. Burt, P.M., Treas.; William Knott, P.M., Sec.; J. H. Chandler, S.D.; H. I. Ward, J.D.; T. B. Fox, I.G.; Raymond, D.C., and T. J. Mullings, Steward. The brethren afterwards adjourned to the Crown Hotel, where an excellent banquet had been provided by Bro. Raymond, comprising an abundant supply of venison and game from Bro. S. Watson Taylor, of Erlestoke Park. A very pleasant evening was spent under the presidency of the newly installed W.M. The brethren of 663 were gratified by the presence, at the lodge and subsequent banquet, of visitors from 144, 316, 325, 355, 632, and 751.

SCOTLAND.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.—The quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held on the 6th inst., in the Freemasons' Hall, at 6 p.m. The Earl of Rosslyn, Most

Worshipful Grand Master, occupied the throne, and was supported by Bros. H. Inglis of Torsonce, S.G.M.; William Mann, S.G.W.; Colonel Campbell of Blytheswood, J.G.W.; Rev. F. Rowbotham, M.A., Act. G.Chap.; Alex. J. Stewart, G. Sec.; John Laurie, G.C.; William Officer, J.G.D.; Alex. Hay, G.J.; Major Ramsay, G. Dir. of Cers.; C. W. M. Muller, G. Dir. of Music; Major Hope of Luffness; Captain Colt of Gartsherrie, and others. The Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form by the Grand Master, the business of the meeting was proceeded with. Upon the list of Proxy Commissions being read over, Bro. Baird, R.W.M., No. 3 bis, objected to their being sustained on the ground, as he supposed, of their not having been granted in accordance with the New Stamp Act. Bros. Inglis, Sub. G.M., and Mann, S.G.W., replied that as these Masonic Commissions were not granted by "letters of Attorney," therefore Grand Lodge had nothing to do with Bro. Baird's objections, and especially at this stage of their proceedings. Bro. Colonel Campbell, J.G.W., observed that if Bro. Baird wished to carry forward his ideas in Grand Lodge he should go about it in a proper manner by tabling a motion which would come up *pro forma* in due time, but as to interrupting the proceedings of Grand Lodge in the way he was doing, that was altogether unconstitutional. Bro. Baird, however, persisting in his opposition in rather an obstreperous manner was ordered by the M.W.G.M. to resume his seat. The motion, that the Proxies be sustained as usual, was then put to the meeting and carried. The report upon the Memorial of the Lodge of Glasgow, St. John, No. 3 bis, as to carrying the working Tools at Masonic Processions was afterwards brought up and read; this report met with great opposition from the R.W.M. of No. 3 bis, who made several statements which were repudiated by Office-bearers and members of Grand Lodge present; he also alluded to the circumstance of members of St. John's Lodge having carried the Working Tools at several Masonic Processions in the Glasgow Province, previous to said St. John's Lodge joining the Grand Lodge in 1850. Bro. Robertson, G.B.B., however, replied that if the Provincial Grand of Glasgow really allowed the St. John's Lodge to act as stated, the said Provincial Grand Lodge was thereby breaking Grand Lodge laws. Bro. Buchan, G.S., observed that it was in great measure owing to the St. John's Lodge having managed to impose their pretended Malcolm Charter upon many of the Glasgow brethren which had enabled it to act as it had done; but seeing said document had been proved by the best Masonic and historical authority in the country to be only a modern forgery, it followed therefore that the pretensions of St. John's Lodge as put forward in that Memorial were without foundation, and fell at once to the ground. The motion that the Report of Committee—minus some suggestions added for future processions throughout Scotland—be sustained, was thereafter carried. Another motion on the subject of Masonic processions was delayed till next quarterly communication, as the Glasgow brethren had to leave in order to catch the 9 p.m. train. On the recommendation of Grand Committee, the Earl of Dalhousie, Bros. Andrew Kerr, and William Hay were nominated delegates to represent Grand Lodge at a conference to be held in London on an early day to discuss the question of the Mark Master's Degree. A memorial for the recognition of the new Grand Lodge of Quebec was refused. Fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia were established by the appointment of Bro. George Fraser as representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland at the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and the nomination of Bro. William Hay as the representative of the Grand Lodge in Scotland. Charters were ordered to be expedited for new lodges—"Burns St. Mary," Hulford, Ayrshire; "Rising Sun," Bombay; and "Hopetoun," Leadhills. On the motion of the Substitute Grand Master, Major Hope, of Luffness, was appointed Provincial Grand Master for East-Lothian, in room of the late Earl of Haddington. A letter was read from the Honorary Secretary of the Scott Centenary Committee, asking the co-operation of the Grand Lodge at the festival in August next. After the appointment of Grand Committee for 1871-2, and the tabling of several motions to be discussed at next quarterly communication, Grand Lodge was closed in the usual form.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

THISTLE LODGE (No. 8).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, 3rd inst., present Bros. John W. Dawson, W.M.; George King, jun. S.W.; John Kirk, J.W.; J. W. Figg, P.M. and Treasurer and, P.G.S.B.; C. A. Cottebrune, P.M. and Secretary, and P.G.S.B.; Morton Edwards, Recorder of Marks; John Batston, M.O.; Thomas S. Mortlock, S.O.; E. A. Baber, J.O.; George Hackford, S.D.; F. Marshall, J.D.; T. A. Taffs, I.G. Bros. John Webb, No. 11; Bro. Geo. B. Yapp, No. 21; Charles Darby, No. 172, were ballotted for and duly advanced to the degree of Mark Masters, all the officers working in a perfect manner. About 30 brethren sat down to the banquet, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts being given, viz., "The Queen," "The G-Master, the Rev. G. R. Portal," "The Deputy Grand Master, Earl Percy, coupled with Bro. J. W. Figg, P.M.; and P.G. S.B.; C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.S.B.; Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.D.; and Bro. Robert Watts, P.G.S.B. Bro. Joshua Nunn returned thanks on behalf of the P.G. Officers. The health of the W.M., Bro. J. W. Dawson was proposed by Bro. Figg, in the absence of the Immediate P.M., Bro. Henry George Lake. The W.M. returned thanks. The newly-advanced Bros., Webb, Yapp, and Darby, returned thanks, all expressing their great delight with the ceremony. The P.M.'s toast followed. Bro. Mann, P.G. Recorder of Marks, returned thanks. To "The Treasurer and Secretary," Bro. Figg and Bro. Cottebrune returned thanks, "The Officers" was responded to by Bros. George King, Jun. S.W. and John Kirk, J.W. The harmony of the evening was enhanced by the excellent musical talents of Bros. Mortlock, Henley, Sindey, Batston, and Kirk. The Tyler's toast concluded an evening most harmoniously spent.

SAMSON AND LION MARK LODGE, (No. 86).—This lodge met on Wednesday 1st. at Freemason's Tavern, Bro. A. D. Loewenstark, Prov. G.I.G., W.M., occupying the chair. There was a large attendance of brethren on the occasion, it having been announced that the Grand Master of the Degree, the Rev. G. R. Portal, and the Dep. Grand Master, Earl Percy, and many other distinguished Mark Masons would be present. The Grand Master and Dep. Grand Master did attend, and there were also present the following Grand Officers:—Bro. James Stevens, J.G.O.; S. Rosenthal, G.D.C.; S. M. Lazarus, G. Org.; Major H. Duncan, Dist. G.M., British Burmah; T. Meggy, Dist. G.M.; and H. Massey, G. Steward. Letters of apology, for inability to attend were received from numerous Grand Officers and others. Amongst the other brethren who were present we observed Bros. Israel Abrahams, S.W.; S. Pollitzer, J.W.; Wolf Littaur, M.O.; M. A. Loewenstark, P. G. Stew., Sec.; M. Emmanuel, S.D.; E. Hart, Org.; Joel Emmanuel, I.G.; A. Oberdoerfler, E. H. G. Dalton, J. F. Timms, George Moore, E. Stanton Jones, R. Bouncey, P.M.; George Neal, 118; E. P. Albert, and Morton Edwards. The candidates for advancement did not present themselves, and Bro. T. Meggy then took the chair, and installed Bro. Israel Abrahams, who was presented to him by Bro. A. D. Loewenstark, for the purpose, in the chair of A. The Officers appointed by the W.M., were Bros. S. Pollitzer, S.W.; Wolf Littaur, J.W.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.M., Treas.; M. A. Loewenstark, P.M., Sec.; S. Rosenthal, M.O.; S. Funkenstein, S.O.; Michael Emmanuel, J.O.; Joel Emmanuel, S.D.; E. Stanton Jones, J.D.; E. Hart, Org.; and W. Y. Laing. When the charges had been delivered by Bro. Meggy, the lodge unanimously elected the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, members. The Grand Master in an admirable speech, acknowledged the compliment, after referring to the excellent working he had witnessed that evening, and while on the subject of good working, said he had much pleasure in informing the brethren that there were two brethren present, Bros. Meggy and Stevens, who were excellent workers of the degrees. They carried out the true ritual, and he had observed with much gratification that they made a distinction between the degrees of Mark Master and Mark Man. He should wish that if any difficulties arose in the minds of any brother with regard to the Mark degree, they should be referred to these brethren. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, which was of a choice description, and gave general satisfaction, while the brethren were thus engaged, a telegram was received from Bro. Binckes, Grand Secretary, who was at the installation of the W.M. of the lodge at Stowmarket,

stating that they had just drunk the W.M.'s health there, and that they congratulated the Samson and Lion Mark Lodge on being honoured with the presence of the Grand Master. They also wished prosperity to the Samson and Lion Mark Lodge. A complimentary address reciprocating good wishes was wired back by the direction of the W.M. The customary toasts were proposed at the close of the banquet. The W.M. in giving "The health of the Grand Master," described him as a most prosperous monarch who had done immense good for the order by making it very popular. The M.W.G.M. said nothing gave him greater pleasure than to fulfil that part of his duty which consisted in visiting lodges, and it gave him peculiar pleasure to visit this lodge on the occasion, because he felt that he owed a personal debt of gratitude to several distinguished members of it, in that they deferred to his judgement in a matter which recently came before Grand Mark Lodge, and in which they and he did not take the same view. This degree he was happy to say was now progressing in a measure which must exceed the anticipations of all Mark Masons. In the last ten months he had signed 18 warrants for new lodges, and he thought that such progress was as great as could healthily be made in any degree, the lodge were for the most part exceedingly well, and those which had been in abeyance were rapidly getting again into working order. He need not remind the brethren, as a proof of the sympathy the degree received of the telegram which had come from the Lodge at Stowmarket, which was engaged in the installation of a new Master, congratulating this lodge on the presence of the Grand Master, and wishing success to the W.M. There was one point he wished to bring before the brethren, the charitable fund connected with the Mark Degree, and which he would ask this lodge to support. It was a fund wholly and solely for the relief of Mark Masons, and it had had two annual festivals, one last year at Richmond, one the year before at Hampton Court, to both of which ladies were invited. That admirable portion of creation, which had so few enjoyments compared with Freemasons, as they had no lodges to go to, had an opportunity now once a year of sitting down to banquet with us. These festivals had been a great success, and a great gratification to all concerned in them and they had increased the resources of the Mark Benevolent Fund to a large extent. There was in this fund this peculiar feature—any brother seeking relief had not to go through the painful process of appearing before a Board; it was satisfied with a recommendation of the lodge to which the brother had belonged, and the grant was made immediately. At the last meeting of the Grand Mark Lodge, it was decided that a charity jewel should be provided for those brethren who had undertaken the office of Steward at these festivals, provided they had either given Five Guineas or produced a list of Ten Guineas. The jewel was to be an exceedingly handsome one, and a difference of opinion arose as to whether it should be given by Grand Lodge and presented to the Grand Master, or be purchased by the brother earning it. The general feeling was opposed to him on that occasion, and he was in favour of the former course, and he had no doubt that the establishment of this gift would give a great impetus to the charity. Such a great lodge as the Samson and Lion would excuse him bringing this subject before it, but he hoped that the brethren belonging to it would support the Mark Benevolent Fund. He thanked them most heartily for their cordial reception, and trusted that this visit would not be his last. Earl Percy replied to the toast of "The Deputy Grand Master." It had been his fortune to break a lance with some of the members of this Lodge in Grand Lodge, when he and they differed on certain questions, but he always regarded it as one of the most promising features of the Order that in Grand Lodge every one spoke his mind freely, and there was no ill feeling left behind in their bosoms. The winning was not all on his side, for, as the Grand Master had said, the feeling of Grand Lodge was opposed to his in the matter of the Charity Jewel. He felt no ill-will on that account. He was sure they were right in the main, and their view would bring prosperity to the Craft just as much as his own would if it had been carried. His lordship concluded by thanking the brethren for the evening's entertainment. "The Health of the Past Grand Masters," and "The Provincial Grand Masters" was then drunk, Bro. H. Duncan, District Grand Master, British Burmah, responding to the latter. In doing so he said they had five or six Lodges in that province, and got on very well, working in truly Masonic

style. But the brethren out there were anxious to know what Mark Masonry was doing here. Mark Masonry was introduced in British Burmah by Bro. Greenlaw, and being at that time a new degree in that province, the brethren felt some concern about the support it met with at home. When he went back he would be able to tell them that it was thoroughly established, organised properly, and managed in the most constitutional manner. Scotch and Irish Masonry, with the innumerable degrees attached, prevailed in his province, but there was an uncertainty and instability felt about them, and he rejoiced that his visit to England would set the minds of the brethren in Burmah at rest with regard to the Mark degree. Bro. T. Meggy replied for the Grand Officers, and the W.M. afterwards offered to represent this Lodge as its Steward at the next Festival of the Grand Mark Benevolent Fund. After the health of the Master had been proposed and responded to, the Grand Master asked the permission of the W.M. to be allowed to propose the next toast, viz., that of "The Past Masters. Bros. A. D. Loewenstark Meyer, A. Loewenstark, and R. Boncey. He said the name of Loewenstark should ever be remembered with a deep sense of gratitude by the Lodge, as not only did their name appear on the warrant as Founders, but by their continued perseverance under discouraging circumstances they had ultimately the satisfaction of seeing the Lodge in its present state of prosperity, due entirely to their efforts. Bro. P. Albert returned thanks for the visitors, as did also Bro. Morton Edwards, who expressed the satisfaction he felt at the same evening having had the honour of installing the W.M. as Commander of the Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, and likewise of elevating the R.W. Bro. Major Duncan, and he was glad to say that with the exception of two or three, all members of the Lodge belonged to the Royal Ark Mariners' Lodge, attached to the Mark Lodge, the officers of the one being officers in the other. Bros. Pollitæo and W. Littaur, responded for the Wardens, and Bros. M. Emanuel and J. Emanuel for the officers. The brethren then separated, after having spent a delightful evening, which was enlivened by some good singing, music and recitations, in which Bros. James Stevens, A.D., Loewenstark, R. Boncey, E. Hart, and M. A. Loewenstark took part.

DEVONSHIRE.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge*, (No. 26).—The quarterly meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms on Thursday, February 2nd, at 5 p.m. By request of the W.M., his chair was taken by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, M., and Past J.G.W., Bro. Miver, was in his place as S.W.; Bro. J. Heath, W.M.; acted as J.W. in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Glanfield; Bro. Seacombe acted as I.G. The lodge having been opened, the acting W.M. called on Bro. Watson, Secretary, to read the minutes of the last two meetings, which were confirmed. The candidates for advancement not being present, the acting W.M. made some remarks on the condition of the lodge, pointing out that only one brother had fulfilled the requirements for the position of W.M., namely a year's occupation of a Warden's chair and Mastership of Craft Lodge, and that he declined to take the office. This being the case, there was but one alternative, that is to elect the S.W., and that with a view to this, he had applied to the Grand Secretary, stating the circumstances, and inquiring if a dispensation would be obtained, whose letter, containing an affirmative reply, he read. On the proposition of Bro. J. Heath, W.M., seconded by the Rev. Bro. Bowden, I.P.M. and Chap., it was resolved that under the representations just made, Bro. Arthur Browse Miner be elected W.M. for the ensuing year; and also that the draft of a petition to the M.W. Grand Master, praying for a dispensation now read by the acting W.M., be adopted, signed by Past Masters Dr. Hopkins and J. Heath, and forwarded to the Grand Secretary for presentation to the M.W.G.M. On the proposition of the acting W.M., seconded by the S.W., Bro. Distin was re-elected Treasurer, and Crocker Tyler. The lodge was closed at 6 p.m.

When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me. When I read the epitaph of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out.—*Addison*.

FREEMASONRY IN NEWPORT, MONMOUTH-SHIRE.

By A MASON.*

The Isca Lodge, No. 683, had its Anniversary Festival on the 18th ult., when the brethren met in Lodge, and indulged at banquet. Bro. R. J. Chambers was re-elected to the honourable post of W.M., which he so efficiently filled last year. There was, of course, no "installation," the W.M. being already installed, but the usual adjuncts which dignify a Masonic ceremonial, sufficiently effective and striking in its native simplicity, were present on this occasion. Bro. Groves, the Prov. G.O., presided at the organ; and the least that can be said of the music is that it was excellent. The sublime degree of that mysterious rite was gone through by the W.M. in a manner which won for him warm encomiums, and high praise from expert and experienced Masons hailing from all parts of the compass. Does any one know what this compass business means? The reporter who peeped through the key-hole, whose tympanum was sound, and whose retina was correct, unfortunately got caught by the Tyler, and very nearly run through for a Cowan. Like the inquisitive wife who lodged herself in the clock-case, he was made a Mason on the spot. Ever since the eye applied to the key-hole has been wilfully blind. Nevertheless, as an indiwiddlum (to quote Dickens), he has a burning desire to—"tell you all about it."

I was present at the lodge, where Bro. Chambers was re-installed (if I may so term it), and I was at the dinner at the King's Head. Ay, the dinner; let me say something about the dinner. Mr. Gretton (have I spelt his name rightly?) Gretton—he is the man to do the *menu* (French). Mr. Gretton put the Masonic dinner on the table *a la mode* (French again), which means in English "*a la Gretton*" I am not going to quarrel with the short-comings of wiseacres. I am not the man to "blow up the landlord." I take no exception to the wine, although, by the way, claret is rapidly rising in price. But let me say that the wines at the "Limited" were good; and that Host Gretton was exceedingly benign—immensely condescending, tremendously jolly when you challenged the price of his liquor. It's no good; I've tried it. I've signally failed to make an impression upon his pericranium, and (bad luck to it, not to him) I've always had to "shut up" with the painful consciousness that I had hazarded an opinion about something of which I knew nothing. Wines are very extraordinary things now-a-days. Only one word more. If I'd a "Limited"—Gretton's the man for me.

But I have tarried too long at the *cuisine*. The banquet waits! The guests are assembled. The Masons with their appropriate costumes (I wonder what those costumes mean?) troop in; there is a glare of gas and a glitter of jewellery. The W.M. takes the chair, and the brethren, to the number of between forty and fifty, sit down at table. "Now good digestion wait on appetite, and health on both!" so said Shakespeare, although he's often misquoted.

This Masonic occasion was rendered the more interesting by the attendance of the R.W. the Prov. G.M. nominate of Monmouthshire, Bro. Charles Lyne. The Province well knows how greatly the late lamented Bro. Rolls was respected in Masonic circles. The manner in which Bro. Lyne acted as his deputy no doubt contributed to this honourable appointment. It is well understood that Bro. Lyne would not have accepted the office had not the Province pointed its finger at him and said "Thou art the man." Captain George Homfray has been nominated as his Deputy. In fact, I hear that the Prov. G.M. thought so highly of Bro. Homfray's

* A Correspondent of the Star of Gwent and South Wales Times.

services that he made it a *sine qua non* that Bro. Homfray should undertake the onerous office of D. Prov. G.M. That the Province will be well worked, and that the Grand Master, his Deputy, and the Masters of Lodges will not be slow in advancing the principles which should designate all Masons throughout the world, I have not the slightest doubt.

Of the toasts at the banquet I give a list below, so far as I recollect them. One thing I heard with satisfaction, The ex-Mayor repudiated all distinctions on the floor of the "lodge." "Mayors, ex-Mayors, Colonels, and Captains," said Bro. Beynon, "have no recognition here. We are brethren, nothing more, nothing less." Bro. Beynon is right, and the sentiment was applauded to the echo. It is a singular fact that Masonry holds its own, and attracts to its side a host such as no other organisation in the world can command. Even the Pope, himself a Freemason (he took his first degree in America) recognises the importance of the Craft, for he politely anathematises it. And why? Because the Roman Catholic system will have no secret institution. There is essentially secrecy in Freemasonry. Roman Catholicism will have none of it. You abjure your lodge or your confessional: that is the practical issue. I am certain that numbers of our Roman Catholic citizens would join our fraternity were it not for the fulmination so strangely exercised, so ruthlessly put in force.

There was a pleasing incident at the Isca dinner. Bro. Cheese had composed some verses on Masonic Charities (dedicated to the Prov. G.M.), and Bro. Groves had set them to music; but if Bro. Cheese wrote, he wasn't going to sing, and if Bro. Groves sang he wasn't going to play the accompaniment. As the Prov. G.O. said it is extremely difficult to play and sing properly at any time, much more so when there has been no "rehearsal." He introduced a young lady pupil who had kindly consented to preside at the piano. The brethren, in token of respect for the compliment, rose as she entered and took her seat. Moreover, on her retirement she was greatly applauded, and Bro. Groves was requested to convey the thanks of the lodge to this spirited daughter of a Mason; for that such she was, we have it on the authority of the Prov. G.O.

The harmony of the evening was materially enhanced by the efforts of brethren who sang when they were requested to sing, and who did not shiver themselves under the shield of bronchial incapacity, such as this very severe weather is particularly prone to be credited with. Bro. George Homfray especially was up to the mark, and he has, it must be admitted, a happy knack of selecting those songs which take people by surprise and make them laugh; in other words, the music is novel as well as the words, and the effect—well, the effect is decidedly good!

The party at the dinner, as already stated, was between forty and fifty. The W.M., Bro. R. J. Chambers, was in the chair. On his right was the R.W. the Prov. G.M. (nominate) of Monmouthshire, Bro. Charles Lyne, P.M., 471; Bros. George Homfray, V.W. Deputy Prov. G.M. (designate); L. Augustus Homfray (Mayor of Newport), S.D. 683; Capt. Shadwell Clarke, 21st Fusiliers, P.M. 1,205, and Prov. G.S., Devon; Thomas Williams, I.P.M. 683, and Prov. A.G.D.C.; Charles Homfray, 366, an 1,098, and Prov. G.S.; W. H. Wickey Homfray, I.G. 683; James Cheese, S.W. (In the West, as vice-chairman, exactly as he ought to be); Thomas Beynon, P.M.; George W. Jones, J. S. Adam, John Griffiths, P.M's.; H. J. Parnell, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, and P.M. 471; R. B. Evans, P.M. 471, P. Prov. G.D.C.; H. J. Gratto, W.M. 471; W. Pickford, P.M. 471, and Prov. G.S.; G. Gould, P.M.; James Maddocks, P.M. 683; George Robinson, W.M. 36; James Horman, W.M. 960; J. B. Passadora, J.W. 683; F. E. Bladon, J.D. 683; C. W. Ingram J.W., 471; John L. Lloyd, 471; Joseph Gibbs, 471; H.

Mullock, Treas. 683; Daniel Price, 683; James Thompson, 683; Henry F. Bolt, 471; W. Parfitt, 683; D. Bordessa, Steward, 683; James Ewins, 683; James F. Ewins, 471; John Williams, 683; J. Spencer, 1,098; W. Phillips, W.M., 1,098; H. J. Groves, F.M., 683; and Prov. G.O.; S. T. Hallen, 683 and 471; and R. S. Roper, 683.

The toasts were loyal and fraternal, as a matter of course. To the "Army, Navy, and Volunteers," responded Capt. Clarke, of the 21st. Regiment, Colonel Lyne, and Bro. J. Thompson. The health of the R.W. the Prov. G.M. nominate, Bro. Charles Lyne, was given in very complimentary terms by the W.M., and responded to by the Prov. G.M. with good taste. The toast of the evening, "The health of Bro. Chambers, W.M. of the Isca Lodge," was proposed by Bro. Lyne in language of great eulogy, with special allusion Bro. Chamber's former position as Superintendent of a Government Naval school. "The Visiting Brethren" was duly responded to by the W.M.'s of the Glamorgan and Bute Lodges, and by Bro. Gratte, of the Silurian. Then came, oddly enough, no doubt, "The health of the Mayor," but it so happens that the Mayor is a Mason, and further, that he is a member of the Isca. Therefore it was that the health of the Mayor was drunk on this occasion, for Masonry is quick to recognize public standing in connection with private worth. The Masonic Charities, the greatest pillar of the whole fabric, was placed high in the programme, at the suggestion of Bro. the R.W. Prov. G.M. and the W.M. It was proposed by Bro. Thomas Williams. This was in reality the principal toast, the brightest star in the Masonic diadem, and let me say that the proposer conjured up—who? Why, "Good Bro. Pickford! Bro. Pickford, be it observed, is not only "up" to his work, but he is indefatigable in the pursuit of it. "The Lodges of the Province" was proposed by Bro. the V.W.D. Prov. G.M. George A. Homfray, and was duly acknowledged. Bro. Cheese, in a speech which augured well for his success as an aspirant for the highest office, proposed "The Past Masters of the Lodge." Following these toasts were "The officers of the Lodge." "The Health of the Ex-Mayor, Bro. T. Beynon," "The health of the Chaplain, the Rev. S. Fox." By Bro. G. W. Jones, "The Health of Bro. Samuel Homfray. By Bro. L. A. Homfray, "The Health of Bro. J. S. Adam, Secretary to the Alexandra Dock Company," with a happy allusion to "a great hole now being dug at a certain spot, which hole will, in due course, receive the waters of the Usk, and greatly advance our commercial interests." The Tyler's toast, "To all poor and Distressed Masons."

The following were the official appointments:—Bros. R. J. Chambers, W.M.; Thomas Williams, I.P.M.; James Cheese, S.W.; G. B. Passadora, J.W.; L. A. Homfray, S.D.; F. H. Bladon, J.D.; H. Mullock, Treas.; J. Middleton, Sec.; W. H. W. Homfray, I.G.; H. J. Groves, Organist; W. McFee, Hon. Tyler; J. Fletcher, Acting Tyler.

I have been favoured with a copy of the lines referred to above, the singing of which evoked so much enthusiasm:—

MASONIC CHARITIES.

When Masons meet at festive board,
Round well spread tables richly stored,
They'll think of those who can't afford
To join them in their pleasure;
And drink the toast with one accord,
"May peace and plenty be restored
To poor and distress'd Masons."

Many a brother, good and true,
Tho' poor, not known to me or you,
Has labour'd hard to will and do
What's right—though unsuccessful;
Then let us all strive hard to show

That we can feel sincerely too
For poor and distress'd Masons.

Brethren in fact as well as name,
Wrong deed should be the only shame,
For which we would a brother blame,
When done with bad intention.
Good effort our good will should claim,
While pity in our hearts shall reign,
Towards poor and distress'd Masons.

Then let us when we gather round
The social board where sweets abound,
And music, song, and toast resound,
Think oft of those not present.
While all our toasts by this one crown'd,
We'll drink in love and duty bound
To poor and distress'd Masons.

MASONIC FESTIVITIES.

BRIGHTON.—The Masonic Ball came off on the night of the 26th ult., in the grand suite of rooms at the Pavilion. The company (numbering about 250) kept up their Terpsichorean revels until about six o'clock on Friday morning. An elegant supper was supplied by Bro. Albert Cawley of Pool Valley, and the floral decorations, which were replete, were intrusted to Bros. Balchin and Nell.

HAVERFORDWEST.—On Monday evening the Haverfordwest Amateur Christy's Minstrels gave an entertainment at the Temperance-hall, on behalf of the building fund of the new Masonic Hall about to be erected at Haverfordwest. The entertainment was under the patronage of Mr. T. Meyrick, M.P. for the borough, who was present, accompanied by Captain R. Anderson of Cashington. The hall was tolerably well filled with a respectable audience, who frequently testified their approbation of the various phases of the performance, which throughout was exceedingly creditable, the part singing being especially good. Mr. Walter Reynolds as "bones" was really inimitable, the "tambo," Mr. Willie M. Phillips, contributing his quota to the genuine fun displayed. He was also very successful in his song, "The big sun-flower." Mr. Reynolds's rendering of the song, the "Grecian bend," was so capitally given as to demand an encore. Mr. John Phillips, in the sweet song, "Good night, little bright eyes," was singularly felicitous, as was also his brother, Mr. T. Phillips, in the baritone song, "Beautiful dreamer." In short, the whole performance was excellent.

MASONRY IN THE ARMY.—The following was translated from a German paper:—During the memorable battle of Mars-la-Tour (the second day's battle at Metz), about 2 o'clock, p.m., the third company of the Ninth Battalion of Prussian Rifles were ordered to dislodge the enemy from a copse of wood about 150 yards in front. The men advanced under a galling fire, which, in less than two minutes, cut down about half of them. Notwithstanding, they advanced on a run with a hurrah! and, reaching the wood, charged the French, who were of the Sixty-fourth Regiment of the line, about 200 strong. Many were bayoneted, many taken prisoners, and the balance fled, save a company of about thirteen, who stood their ground, got behind a large log, refusing to surrender, and unable to get away. They were all shot down except three, one of them a corporal. Half-a-dozen Prussians jumping over the log, were about to bayonet them, when the corporal gave the "sign of distress." Instantly, non-commissioned officer Bertram called out, "Don't harm him! he is my brother!" and with his own rifle parried the blow aimed at him. The Frenchman was disarmed and led away, but his life was saved through the silent language of the Craft.

NOTES ON MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

At Covent Garden a special morning performance of the *Pantomime* will be given this day.

Drury Lane continues to be well patronized; the morning representations of "The Dragon of Wantley" are to be continued every Wednesday and Saturday throughout the month, Ash-Wednesday excepted, when a special entertainment of a musical character will be provided.

At the Haymarket Bro. Buckstone's programme will remain unchanged through the whole of the present month, Mr. Sothern's reappearance being deferred till the 1st of May.

At the Adelphi Bro. Benjamin Webster has produced Mr. Burnand's new drama entitled "Dead Man's Point; or, The Light-house on the Carn Ruth."

At the Princess's has been revived Mr. Andrew Halliday's dramatic version of "The Fortunes of Nigel," which, under the title of "King of Scots," proved so successful at Drury-lane, Mr. Phelps representing the characters of King James and Trapbois, the miser. The Prince of Wales and suite honoured the performance at this theatre with their presence on Wednesday.

At the Queen's the attraction of Mr. and Mrs. Rousby has been found as great as ever. The reproduction of the historical play of "Twixt Axe and Crown" has been attended with all the good fortune of its early days. At the acting of Mrs. Rousby the public testify their admiration in the strongest manner.

At the Gaiety, the programme consists of "Bardell v. Pickwick" and "The Princess of Trebizonde," in both of which Mr. J. L. Toole appears.

At the Olympic a special morning performance of "Nell" is to be given on Wednesday, the 14th inst.

At the Opera Comique "Found Drowned" is recognised as a drama worthy of popular support.

At the St. James's the comedy of "Naval Engagements" has been substituted for "War," and in which Miss Sophie Larkin, Mr. Lin Rayne, and Mr. William Farren will reappear. On Thursday the new burlesque, entitled "Vesta," written by Messrs. Farnie and Musgrave was produced.

The Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, has been well supported by fashionable audiences.

At the Holborn Amphitheatre the wonderful female gymnast known as "Lulu the Circassian," made her appearance on Monday. The extraordinary performance, which includes a perpendicular upward leap of 25 feet, must be seen to be believed.

At Sadler's Wells Miss Marriott has resumed the management. Her rendering of Julia, in "The Hunchback" is one of the best of her many histrionic achievements. "Ingomar" and "Hamlet" have also been given. The performances concluded each evening with "The Return of the Ticket-of-Leave Man."

At the Standard the pantomime "Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross; or, Harlequin and the Silver Amazons," is still retained. In the course of the performance Miss Derby sings "The Watch on the Rhine," Mrs. Brian gives "Garibaldi's Hymn," "The Marseillaise" is rendered by Miss Russell, and Middle Albertazzi chants "Rule Britannia."

At the Strand, the Holborn, Prince of Wales, Royalty, Vaudeville, Astley's, Surrey, and the other Theatres the programmes have remained unaltered.

At the Gallery of Illustration the new entertainment, "A Sensation Novel," has met with great success. The passages read from the imaginary novel are extremely characteristic. The music, arranged by Mr. German Reed, includes a romance by Miss Fanny Holland, and a comic song by Mr. Corney Grain.

At the Alhambra the Grand Promenade Concerts have been revived, the second series promising to be upon a scale of still greater magnificence than that which distinguished the first, and M. Riviere, the musical conductor, may be congratulated upon the enthusiasm his command nightly elicits. A heroic fantasia, entitled "Le Reveil du Lion," expressly arranged by Bro. the Chevalier de Kotski, for full orchestra, pianoforte, military band, and a chorus, is nightly listened to with the most profound attention, and at its conclusion loud applause testified to the delight of the audience. The "Marseillaise" is sung by Madame Guymar, M. Dubreil, and Signor Bordogni, and arouses the audience to an extraordinary pitch of excitement, expressive of sympathy with France. The greatest care has been manifested in the arrangements of the hall so as to ensure the comfort of the visitors.

Poetry.

A FATHER'S PROMISE.

1.

"My darling boy," my father said,
As I stood by his knee.
"When old enough by time thou'rt made,
A Mason thou shalt be.
Then thou shalt in the Temple walk,
And know our secrets rare.
Shall learn to curb all idle talk,
And work upon the square.

2.

First thou shalt an Apprentice be,
Clad in a badge most pure;
When thou accepted are and free,
Advancement comes full sure;
For next as Craftsmen thou wilt find,
A prospect brightly fair;
And this thou'lt have to bear in mind—
The work is on the square.

3.

Raised to the Master's grade sublime,
Thy track thou'dst not retrace.
Though thou should'st live till end of time
This nether world to grace—
Reflect on this," my father said,
And smoothed my shining hair,
"Where'er Freemasonry's display'd
The work is on the square."

LIST OF LODGE MEETINGS &c., FOR WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 18TH, 1871.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS.

Monday, February 13th.

LODGES.—St. George's and Corner Stone, Freemasons' Hall; St. Albans, Albion Tav., Aldersgate Street; Royal Navy, Freemasons' Hall; Confidence, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street; St. Andrews, London Tav., Bishopsgate Street; Leigh, Freemasons' Hall.—CHAPTER.—Mount Sion, Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars; Panmure, Horns' Tav., Kennington.

Tuesday, February 14th.

LODGES.—Old Union, Radley's Hotel, Bridge Street, Blackfriars; Burlington, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street; Union, London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street; St. James' Union, Freemasons' Hall; Percy, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street; St. Michael's Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street; United Strength, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell; Nine Muses Lodge, Clarendon Hotel, Bond Street; Wellington Lodge, White Swans Tavern, Deptford; Ranelagh Lodge, Royal Sussex Hotel, Hammersmith; Cosmopolitan Lodge, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street; Doric Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.—CHAPTERS.—Jerusalem, Freemasons' Hall.

Wednesday, February 15th.

General Committee of Grand Lodge, and Lodge of Benevolence at 6 precisely.

LODGES.—United Mariners', George Hotel, Aldermanbury; St. George's, Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich; Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street; Oak, Freemasons' Hall; Nelson, Masonic Hall, William Street, Woolwich; Maybury, Freemasons' Hall; New Wandsworth, Spread Eagle Hotel, New Wandsworth.—CHAPTER.—Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.

Thursday, February 16th.

House Committee Girls' School, at 4.

LODGES.—Globe, Freemasons' Hall; Gihon, Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham Street; Constitutional, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street; St. Mary, Freemasons' Hall; Temperance, White Swan, High Street, Deptford; Manchester, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street; Universal, Freemasons' Hall; Westbourne, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood; South Norwood, South Norwood Hall, South Norwood; Great Northern, Great Northern Hotel, Kings Cross.—CHAPTERS.—Pythagorean, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.

Friday, February 17th.

House Committee, Boys' School.

LODGES.—Friendship, Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's; Middlesex, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street; Jordan, Freemasons' Hall; New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton; University, Freemasons' Hall.—CHAPTER.—Moria, London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street.

Saturday, February 18th.

LODGES.—Panmure, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street; West Kent, Forest Hill Hotel, Forest Hill, Lewisham; Sphinx, Stirling Castle, Church Street, Camberwell.

METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF
INSTRUCTION.

Monday, February 13th.

LODGES.—Temple, Old George, St. Mary Axe, E.C.; Justice, Royal Albert, New Cross-rd, Deptford; St. James' Union, Swan Tav, Mount-st., Grosvenor-sq.; Industry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-st.; Crystal Palace, City Arms Tav., West-sq., South-walk; High Cross, White Hart Ho., Tottenham; Eastern Star, Royal Ho., Burdett-rd., Mile-end-rd.; Camden, Adelaide Tav., 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; Prince Regent Club, Prince Regent Tavern, 111, East Road, City Road, E.C.

Tuesday, February 14th.

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 Tav., 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 Tav., 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 Sion, White Hart, Bishopsgate-st.; Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's Lane.

Wednesday, February 15th.

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

Thursday, February 16th.

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

Friday, February 17th.

LODGES.—St. Luke's, Pier Hotel, Cheyne-walk, Cheisea; Temperance, Victoria Tavern, Victoria-road, Deptford, Union (Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.), F.M.H.; United Pilgrims, Horns' Tavern, Kennington; Westbourne, the Grapes, Duke-st., Manchester-square; Wellington, Lord Duncan Tavern, Broadway, Deptford; Florence Nightingale, Freemasons' Tav., 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 Tav., Air-street, Regent-st.; Rose of Denmark, White Hart, Barnes; Lily, Greyhound, Ho., Richmond; Stability, Guildhall Tav., 33, Gresham Street; Royal Standard, Marquess Tavern; Canonbury.—CHAPTERS.—Domatic, Fisher's Restaurant, Victoria Station.

Saturday, February 18th.

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

K. T.—The quotation is not correctly rendered by you, Scott's lines are as under:

"The Knight is dust,
His good Sword is rust,
His Soul is with the Saints."

"AN OLD MASON" AND "ANTI-HUMBUG."—We have received your letter in reference to the proposed "Little" Testimonial, and the conduct of the business in the Grand Secretary's office, respectively, we are unavoidably compelled, owing to want of space, to defer inserting these until our next issue.