

# THE Masonic Observer.

No. II.]

DECEMBER, 1856.

[2s. PER ANNUM.]

THE Grand Lodge of Emergency summoned for the 19th of this month, in consequence of the alleged illegality of the adjourned G. L., held on the 1st of October, was presided over by the M. W. the G. M. in person, who was supported by a great number of past and present Grand Officers. The blue aprons mustered, likewise, in strong force, and there was a considerable gathering of Brethren from the Provinces.

The M. W. the G. M. having stated the reasons which induced him to overrule the decision of the last two G. L.'s, and Acting G. M.'s, and to declare that the power of adjournment did not exist in G. L., called upon Col. Burlton, Past Prov. G. M. for Bengal, to move the adoption of the Report of the Colonial Committee.

Before this could be done, the Past Deputy Prov. G. M. for the Isle of Wight, claimed for G. L. as the supreme governing body of the craft, the right to decide on its own powers. The M. W. the G. M. however, refused to put the motion.

Col. Burlton then proceeded, protesting, first of all, against what he conceived to be an unconstitutional exercise of power on the part of the G. M., and being threatened in return with removal from G. L.

The W. M. of the Enoch Lodge, No. 11, proposed as an amendment to the Report, that the question had already been discussed in October. This, likewise, the G. M. refused to put.

A Past Prov. S. G. W. for Oxford next moved, that G. L. should refuse to discuss any question so long as it was prohibited from deciding on its own privileges and authority, —a motion which shared the fate of its predecessors.

All expression of opinion—except what was favourable to the G. M.'s views—having been prohibited on the vital question of prerogative, G. L. was then permitted to reaffirm the motions passed in October, after a last, spirited protest from Lord Carnarvon. The Dais opposed the two likely to be the most beneficial—the appointment of a Colonial Board of General Purposes,—and the circulation throughout the Provinces of the business to be brought forward in G. L. They did not, however, venture to divide, except upon one question—Whether the Annuity Fund should be put on the same footing with the other two Charities as regards the Charity Jewel. The Dais clustered together—true to their instincts—and were out-voted by the blue aprons—true to theirs.

THE independence of G. L. is, for the present, in abeyance; and after the strange scene which was lately enacted there, we cannot own to much surpris. Logic has but a poor chance against an authority which condescends to no argument, and which is backed by unbounded pliability. The Book of Constitutions never contemplated the contingency of a suppression of all discussion. We cannot compliment the official speakers on their logic or their tact—their ingenuity either in proving the illegality of the October meeting, or in veiling, under plausible language, the arbitrary nature of the Grand Master's act, in annulling the decisions of two Grand Lodges, and of two acting Grand Masters. In the first case, they gravely urged that, because there were only four quarterly communications, therefore a G. L., if adjourned at all, could only be adjourned to one of those four days in the year—forgetting that, independently of the self-evident absurdity inherent in this proposition, if it proved any thing, it proved too much, and would bar the G. M. equally with the G. L. from adjourning a meeting. In the latter instance, they were hardly prudent in their open confession of faith in the G. M. as a SOVEREIGN LORD, an INDEPENDENT MONARCH, an UNCONTROLLABLE RULER. Grand Lodge is undeniably a patient assemblage; but what with an absolute refusal on the part of the M. G. to put any motion distasteful or dangerous to himself—what with a Dais (with some honourable exceptions) inseparably banded together—what with antique masons, who, after long absence from our deliberations, had been disinterred for the occasion—what with some thick-and-thin partisans, scattered through the body of the Lodge, adepts in cheering their friends, and hooting down their opponents, the generality of the Brethren, ignorant of their real superiority in numbers, were much in the position of our respected countryman in the poem:

“John Bull, bewildered by the scene,  
“Stares, wondering what the d—l it can mean:  
“But as some hands applaud—a venal few—  
“Rather than sleep, why John applauds it too.”

On the side of the Dais was might—we cannot flatter them by adding right—on the side of that great Constitutional Party which is fast growing into importance, was precedent, and the tenour, direct and indirect, of every law.

From the precedent of April, 1854, it is clear that the power of adjournment exists. Wherein then does the adjournment of April, 1854, and that of October, 1856, differ?

Both adjournments were unanimous, both were agreed to in the absence of the G. M. of England. In the one case he recommended G. L. to adjourn, implying that the power was not with himself: in the other he acquiesced for two months without objection in the act of G. L. The distinction is so subtle that we must confess ourselves unable to discriminate between the two. But abandon the arguments derived from precedent, and it is clear that if private lodges both claim and exercise the power to adjourn,—in calling from labour to refreshment,—*a fortiori* G. L. which is as the greater to the less, the whole to the part, cannot be without an equal authority. But it was contended that the presence of the G. M. of England is essential to the legality of the proceedings. If this be true, we fear much that an infinitesimally small proportion of the measures passed by G. L., with the approval of the craft, are valid. But surely if, as it is reasonable to believe, the G. M. of England and G. L. can, by a concurrent action, adjourn a meeting, so, also, the provisional G. M.—who is his representative—can, conjointly with G. L., exercise an equal power. “*Qui facit per alium, facit per se,*” is an axiom as old as the hills, and a principle, which we recognise, equally in the highest branches of law or politics, and in the ordinary transactions of daily life.

In conclusion, dismissing all argument, which we fear is useless, we would ask the Dais one question. If the adjournment was illegal, why were we not sooner apprised of the infraction of the law, into which we had been inadvertently betrayed? If, as the G. M. in his circular stated, there be “a solemn obligation” to interpose at a late stage of the proceedings, why not an equally solemn obligation to interfere at an earlier period? If it be a duty to correct a wrong done, it is still more a duty to anticipate the evil in its origin; and an ambiguous silence ethically differs little from approval.

EVERY one must have felt regret for the very unpleasant position into which the M. W. the G. M. was forced on the 9th inst. To a nobleman, singularly benevolent and honourable, it must have been extremely painful. To be placed in the chair for the purpose of forcibly preventing free discussion—to be compelled to gag G. L. for fear they should censure conduct on the part of the executive, at which they felt themselves aggrieved—to lie under the imputation of unfairness—to be charged with arbitrary and unconstitutional conduct, and in place of meeting the charge, to escape from it by silencing the accusers—this is the price at which the Dais compelled the M. W. the G. M. to do their dirty work. We can well imagine that to many members of that august body, it must have been infinitely diverting to witness the helpless disapprobation of all fair men, at the apparently partial enforcement of the silent system. What was sauce for the goose, was by no means

thought a fit condiment for the gander. The opinions of the speakers affected their treatment in no slight degree; but while some of the purple aprons may have chuckled at their temporary triumph over the authority of G. L., and the right of free discussion, obtained even by such means as these, we believe the great majority of the craft, when they read the account of what passed, will agree with us that it was “no canny” to place an English nobleman in such a false position as regards G. L.—in one which we are quite certain was equally distasteful to himself as to them.

The members of the Dais are, most of them, socially, worthy and excellent masons; but whatever may be the cause, certain it is that collectively, not only do they oppose every useful measure that is brought forward, but they assume a conscious air of patronising superiority towards the great body of G. L., as offensive as it is ridiculous; like little Jack Horner, they seem never tired of saying “What a good boy am I!”

We shall shortly take an opportunity of investigating how far the Dais is entitled to the confidence of the craft, by giving a brief sketch of the different measures of internal and external reform proposed in G. L. within the last few years, and the line adopted by the purple aprons upon each occasion; and if it shall appear that their exertions and combinations are always for factious and obstructive purposes, we trust that they will at least appreciate themselves at their proper value, and in place of attempting to overbear and beard G. L., will subside into quiescence, like the owls in the “happy family.”

Of the Grand Secretary’s office,—the compound double extract of purple,—it is needless to say more than that any mercantile company would be bankrupt in a week whose affairs were managed in the same way; and that if English lodges were created for the purpose of waiting three and six months for their communications, it would at any rate be advisable—if only for the civility of the thing—not to treat the *Grand Orient* of France in the same fashion.

We must, in fairness add, that we believe the subordinates in that department to be hard-working and efficient functionaries, and we only regret that their venerable chief will not either content himself with a general superintendance, or permit his brethren to express their sense of his long services by a substantial retiring pension.

#### GRAND LODGE OF EMERGENCY, Nov. 19.

The M. W. the G. M. summoned the G. L. of Emergency, on the 19th of November, to take up the business at the point at which it terminated at the Quarterly Communications, in September last, and to ignore and declare null and void the proceedings of the adjourned Grand Lodge, held October 1.

The Right Hon the Earl of Zetland, G.M., presided in person, supported by Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. of Hampshire, as D.G.M.; T. W. Fleming, Prov. G.M. Isle of Wight; R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. of Essex; C. P. Cooper, Prov. G.M. of Kent, Dr. Kent, Prov. G.M. of South Australia; T. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. of

Cambridge; S. Rawson, Prov. G.M. of China; Colonel Burlton, Prov. G.M. of Bengal; Lord Goderich, S.G.W.; Frederick Dundas, as J.G.W.; Cox and Moore, G. Chaps; Henderson, P.G. Reg.; Dobie G. Reg.; J. Havers, P.G.S.D.; J. Hervey, P.G.J.D.; H. K. G. Potter, P.G.S.D.; H. Faudel, P.G.J.D.; J. Parkinson, P.G.J.D.; T. White, P.G.J.D.; A. A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; T. Masson, P.G.S.B.; J. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; H. Parker, P.G.S.B.; T. B. King, P.G.S.B.; H. L. Crohn, Sec. for German Correspondence; White and Farnfield; R. W. Jennings, G. Dir. of Cer.; W. Breling, P. G. Pura.

The G.L. having been opened in due form,

The G. SECRETARY read the Circular issued by the M. W. G. M., convening the G.L. of Emergency, which was couched in the following terms:—

“United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

“The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, &c., &c., &c., M. W. Grand Master.

“W. MASTER—At the Quarterly Communication on the 3rd September last, time did not admit of all the business intended for that meeting being concluded, and an adjournment was made to that day month, when many Brethren assembled and proceeded to business; but that latter meeting being in contravention of the Laws of the Craft, the M. W. Grand Master feels himself called upon, in the faithful discharge of his duty under the solemn obligation of office, to announce to the Brethren generally that any proceedings then adopted can have no operation.

“The Grand Master, however, is unwilling that any inconvenience should result from unnecessary delay, and has, therefore, ordered that a Grand Lodge of Emergency be summoned for the 19th of November next, to proceed with the business not disposed of at the Quarterly Communication on the 3rd of September.

“You are accordingly hereby summoned to attend a Grand Lodge of Emergency, to be holden at Freemasons’ Hall, on Wednesday, the 19th day of November, 1856, together with your Wardens and Past Masters, at seven o’clock in the evening, to proceed with the business not disposed of at the Quarterly Communication on the 3rd of September last.

“The Grand Lodge to be opened at eight o’clock precisely.

“By command of the M. W. Grand Master,  
Freemasons’ Hall, WILLIAM H. WHITE, G. S.  
“London, 31st October, 1856.”

#### DECISION OF THE G.M. THAT THE G.L. HAS NO POWER TO ADJOURN.

The G.M. said: Brethren, I think it due to G.L. that I should now state my reasons more immediately for calling this G.L., and I trust I shall be able to show you, in connexion with those reasons, that I have taken this step simply because, in my opinion, it was a step necessary to the faithful discharge of my duty. At the September Q.C., the G.L. passed a resolution that the G.L. should adjourn to the first of October; and now I have to give my most decided opinion that such an adjournment was illegal. (Hear, hear.) And that whatever proceedings took place at such adjourned meeting are null and void. (Hear.) Brethren I will now state my reasons for coming to this decision. By the Book of Constitutions, page 19, art. 7, the law states that there shall be 4 Quarterly Communications. “Four grand lodges shall be holden, for quarterly communication, in each year, viz., on the first Wednesday in the months of March, June, September, and December, at which none shall be present but the proper members, without permission of the grand master. No visitor shall speak to any question without leave of the grand master, nor shall he, on any occasion, be permitted to vote.”

But there is not one word in the Book of Constitutions which provides, which gives power to G.L., *propria motu*, to adjourn. The Book of Constitutions, however, does provide for Lodges of Emergency, and in page 21, art 10, you will find the G.M., or in his absence, “the pro grand master, in his absence, the deputy grand master, or, in his absence, the grand wardens, may summon and hold grand lodges of emergency, whenever the good of the craft shall, in their opinion, require it; the particular reason for convening such lodge of emergency shall be expressed in the summons, and no other business shall be entered upon at that meeting.”

Now, Brethren, you will observe by that law that special instruc-

tions are given as to the mode of holding these G. Lodges of Emergency, but not a word is said about the power of adjourning. I may go farther and say that private lodges are governed by much the same laws as G.L., and that no meeting of a private lodge can be adjourned; but the master of a private lodge may and does convene lodges of emergency. I think it due to G.L. that I should explain what I consider to be the real state of the case. In June, 1853, the G.M. summoned a G.L. of Emergency owing to a pressure of business, and that special G.L. was called by command of the G.M. That is a course which differs entirely from the course pursued in Sept. last, because the G.M. was not in the chair, but G.L. simply passed a resolution to adjourn the meeting, which they had no power to do. In 1854 (April 26) the summons states that that being the day of humiliation, the G. Festival cannot be held, and that the G.M. had appointed the 29th of that month and required the brethren to meet on the 26th in order to adjourn till the 29th of the same month. This adjournment was moved and seconded, and done by command of the G.M. entirely. The G.M. had previously fixed the day to which the adjournment should be made, and it was adjourned in consequence of his commands. I may state further, that looking over the minutes of G.L., it appears to me that “adjourn” is a term which, when used with respect to G.L., is the same as when used in the House of Commons. In that House the question is “that the House do now adjourn,” which means to the next legal day of meeting, and it is adjourned accordingly to the next day appointed by law for it to meet, and so when G.L. “adjourns,” it means that it adjourns till the next Quarterly Communication. I am prepared to stand by my own decision on this point—that when G.L. adjourns it adjourns to the next legal day, unless a G.L. of Emergency be called by the G.M. for special business, and on which occasion no other business can be done except such business as appears upon the circular convening that G.L. of Emergency. In 1854 (June 7) the G.L. (it is an error on the printer’s part to say June 22, for on that day no G.L. took place). I have taken some pains to ascertain the law of the case, and I find that in my view of the law of the case, I am supported by the opinions of the present G. Reg., the past G. Reg., and the G. Reg. before him. (Hear, hear.) In fact I have all the legal authorities with me. I think, therefore, that in accordance with the obligation which I have taken an oath to perform, viz., to adhere to the ancient usages of the craft, and maintain the law as in my opinion it stands. I can only come to the painful resolution to determine that the meeting of certain members of G.L., held on the 1st Oct., was an illegal meeting, and that all the proceedings thereat were null and void, and I now call upon the G. Sec. to take up the business of this evening at the point at which it had arrived when the G.L. closed at its Quarterly Communication in September. (Applause.)

BRO. HEARNE: Past D.P.G.M. of the Isle of Wight, M.W.G.M. with every deference—

G.M.: I shall not allow the point to be argued.

The G. SEC. then read the minutes of the proceedings and the Report of the Colonial Committee.

#### THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

BRO. COL. BURLTON moved that this report be adopted, and spoke as follows:—I regret that this duty should not have fallen upon some one more capable of doing justice to it than I am; but though I may be somewhat plain in my speech, I hope you will excuse me, and allow me to speak with that frankness which becomes one gentleman towards another. I shall say nothing, disrespectful to you M.W. Sir, or to the high position which you hold. I shall say nothing to disturb the harmony of this meeting, or of the craft, which I deeply regret to say has been seriously disturbed of late. In rising to propose the adoption of this Report, I am bound to do so because your lordship has summoned us here to do it, but it seems to me a question which has already been decided in a regular Grand Lodge (applause); and I do hope your lordship will allow me temperately to argue this point. (Hear, hear.)

The G.M.: I cannot allow you to do so, and I do hope that G.L. will support me in endeavouring to do my duty in expounding the law to the best of my ability, and I shall not submit, after so expounding the law, to have my decision controverted on the present occasion. I must beg the worthy brother, therefore, to confine himself to the question of this Report, which is the only question before G.L., and not to the law which I have laid down. (Applause.)

BRO. BURLTON: The question is who has the power to make the

laws of Freemasonry? (Hear, hear, and loud applause.) It is distinctly stated that G.L. alone has the inherent power of enacting laws. You will allow me to read a clause.

BRO. DOBIE: Well, Sir, I rise to order.

BRO. BURLTON read from the Book of Constitutions "The G.L. alone has the inherent power to enact, &c. .... I respectfully submit that G.L. alone has the power to do all this, and enact these laws and regulations for the government of the whole craft. It is not, therefore, unreasonable for us to presume that we have the power of adjourning from one day to the other. There is no single bye law which says that G.L. has not such power, and under these circumstances I contend that it has the power. (Applause.) And I think, M.W. Sir—

BRO. HAYERS: I rise to order. (The G.M. gave the Brother permission to speak.) Brethren, I could hardly imagine that you could have stopped me in this way. (Laughter.) I have but one object in view, and so long as the G.M. rules that I am in order I shall go on. (Oh, and hear, hear.) And I have now to submit to your lordship that the Brother who has just spoken was out of order, because you have justly ruled that you have power to state what is the law, and that you will not allow your decision to be discussed. (Question, question.)

The G.M.: The Brother was speaking to order with my permission, and I hope the Brethren will know themselves better than to interrupt with cries of "Question, question," under such circumstances. (Applause.)

BRO. HAYERS then continued: No one, he said, can doubt that G.L. has the inherent power. (Loud cries of question, question; and hisses.) Why surely we are not to submit here to tyranny like this which is greater than has ever been heard of! (Laughter.)

BRO. BINCKES: I rise to order. (Applause.)

BRO. HAYERS: G.L., I was going to say, has the power to alter its laws, but you must make this new law first, and till it is so made, you must abide by the laws which are made.

BRO. BURLTON again attempted to address the Brethren, but was stopped by

The G.M. who said: I am bound by my solemn deligation to maintain the laws and usages of the craft. There is only one interpretation of that oath; I must maintain those laws and usages to the best of my knowledge and ability, and enforce them according to my own interpretation of them. (Oh, oh!) Brethren may say oh, oh, but so long as I occupy this chair I shall maintain order in Grand Lodge. (Applause.) And shall interpret the laws to the best of my ability. I assert then on my own responsibility that the worshipful Bro. Burlton was following out a line of argument which is disorderly and which he is not competent to pursue. I, therefore, call upon him to refrain. (Applause.)

BRO. BURLTON: It is all very well for your lordship to act according to your own understanding; but there are other persons here who must be allowed to act according to the best of their judgment. (Cheers.) And

The G.M.: If the worshipful Brother proceeds in this strain, I shall have to request him to leave Grand Lodge. (Applause.)

BRO. BURLTON: Then I will only make one more remark, and that is, we find on page 31, art. 10, "If the Grand Master shall abuse his power"—

The boisterous applause which interrupted this passage was such that it prevented Brother Burlton from continuing. There were, however, loud and continued cries of "Read! Read!" and the result was that the G.M. himself read the conclusion of the clause, which was as follows:—

"And render himself unworthy of the obedience of the lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be dictated by the occasion; because, hitherto, the ancient fraternity have had no reason to provide for an event which they have presumed would never happen."

By that law, concluded the G.M., I am perfectly willing to abide. (Loud applause.)

BRO. BURLTON then brought forward his motion for the adoption of the Report; but said that he did so under protest, and ought to prevent any further delay in so important a matter. (Cheers.) While doing so he entered his solemn protest, because he would maintain that the business had been already settled. (Cheers.) But because he wished to do justice to the Canadian brethren, he would then move that the Report be read and adopted.

Much he might have said on that subject, in temperate terms, such as one Freemason had a right to address to another, but when knocked down by the gavel as he had been, he could do no more in support of his motion than to express his dissatisfaction generally with the mismanagement so far as the Colonial affairs of the craft were concerned. He concluded by formally proposing his motion, which was seconded by Brother Kent, late P.G.M. for Australia.

BRO. DOBIE suggested that the clauses should be put *seriatim*, which was agreed to. At clause 1,

BRO. BINCKES asked permission to refer to one or two other parts of the Book of Constitutions.

The G.M. said that he would not allow it.

BRO. BINCKES W.M., No. 11, said, that then he should have to move an amendment for the purpose of calling attention to the decision which his lordship had unfortunately given. His amendment was, "That this motion being already decided in a G.L. legally constituted (oh, oh; and loud cheers) the question which is now before them cannot be settled in G.L. twice." (Protracted cheering.) He thought it was very inexpedient to proceed further with this motion, because clause XIII. said "all powers and authorities, rules and regulations, for the government of the grand lodge, or provincial grand lodges, or private lodges, or boards, or committees respectively, during times of public business, or meetings, or proceedings, shall be used, and exercised, and enforced respectively by the officers or members by any law or constitution authorized to preside or act in the absence of the grand master, or any superior officer or member in such lodges, boards, or committees, or in the general government of the craft, as fully to all intents and purposes as if such substitute officers or members were specified in every law or constitution in which any powers or authorities are given, or rules or regulations prescribed for the principals, unless special provision is made to the contrary."

BRO. DOBIE called Brother Binckes's attention to the fact that the G.M. had decided that they should not raise points of discussion on the Book of Constitutions, but go on with the Report. (Hear, hear)

BRO. BINCKES contended that the brethren who declared the last Quarterly Communication adjourned till October 1, and declared the October 1 meetings duly opened for the purpose of Masonry, were the G.M. of Masons *pro hac vice*, and had every authority for what they did.

The G.M. said that was arguing against his decision, and once more he must say he would not allow it.

BRO. BINCKES: This is not the way to promote the interests of Masonry. While there is this difference of opinion amongst us, the matter should be allowed to be argued. (Applause.)

The G.M.: Whatever your own opinions may be, I hope you will give me credit for acting to the best of my power in the manner in which I believe to be my duty to act. I have expounded the law, and I will not allow that exposition to be converted in this way.

BRO. BINCKES: Will your lordship allow me to ask you a question? (Loud cries of yes, yes; and no, no.) It would be disrespectful in me after what your address has said, to press this matter any further. (Applause.) I shall now simply move this amendment, "That this motion having been already discussed and decided upon by a legally constituted G.L., the G.L. deems it inexpedient and unnecessary to re-open the question or further to consider thereon." (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. BRO. LYALL seconded the motion.

BRO. HAYERS suggested to his lordship that he could not put such a motion as that.

The G.M.: I shall certainly refuse to put the amendment.

The Rev. BRO. PORTAL, Past Provincial S. G. W. of Oxford, whose rising was greeted with loud and hearty applause, spoke as follows:—It is with extreme pain and regret that I find myself compelled to move another amendment to the motion which has just been made by the worshipful Brother Burlton, and in doing so I wish to pay the most implicit obedience to the G.M. sitting in the chair; and as on the present occasion he has refused to allow us to quote our own laws, I shall not refer to them. His lordship has refused to allow us to pass an opinion as to the extent of our own jurisdiction, and I shall, therefore, not enter into that subject. There is an old adage which informs us that a child may lead a horse to the water, but a hundred men can not make him drink. (Loud cheers and laughter.) I contend then that if we are asked to stultify ourselves

in this manner, till we have been permitted to consider the question of our privileges, we ought to declare that we will not discuss any other. (Loud cheers.) Therefore, while I submit to the G. M. in the chair, as a member of G. L. I feel bound to maintain its dignity, and I move that this G. L. declines to proceed to any other business till it has been allowed to decide on its own inherent authority and prerogative. (Loud applause.)

BRO. HEARNE seconded this amendment.

BRO. ROXBURG opposed the amendment.

BRO. WARREN said an amendment could not be put upon an amendment till the first amendment was disposed of. (The G. M. had refused to put it.)

BRO. ROXBURG: It has been stated by the Rev. Bro. Portal that the G. M. has refused to permit G. L. to consider its own constitutions. (Hear, hear.) That I deny. (Applause.) Masonry is bound by its laws, and there is but one constitutional method of amending these laws, and if the worthy brother is desirous of amending them he can do so in the proper way—viz., by giving a substantive notice of motion, which would then be considered by the G. L. So long as the W. M. occupies that chair he is bound to maintain those laws, and in the exposition of them he has given his own notions, in accordance with his views of his obligation, in which I concur. He is bound to put his own construction upon them, and to administer them to the best of his belief. That there are brethren who may wish to make alterations in those laws I can readily conceive; but I do ask the G. L. to support its own dignity, and not to stultify itself by admitting, by a side wind, alterations in its constitutions. If alterations are to be made, let them be made legally and manfully. (Cheers.) The Rev. Bro. said the G. M. refused to let us discuss our own jurisdiction. I am surprised at such an observation coming from such a quarter. The G. M. has laid down what he considers the existing state of the law, and the G. L. has the power to alter that law, but such alteration must be made in a regularly appointed manner. You cannot do it by a side wind. (Hear.) I hope for the honor of the chair and the credit of Masonry, that the brethren will support the chair. The law laid down by the chair must be respected, however erroneous it may be. To our G. M. we have confided our sovereignty; he is the king of the craft, and he cannot put such an amendment as Bro. Portal's.

BRO. BINCKES rose to order, on the ground that the G. M. was allowing that very discussion on the part of those who thought with him which he denied to those who entertained opposite views.

BRO. ROXBURG: It is very evident that the brother who last spoke did not hear what it was I said. (Laughter.) I was not urging the propriety of the decision at which the G. M. has arrived. (Loud cries of "Question, question.") I am speaking to the question, and I say so long as the G. M. is in the chair his decision, whether right or wrong, must be respected. (Hear, hear.) It should not be controverted by a motion like this, which would reverse that decision.

BRO. HARRISON (P. M. of the Royal York): In September last, your lordship, not being present, was represented by a deputy, and—

G. M.: Order, brother (Laughter.)

BRO. HARRISON: M. W., Sir, you are proceeding contrary to the Book of Constitutions. (Loud cheers and laughter.)

The G. M. then read the amendment of Brother Portal.

BRO. the EARL OF CARNARVON: M. W., Sir, before you put the amendment I shall be glad to have an opportunity of saying a few words upon it.

G. M.: You shall speak after I have read the amendment.

The G. M. then read the amendment, and decided that it was to call in question his decision, and therefore he would not put it.

BRO. the EARL OF CARNARVON: In accordance with the permission of the M. W. the G. M. I shall make one or two observations. You, Sir, this evening have said something of the House of Commons, and you have referred to some of our customs as corresponding with theirs; but whenever the Government, or any private individual, is called in question for any act or policy, so far from stopping the discussion he is the first to invite it. (Loud applause.) Allow me to say that it does come with an ill grace. I speak with the deepest respect, my lord, of you personally, and of your office, but I must speak with that freedom which characterizes gentlemen and Free Masons, and I now must say that it does come with an ill grace from

the Dais when we consider the circumstances of the case. G. L. was adjourned in September without a word of opposition from those who were in authority upon that occasion, and it was opened upon that adjournment on the 1st of October with the sanction of those who were then in authority, having been summoned together by official circulars from the G. Sec.'s office. (Loud applause.)

The G. M.: I must call my noble friend and brother to order, because he is now entering upon a course of argument which I have decided to be disorderly.

The E. of CARNARVON: I see how difficult a course they have to pursue who do not bask in the smiles of your favor and approval—(loud cheers)—but, Sir, whether that right do exist or whether it do not exist, to which I lay a claim—I will not say it does exist under the circumstances of the case; but whether it does or does not exist we claim it as an inherent right. (Loud cries of "Question, question.") Whether right or wrong, I say that there is an inherent right in every representative assembly, and we claim it, because G. L. should be inherently supreme, and we demand the acknowledgment of that supremacy as our safeguard against intrigue, and our guarantee for the preservation of our liberties and our—(the remainder of the sentence was drowned in applause and cries of "Order, order.")

BRO. H. G. WARREN: We have nothing before us but the motion of our worthy Bro. Col. Burlton, on which I shall move an amendment, and I shall do so in a few words. I disagree with the noble lord in his application of the privilege of the House of Commons to the practice of G. L., and I know something of the H. of C. from my experience in the gallery. I feel strongly on this subject. As we have already decided the question which is now before us I think it is only a waste of time to go over the ground again, and I shall therefore now move that this G. L. be closed. (Loud cheers, laughter, and cries of "Oh! oh!" from the Dais.)

BRO. BINCKES seconded the motion, amidst loud cheers and uproarious demonstrations of angry feeling.

The G. M.: I must appeal to the G. L. to support me. (Applause.) I do trust that G. L. is not becoming a mere debating club. I do hope that resolutions will not be brought forward which have neither sense nor meaning, such as the proposition that the G. L. be now closed. (Hear, hear.) Why, the fact is, the G. L. cannot be closed, except by the G. M. I am sorry to have heard the observations which have fallen from my noble friend and brother who has just addressed G. L. respecting his not finding favour with the G. M. I can assure my noble friend and brother that there is no member of G. L. for whom I entertain a higher respect. (Cheers.) I have known him from his infancy, and I have been intimate with his family all my life, and not one word would I say to him which would give him offence. But I must administer the law according to the oath I have taken, to the best of my judgment and ability, and I regret that such remarks should have fallen from the noble lord. I was for 25 years a member of the House of Commons, and therefore I can neither lean to the opinion of the noble lord nor to that of the worthy gentleman who says he has occupied a place in the gallery. (Laughter.)

The E. of CARNARVON: M. W., Sir, I beg to disclaim on my part, all intentional discourtesy. You have said that you have a duty to perform to the best of your ability, and believe me that I should not have expressed the views to which I have given utterance upon the present occasion had I not felt that if I did not express my opinion I should be a traitor to the cause of G. L. I have at heart. (Loud cheers.)

BROTHER C. PURTON COOPER wished to bring the unhappy discussion to a close, he said; but his observations were received with "question," and a variety of demonstrations of impatience. The brethren, he said, must have heard with delight and satisfaction the interchange of friendly sentiments between the G. M. and the E. of Carnarvon. (Hear, hear.) I have no intention to take up your time, but you will allow me, perhaps, to say that I also have very strong opinions on this question of the power of adjournment, and—

BROTHER PORTAL: I rise to order. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

BROTHER PURTON COOPER: My opinion on the subject is—(Order, order.)

BRO. BRADSHAW: There are many brethren with strong opinions who feel deeply on this subject, and would like to have it decided by G. Lodge.

BRO. STEBBING, Prov. G. Sec. for Hampshire, said he wished to

make a few observations, and as he considered that the G. M. had decided quite right, he could not be regarded as rising with any vexatious motive. He thought it would be impossible for the G. M. to proceed with the resolution which was before it till the point as to the power of adjournment was decided.

The Brother was about to give his reasons for so thinking, when he was called to order by the G. M., who begged the brethren to proceed to the business of the evening. The Brother said it was very desirable that G. L. should meet to make an alteration in its laws before proceeding with any other business. This assertion was received with mingled applause and demonstrations of disapprobation. The G. M. said that G. L. was wasting time, and that if they wished to alter their laws they must take the proper legal mode of doing so, by giving due notice of the proposed alterations to the Board of Masters, which met that day fortnight; till then nothing could be done.

The first clause was then put, and BROTHER ARIA rose to make a statement of the causes which had led to the appointment of the Committee, which have been fully detailed in the *Magazine* both in communications from the colonies and in reports of speeches in G. L. Amongst other things, he stated that he sent a letter of very great importance to the G. M. from Jamaica in 1847, and he left the island in 1853, and up to that date no answer whatever had been received. This announcement was received with loud cries of "Shame," and other expressions of disapprobation. He said he knew there could be no mistake about the matter; for the communications had been put into the G. Sec.'s own hands. (Renewed disapprobation.) He would have read some documents in proof of his assertion, but was called to order by the Rev. Bro. Cox. The G. M. also said that such charges deserved a separate motion, and should not be introduced incidentally; and BRO. DOBIE said these statements should be made to the Committee appointed to consider the question.

BRO. BURLTON said it was largely on Bro. Aria's evidence that the Board was appointed, and it was a waste of time to go into details then.

It was now 20 minutes to 10 o'clock, when the first clause was put, and carried unanimously, the whole of the hour and 40 minutes having been devoted principally to the discussion of the adjourned question, and to assertions on the part of the G. M. that the question should not be discussed.

Clause II. was read, put, and carried.

Clause III. was read, put, and carried, when BRO. HALL rose to address G. L. on it.

There were loud cries of "Its carried, its carried," from all parts of G. L.; but the G. M. ruled that not having put "the contrary," the question could not be considered carried in the sense of preventing Bro. Hall from speaking upon it.

BRO. HALL objected to the words "when practicable," as being too vague and indefinite.

The Rev. BRO. PORTAL said if the G. L. was not to be turned into a debating society, neither should it become a Court of Nisi Prius. (Loud laughter, and cheers.)

The clause was at length carried.

On clause IV.

BRO. DOBIE contended that this clause appointed a Board which took some of the powers of the Board of General Purposes away from it. They could not have a separate jurisdiction. This clause was an alteration of the law, and as such could not be moved in its present shape upon that occasion; it must be done in the regular way.

BRO. ROXBURGH objected to the proposed constitution of the Committee, which he said would be *imperium in imperio*.

After some discussion,

BRO. HAVERS said they could not put the resolution in its present shape, because it would take power from the Board of General Purposes.

BRO. PORTAL said it was their intention to take powers from the Board of General purposes. He suggested that the resolution should be amended thus—"Such Board shall have the same powers as regards the colonies as at present exercised by the Board of General Purposes, to the exclusion of the latter."

The G. M.: I don't wish to argue against the new Board, but due notice must be given ere you abrogate the laws.

BRO. ARIA suggested that the new Board would be supplementary, and not antagonistic.

BRO. DOBIE said the Board of General Purposes had power to "hear and determine all subjects of complaint." The promoters of this movement should have consulted the Book of Constitutions in the preparation of their scheme.

BRO. SYMONDS: It does not say that the Board of General Purposes must hear these questions; and I should think when a question has been decided by the Colonial Board, the General Purposes Board will not interfere with it. If dissatisfied with the Colonial Committee you can appeal to G. L.

BRO. FANDELL suggested that the Colonial Board should report to the Board of General Purposes.

The G. M. thought this was a solution of the difficulty. It was very desirable that this question should be settled.

A long discussion ensued, some of the brethren suggesting that if the Colonial Board reported to the Board of General Purposes they might as well go to the Board of General Purposes at once, which they could do now. Col. BURLTON objected to the amendment, as defeating the objects of the Board they were about to appoint.

The clause was agreed to with three dissentients.

On clause VI.

BRO. HAVERS thought they should not be bound to meet at any particular time.

BRO. ARIA thought they should, because their brethren from the Colonies, when they came to this country, would always know when to come up to town, if they wished to appear before the Board.

Carried unanimously.

Clause VII. was carried without discussion.

On clause VIII.

A discussion then ensued on the addition of Brother Aria's name to the Committee.

BRO. SAVAGE objected to the resolution as vague, not stating what should be the qualifications of its members; but some one suggested that it was only necessary that they should be members of G. L.

Carried unanimously.

#### THE G. M.'s COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO CANADA.

The G. M.: Brethren, the next business is the communication read in September. (Hear, hear.) I have no objection to refer it to the Committee which you have just appointed. (Loud and protracted cheering.)

#### CIRCULATING THE PAPER OF BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY.

BRO. THE E. OF CARNARVON moved—

"To refer the communication of the M. W., the Grand Master to the board which you have just appointed."

And in so doing he said that he was induced to bring this question forward from the feeling that, for a great many years past, the country lodges had been in a state of practical ignorance as to what was going on in G. L. It was only in accordance with our constitution that the country lodges should be kept informed of the proceedings of G. L. (Hear, hear.) The Board of Masters was intended to carry out this. (Hear.) That board was supposed to be composed of representatives of the country lodges coming to London to obtain information of the business to be brought forward at G. L., and to return to the lodges they represent, and convey the information so procured. It was an extension of that principle to which they gave effect a short time ago, when they decided in G. L. that there should be papers containing the motions to be submitted to G. L. printed and placed in the hands of the brethren on entering G. L. (Hear, hear.) Of this they had already seen the advantage. (Hear, hear.) He considered that it was equally desirable and equally in accordance with the Book of Constitutions that effect should be given to the motion which he then submitted. (Applause.)

BRO. HAVERS said he had no objection to the motion except that it was too indefinite. The phrase "at such time as shall afford opportunity" was too vague. While thus expressed, it was almost impossible that the G. Sec.'s office could carry it out; a week before G. L. being now the rule, and some defined time of meeting would be requisite if such a change as this was to be made.

BRO. the E. OF CARNARVON replied that he had been content to leave the matter in the hands of the G. Sec.'s office and the Board of General Purposes, though the same objection had previously been pointed out to him, and he had then consented to the 4th Wednesday of the month, previous to each Q. C. He would not detain G. L. by entering into any argument in favour of that or of any particular day. If that day should be inconvenient he was fully prepared to consent to any other day.

The REV. BRO. PORTAL amended the motion in accordance with these observations, naming the 4th Wednesday in the month, previous to each Q. C.

BRO. H. G. WARREN objected to that day, as it would at least once a year fall upon the same day as the G. Chap. He suggested that it should be the last Wednesday in January, April, &c. This would be a week earlier, and give time to get the notices out.

The G. M. said Bro. Portal's amendment would alter the law, and notice must be given of it in the regular way.

BRO. DOBIE said the alteration proposed would divide the Board of Benevolence from the Board of Masters.

A P. G. officer, whose name we did not learn, was strongly in favour of a fixed day for meeting on many grounds.

The REV. BRO. PORTAL withdrew his amendment.

BRO. SAVAGE said if the day of meeting was to be altered due notice must be given.

The G. M. said the motion called upon the Board of General Purposes to make an alteration which it was not in their power to make.

The motion as it originally stood was then put and carried.

#### THE CHARITY JEWEL.

BRO. H. G. WARREN moved—

“That the Charity Jewel, now conferred on Brethren who had served as Stewards to the Girls' and Boys' School, should be so extended as to include the Benevolent Institution for Aged Free-masons and their Widows, so that Brethren serving as Stewards at the festivals of any two of the charities should be entitled to wear the medal, and those who served the three Stewardships should be further entitled to wear a clasp on the ribbon by which the medal was suspended.”

He supported his motion by observing that his object was simply to place the three charities upon an equal footing. He did not wish to hurt any one of the charities, and he did not believe that his motion would have the slightest tendency that way.

BRO. JNO. HERVEY opposed the motion, because he said he had the interests of the charities at heart. If masonic charities were to depend for their prosperity upon the privilege of wearing a medal the sooner they had done with them the better. (Hear, hear.) He did not think that the wearing of one bauble on his breast was worth so much attention. This motion would be detrimental to the other two charities. He asked the Brethren if it was for the purpose of wearing their jewel that they served the charities. (Laughter.) He urged the Brethren to reject the motion.

BRO. BARRETT also opposed the motion, and said the stewards of the Boys' School paid for the die of the medal, and to take it for a subsequently established charity would be to defraud the Boys' School. (Hear, hear.)

BRO. BRUCKES said he was at a loss to see why this resolution should be opposed. All the charities should have an equal hold upon their affections. It was quite right to say that they did not serve the charities for the sake of the jewels; but still these jewels were honourable tokens of services rendered to the Order. (Hear, hear.) He would not support the conclusion of G. L. motion at all if he thought it would injure either the charities. (Hear, hear.)

The REV. BRO. PORTAL thought that all the charities should certainly be placed upon an equal footing. When they made exertions for any one particular charity they were sure more or less to benefit all. (Hear, hear.) It seemed as if the brethren gradually got so into the habit of putting their hands into their pockets that they were unable to leave off doing so. (Cheers and laughter.) He was in favour of the motion.

The Rev. Bro. COX opposed the motion, on the ground that the jewel was instituted for the benefit of the two charities established a long time ago, and not for that charity which was more recent in its origin.

BRO. DOBIE said there were matters which had far better be left for the G. M. to decide. G. L. never interfered with them. He saw no reason why they should encumber the proceedings of G. L., with things of this kind.

BRO. SAVAGE, amidst loud laughter, called attention to the fact that although Brother Hervey called the jewel “a bauble,” he had that “bauble” upon his breast at that moment. His arguments had not, therefore, much weight. There was no 3rd charity when the jewel was introduced, so that it necessarily belonged to the other 2. G. L. divided. For the motion, 72; against, 54. Carried by a majority of 18. G. L. was then closed.

#### WE have been requested to publish the following PROVINCIAL MESS.

In order to facilitate the attendance of Provincial Brethren at the Quarterly Communications in London, the following arrangement has been made:—

1. Any Provincial Mason, on payment of £1 Annually, will be entitled to attend the Provincial Mess, at F. M. Tavern, on the day of each Quarterly Communication, when he will be provided with a plain dinner, and a pint of wine.
  2. All Country Lodges will be at liberty to subscribe at the same rate for any number of their members.
  3. Provincial Masons who are not subscribers may attend the mess on payment of 6s.
  4. Brethren attending in right of Lodge subscriptions, must bring a note from the W. M. of their Lodge to authorize them in so doing.
  5. Notice must be sent to “*The Landlord, Free Mason's Tavern, Great Queen Street, London,*” by every Brother intending to dine at the mess two days before each Quarterly Communication.
  6. The chair will be taken at 5 p. m., by the Treasurer, or some Brother deputed by him.
  7. Subscriptions must be paid in advance before the first Quarterly Communication, in each year, to the Treasurer, the Rev. George Raymond Portal, P. Prov. S. G. W., Oxon, 3, Wilton Crescent, London, by post-office order on the Knightsbridge Office.
- Provincial Brethren attending the next Quarterly Com., the 3rd of December, will be provided with dinner, including wine, for 5s., at the F. M. Tavern, at 5 p. m., on announcing their intention to the Landlord two days previously.
- A motion will be brought forward by the Prov. G. Secretary for Hampshire to empower G. L. to adjourn till its business has been transacted.

There are good grounds for believing that the Dais will oppose the confirmation of Lord Carnarvon's motion for making COUNTRY LODGES acquainted with the business to be brought forward in Grand Lodge.

It is, therefore, most important that country Brethren should attend in G. L. on the 3rd of December, to maintain their own rights, and support the confirmation of that portion of the minutes.

We refer them to the arrangement made for their accommodation at the F. M. Tavern, mentioned in another part of our impression.

**THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL**, in Gray's-inn-road, from its peculiar principle of keeping open its doors day and night, to all applicants, without letters of recommendation, is pre-eminently suited to be the medium for carrying out the charitable wishes of those who have not either the leisure or opportunity of personally ascertaining the fittest recipients for their bounty.

vast numbers (frequently upwards of 300) are here daily relieved with advice and medicine, and the most urgent and distressing cases admitted into the wards as far as the funds from time to time, at the disposal of the Committee will permit. During the past month (October) 9,680 sick poor (many from distant parts of the country) received the benefits of this Charity, either as out or in door patients, on their personal application alone, and since its foundation in 1823, the number relieved is upwards 561,000. The recent addition of the Sussex Memorial Wing will not only afford greater facility in administering relief to applicants, but also an opportunity of increasing the number of in-patients. The Committee therefore confidently rely on the benevolent to aid them in their efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the afflicted poor.

John Masterman, Esq., M.P., Nicholas Lane, is Treasurer, and will gladly receive contributions; as also the following:—Messrs. Coutts and Co.; Drummond and Co.; Herries and Co.; Ransom and Co.; Prescott, Grote, and Co.; Smyth, Payne, and Co.; Glyn and Co.; Jones Lloyd and Co.; Barclay and Co.; Denison and Co.; Williams, Deacon, and Co.; Overend, Gurney, and Co.; Nisbet and Co., Berners Street; Masterman and Co.; and the Secretary at the Hospital.

The management of the Hospital is in the hands of 30 Governors, yearly elected from the general body of subscribers at the Annual General Meeting in January. A Board is held every Thursday, at four o'clock, to conduct the business, when any subscriber may attend, if so disposed, the Board being at all times desirous of receiving suggestions or giving explanations.

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# THE Masonic Observer.

No. 3.]

DECEMBER, 1856.

[2s. PER ANNUM.]

THE Most Worshipful the Grand Master, on taking the Chair, announced to Grand Lodge that he had received the resignation of the Grand Secretary, who only held office till his successor should be appointed. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 3rd of September and of the Grand Lodge of Emergency held on the 19th of November, were then confirmed; care being taken that the erasure from the former, by the G. M.'s command, of the motion for adjournment, should be hurried over in so low a tone of voice by the Grand Secretary, that Brethren sitting opposite, within a few yards, were unaware of what had been read, till the motion for confirmation had been put, and it was too late to take the sense of G. L. upon the unconstitutional mutilation of its minutes.

An attempt was likewise made to upset the Colonial Board, but threatened disclosures as to the present state of feeling in Canada had the desired effect, and the appointment of the Board was carried by an overwhelming majority.

LORD ZETLAND was again nominated for the office of G. M. by Brother BRADFORD.

LORD SOUTHAMPTON was proposed by Bro. WARREN.

Some discussion took place upon a communication from the G. L. of Ireland, involving the right of the Master of a Lodge to exclude visiting Brethren of notoriously bad character, and ultimately a resolution to that effect was adopted.

Of the twenty-two motions upon the paper of business, not one was able to be brought forward before 11 o'clock, consequently they will all lapse, unless the M. W. the G. M.—in accordance with a suggestion made to him in G. L.—shall be pleased to summon a G. L. of Emergency.

THE announcement that the Grand Secretary had resigned, was received by G. L. in dignified silence. There were two motions on the paper recommending this step, and it was pretty generally known that it would take place.

We are content to throw a veil over the past—to express our conviction that G. L. will grant a retiring pension worthy of itself, and of the long services of the venerable brother—and our earnest hope that he may long live to continue to the Craft the priceless experience of more than half a century.

An ingenious, though characteristic, attempt to screen the Dais at his expense, by throwing upon him the whole blame of the accumulated arrogance and blundering of the Executive, was not allowed to pass unquestioned. But it was left to the opponents of the Grand Secretary to save him from the tender mercies of his friends.

THE year to which we are fast saying farewell has been a very important one for Masonic interests. He who watches the sea for five minutes may doubt whether it ebbs or flows, but he who watches for an hour will see landmark after landmark disappear, and will know that the tide is rising. So has it been with us. Within the twelvemonth a Constitutional Party has been called into existence solely through official maladministration; and though its progress may have been thwarted at one time by arbitrary authority, at another by intrigue, the motions of Bro. Portal and Lord Carnarvon affording respectively\* to the London and Country Lodges an acquaintance with the public business of G. L. is of itself the evidence of an unmistakeable advance.

So far the general aspect of our affairs at home is cheering. Abroad it must be owned that the new year opens under more doubtful auspices. The position of

\* In March, Bro. Portal's motion for the distribution of Notice Papers at the entrance of G. L., and in December, Lord Carnarvon's motion for the circulation of the same among the Country Lodges were confirmed.

our Canadian Lodges is very critical; and though a Colonial Board has been constituted, it will find no easy task in reuniting alienated affections, and in cementing a stable reconciliation. So easy is it to mismanage matters, so difficult to restore them to their original condition. Had Lord Carnarvon's motion, which was carried unanimously in the adjourned G. L. of the 1st of October, been re-affirmed, Canada would have accepted it as an earnest of conciliation and redress, and the schism would probably have been healed. As the case now stands, the Canadian Lodges justly resent the uniform neglect with which they have been treated by the Dais; and in certain resolutions, which we commend henceforward from the G. M. to the G. L. of England: If, as the Book of Constitutions says, G. L. is "inherently supreme;" if it has "the power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the Craft" (p. 23); if it be a Court of "Appeal," and "possesses the supreme superintending authority and the power of finally deciding in every case" (p. 88), it is self-evident that G. L. both can and ought to entertain the appeal submitted to it.

Meanwhile we would earnestly entreat our Canadian Brethren to be patient yet awhile, and to believe that there are many in England who have recognized the justice of their claims, and will not lightly abandon their cause. Rome was not built in a day: and though the Executive opposes to every salutary measure the dead weight of a stolid resistance, yet truth is mighty and will prevail—if it be spoken fearlessly, and followed up practically by a vigorous common sense.

WE have a kindness for the occupants of the Dais, but the stronger our feelings for them, the more painful is the sight of the inconsistencies and entanglements into which they insist upon thrusting themselves. It was often discussed by ancient casuists whether a man could injure himself or no. We must confess to a feeling of regret and almost shame to see so ready an affirmative given to the question by many of the Craft for whom personally we entertain a respect. Their mental organization is really an interesting study—a psychological phenomenon which is not often presented in the nineteenth century. They are our "*rara avis*," our Dodo—the relics of something which may have existed in another phase of human life, but which now perplexes men, baffles imitation, and sets the laws of

reasoning at defiance. Their artless belief in their own inherent right of governing, the simplicity of their faith in all the little devices to evade real points at issue, and to mask their intentions—devices so elaborate as regards themselves, so transparent to others—is really quite affecting. The Abyssinian Prince refused to believe in the existence of ice which he had never seen; they, on the other hand, cannot be persuaded that G. L., which they do know and which they have so long adorned, is capable of any warmth or reality of feeling on any subject. In an age of incessant activity, where none can afford to be idle, they alone seem to indulge in the pleasant dream of the lotos eaters: to think that, like the Epicurean gods of old, they may from their sublime pedestal look down in serene contempt upon the labours, the hopes, the anxieties of men, and dispense at will their smiles and thunders upon a submissive world. But, like all great geniuses, they have one favourite line of action, one grand expedient, which they hold in reserve. No error is so gross but that it may be redeemed by maintaining themselves and imposing on others an absolute silence. Napoleon held his Imperial Guard, Sir R. Walpole his money-bags in reserve to carry the day when all else had failed; but our worthy Brethren on the Dais are not content to use their social catapult once or twice, or even thrice. Forgetful of the words of the wise man, that there is a season for all things, they are always falling back upon this system of repression as the *ne plus ultra* of their diplomacy. Their management of G. L. is a perpetual *coup d'etat*. They resemble the painter who could only paint a red lion. Whether the picture was large or small, sacred or profane, gay or serious; whether it was to hang in a drawing room or a kitchen, the end and object of his art was a red lion. So in G. L.; whether it be a question of Canada or of the right of adjournment, it is all one; the answer is uniform—it is a matter of privilege—discussion is illegal.

We rejoice to see that Bro. Benson (J. W., No. 10) has undertaken to move for a Committee to report upon these matters of privilege and order. We have no desire to exceed by one inch our province as defined by the Constitution; but we are weary of walking in a mist surrounded by doubts and unrealities, and continually warned that we are breaking some law or subverting some landmark.

ENGLISHMEN are eminently practical, and the necessity of a power in Grand Lodge to hold continuous

meetings—call them by what name we like—till it has transacted the business before it, is conclusively shown by the fact that no motion was discussed at the last meeting of G. L., though there were several of the greatest importance on the paper, merely for want of time.

Till this power is recognized, if it exist, or established if it do not, it is impossible that G. L. can efficiently exercise the functions of Government vested in it by the Constitutions. If it is necessary that G. L. should meet at all, it is equally necessary that it should fulfil the purpose for which it is created—the transaction of business; and if this cannot be completed at one meeting it is clearly necessary that others should be held; and it is just as reasonable that the M. W. the G. M. should be able to prohibit the assembling of G. L. altogether, as that he should virtually be able to prevent the transaction of business by it when it has met, by refusing his assent to continuous meetings necessitated by the mass of business before it. Let the power of summoning G. L.'s of Emergency—when an emergency arises—remain, by all means, in the hands of the M. W. the G. M., but let G. L. possess the power of doing its own work at as many meetings as may be found necessary for its completion. There are three notices of motions to effect this.

The more Precedents are examined, and the Constitutions studied, the more clearly will it appear that Grand Lodge has the inherent right to hold special or adjourned meetings for the transaction of any business that may remain over from the Quarterly Communication; and these meetings are altogether distinct from the "G. L.'s of Emergency," provided for in the Book of Constitutions. The circular which summoned the G. L. on the 26th of April, 1854, stated expressly that it was "in order to adjourn until Saturday the 29th," and a motion to that effect was "moved, seconded, and carried unanimously." The Constitutions, however, neither give to G. L. nor to the G. M. this power of adjournment, and it can only rest on the "undoubted right" of "the majority of the members present at any Lodge duly summoned, to regulate their own proceedings" (p. 75). Another instance occurred in September, 1840, when the Duke of Sussex being in the chair, "Bro. Davis moved that an especial G. L. should be held on the 30th of October. Bro. Thomas seconded the resolution," which was put and carried. In both these cases the consent of G. L. was asked, which conclusively shows that the special or adjourned meetings

then held were not "Lodges of Emergency" which are summoned by the M. W. the G. M. *alone*. And if it is maintained that the consent of the G. M. is necessary for such a special meeting being held, we reply that the Constitutions nowhere say so, but they do say that, "*all powers and authorities for the government of the G. L. shall be used and exercised by the officers authorized to preside in the absence of the G. M., as fully to all intents and purposes as if such substitute officers were specified in every law in which any powers or authorities are given to the principals;*" and that when G. L. is opened "*only in form*" (*i. e.* in the absence of the G. M.) yet it is "*with the same authority.*" (p. 22).

WE have the greatest desire that the services of our worthy and enlightened Brethren on the Dais should be fully appreciated—at their proper value. Their care of Grand Lodge is almost paternal, and quite equal—so far as we can remember—to that of our great-grandmothers in the sweet days of childhood.

They have, perhaps, an antiquated prejudice against our knowing too much—or as they would say, becoming too knowing—but a little learning, as we are all aware, is a dangerous thing, and upon this principle no doubt it was, that, although in September 1848, G. L. ordered a pocket edition of the Book of Constitutions to be published, the Grand Registrar—who kindly consents to act as dry-nurse to the Craft in general, as well as conscience-keeper to the M. W. the G. M. in particular, contrived to smother the little innocent, so that it became to all intents and purposes defunct, and had to be resuscitated in March, 1855.

It was upon this latter occasion that Bro. Hervey—if we mistake not—remarked with that foresight and sagacity which seems to attach inherently to Past Grand Officers, that the greatest misfortunes might be anticipated so soon as the Craft began to study the Constitutions; as though they were a tree of knowledge, an acquaintance with whose fruit would result in the loss of bliss—the bliss of ignorance.

Ornithologists have often graphically described the lamentations of the maternal hen, when her ducklings first begin to shift for themselves; she, however, generally finds that her fears are groundless, and they usually survive. Such, we trust, will be the case with Bro. Hervey and G. L.

The motion for printing the business paper, so that

G. L. might know what it had met to consider, was also opposed by the same two members of our intelligent administration; while the confirmation of the Mark degree was resisted by a Past Registrar—who kindly revived for the occasion—as well as by Brother Havers, who is seldom left behind in the race, especially when it is of that peculiar kind which is pre-eminently not to the swift, although the Report of the Special Committee recommending its acknowledgment had been “approved” at the previous G. L. by the M. W. the G. M.

The considerate interest manifested in our welfare on recent occasions by the Dais, is fresh in the recollection of every one. Their alarm lest we should over-exert ourselves, and do too much work; their dislike of troubling us with the government of our Colonial Lodges; their anxiety to keep our country Brethren in a state of calm repose; the delicate solicitude evinced in breaking to us the sad news of Canadian discontent—going so far as to hide it from us altogether for three years; all this is touching in the extreme.

Brother Dobie, however, stands unrivalled in this species of watchful care. With him it is not confined to G. L. but extends to the Board of General Purposes. The young men who compose this body, are—as every one knows—perfectly incompetent to decide what are fit subjects for their own discussion; and as an embargo is laid on French novels by the governess of every well-conducted seminary for young ladies, so does Bro. Dobie carefully guard the morality (Masonic) of his Board and prohibit them from considering any question which he—in his superior wisdom—thinks unfit for them. The exclusive privileges of the Red Apron Lodges were in this way secured from their profane investigation, and yet Bro. John Bigg, abetted by Bro. Savage, actually had the audacity—we had almost said irreverence—to call in question Bro. Dobie’s conduct in this respect before the G. L. of September, 1848.

That independent body, however, soon showed what it thought of such unreasonable and undutiful complaints, and the excellent Registrar has we believe continued ever since to exercise his fatherly care over the Board in the same way; whistling doubtless the while in his sleeve—*mutatis mutandis*—that fine old national ballad,—

“Wha daur meddle wi’ me?  
Wha daur meddle wi’ me?  
My name is little Jock Elliot,  
And wha daur meddle wi’ me?”

#### QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

The usual Quarterly Communication was held Dec. 3, at which the M. W. the G. M. presided in person.

##### THE G. TYLER AND THE G. SECRETARY.

The Lodge having been opened in ample form, The M. W. the G. M. said: “Brethren, before we proceed to the regular business, there are two communications which I wish to make to you. The first is that there is a vacancy in the office of G. Tyler, and I beg to inform you that I have appointed Brother Charles Payne, of the Freemasons’ Tavern, to that office. (Applause). The next communication which I have to make is that the G. Secretary, who has filled his office now for 20 years, has placed his resignation in my hands, but I have declined to accept it for the present, because I am not prepared at this moment to appoint a successor. I am placed in a difficult position, at the same time I confess that, considering the advanced age of the G. Secretary, it is a difficulty which I ought to have been prepared to meet. At the present moment, however, I am not so prepared. I can assure G. L. that the subject shall receive due attention at my hands. I will endeavour to find a successor who will work beneficially for the Craft. (Cheers). At the same time I feel confident that services so lengthened and so valuable as those which Brother White has rendered should be dealt with liberally. (Hear, hear). I will not now anticipate what G. L. may do, but I do feel confident that Brother White, though he retires from the office of G. Secretary, may still render valuable and important services to Masonry. (Hear, hear). These services cannot be too highly estimated, and I shall propose that we shall retain those services as far as possible. (Hear, hear). The Grand Master’s room will always be at his disposal, and he will be able to be consulted there on matters affecting the interests of the Craft. I hope, therefore, that G. L. will concur with me in not accepting Brother White’s resignation till some successor of a suitable character may be found.” (Applause).

##### THE SCRUTINEERS.

The Scrutineers were Brother John Shacklewell, No. 3; Brother of No. 178; Brother E. Johnson, of No. 778; Brother W. Buckstone, of No. 9; the Rev. Brother Westall, of No. 356. The G. M. nominated the four following, viz.: Brothers Rogers, No. 228; Ledger, No. 1; Cox, No. 19; and Deysdale, No. 255. The balloting papers were then distributed and the voting was at once proceeded with for P. Masters for the Board of Benevolence.

##### MUTILATION OF THE MINUTES.

The G. Secretary read the minutes of the previous Quarterly Communication, September 3, which had been altered by the G. Secretary at the G. M.’s command. Instead of concluding by stating that G. L. adjourned on the motion of Brother H. G. Warren, they ended by simply saying “G. L. was then closed.” The adjourned G. L. was totally ignored, and the next minutes read were those of the G. L. of Emergency, held Nov. 19, in the usual way.

Brother Binckes rose with the view of re-opening in some way the question as to the power of the G. M. to mutilate the minutes of G. L., but he was put down by the M. W. the G. M., who ruled that he was out of order.

Brother Gregory, on the question of the confirmation of the minutes, said: “M. W. Sir and Brethren, I rise to move that the minutes of the G. L. of Emergency be not confirmed so far as they relate to the appointment of the Colonial Committee. (Hear, hear). I rise with great diffidence, for although an old Mason and P. M. of my Lodge, this is only the second time I have ventured to address G. L. (Hear). Whether right or wrong, therefore, I trust I shall be received with indulgence. (Cheers). I was present at the last G. L., and also at that meeting which preceded it, and which the head of the Craft has decided to have been illegal; but I did not at the adjourned G. L. say anything against this Colonial Committee, lest, had we decided against it upon that occasion, it might doubtless have been said that the adjourned G. L. was declared illegal for the purpose of throwing over this Colonial Committee. (Hear). I am not alone in wishing to oppose the confirmation of this part of the minutes, although I am quite aware that it is a very unusual course to pursue (hear, hear), and it is a course which I would never have taken except for very extraordinary reasons. This Colonial Committee is objectionable because it will not fulfil the duties which are expected of it, and for the per-

formance of which it is specially appointed. (Hear). The *causes* which led to the appointment of that Committee have been delicately alluded to, and the M. W. the G. M. has intimated that the G. Secretary is about to retire. (Hear, hear). That is a step I am sure which we all regret, although we see the necessity for it. That step, however, will remove all necessity for the appointment of this Colonial Committee. (Loud cries of "No! no!" and partial cheering). This Colonial Committee is not a Committee which will work well, and it will certainly produce effects which the movers of this resolution by no means desire. (Hear, hear, and "No! no!") It will create an *imperium in imperio* ("No! no!") If you agree to this Committee, you will pass a law which is contrary to existing laws. You are giving to this Colonial Board some of the powers of the General Purposes' Board. You will thus have two rival bodies in Masonry, the precise limits of whose powers and duties are not clearly defined (hear), and they will be continually coming into collision with each other. (Hear, hear, and cries of "No! no!" and "Not necessarily"). Such a Board is not needed at all. If in a regiment the duties of an Adjutant have been inefficiently performed, would a Board of General Officers be appointed? (Laughter). Why, no, of course not. A new Adjutant would be appointed (hear); and when your Lordship appoints a successor to our respected Brother White you have the cure in your own hands. (No). You will do all that is necessary by appointing a successor to Brother White, a Brother who, though he will not have Brother White's experience, will possess that energy and activity which younger years alone can give. I believe that this is the only remedy to be applied to the evil which has justly been complained of. It seems to me, M. W. Sir that this Committee is not a legitimate kind of remedy to be applied to such an evil. For these reasons I move that the minutes be confirmed, except in so far as they relate to the appointment of this Colonial Board."

This amendment having been duly seconded, was put by the M. W. the G.M., on which

Brother Darkham said: "M. W. Sir and Brethren, the Brother who has just sat down has not given us any valid reason why the resolutions which were so carefully considered at the last G. L. should now be altered or repealed. (Hear, hear). The first objection which he made was that this Committee would be an *imperium in imperio*; but the worthy Brother himself put an end to whatever force there was in that objection when he stated that these resolutions put an end to the powers of the General Purposes' Board, so far as Colonial matters were concerned. (Hear, hear). That observation fully answers the objection that we are creating an *imperium in imperio*. We are setting up concurrent jurisdiction, it is said; but this is not uncommon in this country, and the resolution which is to be moved this evening by the Rev. Brother Portal will put an end to any objection which may arise under that head. The Colonial affairs will be placed entirely under the jurisdiction of this Colonial Board. I will tell the Brethren who say that this Board is not needed that there are grave and serious reasons why it should be established, and which, for the sake of saving time, I will not now enter into. (Hear, hear). There has been gross neglect and great inefficiency. (Hear, hear). There have been great evils—evils which are even now crying aloud for remedy, and if it rested with any body to put an end to those evils, it rested with the Board of General Purposes. (Hear, hear). I have every respect for every officer of G. Lodge, and for every one of its members; but I will say that there has been gross neglect in Colonial matters, and that no measures to prevent these evils have been taken by the parties by whom they ought to have been taken, viz., the Board of G. Purposes. (Hear, hear). That Board having failed to fulfil its duty so long, does not deserve to retain any longer the power of dealing with Colonial matters. (Hear, hear). We have, therefore, bestowed those powers upon the new Colonial Board, which will use them efficiently. The time for mere suavity of manners on such points has passed away. (Hear, hear). We must have efficiency (hear, hear), and not mere politeness, at any cost. (Hear, hear). I think, therefore, that it is right and proper that the resolutions passed at last G. L. should be now confirmed in their entirety." (Applause).

Brother Aria next attempted to address G. L., of course in support of the Colonial Board, but he was put down by cries of "Time, time," and other marks of impatience.

The Rev. Brother Portal: "Brethren, if there is no one else who will rise to"—

Brother Dobie: "M. W. Sir, I rise to order. I beg to refer the Rev. Brother to the Book of Constitutions, page 26, where he will find that any Brother speaking in G. L. must address himself to

the M. W. the G. M." (Hear, hear, laughter and cheers, and cries of "Divide, divide").

The Rev. Brother Portal having complied with this formality, said: "If there is no one else, my Lord, who will rise to protest against the accumulated blame of Canadian mismanagement being thus thrown on the shoulders of an old man of past 80, I will do so; (loud cheers); and having now the permission of the Chair, I shall not be cried down by those calls for a division from the Brother on my left. The Brother who opened this debate said that, inasmuch as the G. Secretary had resigned his functions, there was no occasion for the appointment of this Special Board to conduct Colonial business. Now, if this objection holds good, we must suppose that the whole of the blame for neglect and delay rests with the G. Secretary, which I, for one, am prepared flatly to deny. (Hear, hear). In despatches from Canada, which I received only yesterday, and which, if it please G. L., I shall be happy to read, I find that, unless something be promptly done, the whole P. G. Lodge of Canada will secede in a body, and a petition is now circulating amongst them asking the G. L. of England to sanction them as an independent Body. (A voice: "So much the better"). A Brother says, "So much the better;" but I say so much the worse. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers from all parts of G. L.). And it is because I think that the G. L. of England should continue to exercise supreme power throughout our dominions that I wish it to consent to the appointment of this Board, which will keep it cognizant of what is passing between ourselves and the Colonies."

The amendment was put and lost, and the minutes were then confirmed amidst loud cheering, it being just a quarter to ten o'clock when the business had reached this stage.

#### NOMINATION OF G. M. FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Brother Bradford nominated the Right Hon. the Earl of Zealand as M. W. G. M. for the ensuing year. In the presence of his Lordship he would not say much in his praise. They all knew how ably he had ruled the Order during a long course of years. (Hear).

Brother Henry George Warren, P. M., No. 202, begged to nominate the Right Hon. Brother Lord Southampton.

This announcement evidently took G. L. somewhat by surprise. At first there was for an instant silence; then, seeing that Brother Warren was serious in his proposition, there was a very loud and general cheering from all parts of G. L., mingled here and there with derisive laughter.

A Brother then rose amidst loud laughter, and wanted to ask Brother Warren, through the G.M., whether he had the permission of Lord Southampton to make such a nomination?

The G.M. said he did not think he could allow such a question to be put. Besides, it would rest with Lord Southampton to decide if he would accept the office should they do him the honour to elect him. (Hear, hear). It was not necessary that such a question should be put.

#### LODGES ERASED FROM THE LIST.

The G. Secretary said that the Lodges which stood upon the order for erasing were as follows:—

- No. 179, Wakefield, Yorkshire.
- No. 603, Reigate, Surrey.
- No. 651, Deva Lodge, Chester.
- No. 662, Castle Hakingham, Essex.
- No. 675, Lodge of Gratitude, Newton Green, Cheshire.
- No. 681, Lodge of Verity, Ripon, Yorkshire.

As there was some hope, it appeared, that No. 179 would be re-constituted, it was ordered to stand over. No. 603 had made the required returns and payments. The others were ordered to be erased.

#### BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At this stage of the proceedings the Scrutineers received and announced the names and numbers which follow:—

Barns ... 139, No. 30 Lodge.	Sheen ... 84, No. 237 Lodge.
Adlard... 130, " 7 "	Lyll ... 89, " 10 "
Robinson 122, " 8 "	Varden 89, " 57 "
Young... 119, " 11 "	Burton 85, " 202 "
Lee ... 99, " 9 "	Barrett 84, " 188 "
Alrich ... 97, " 196 "	Gale ... 83, " 19 "

These were declared to be duly elected on the Board of Benevolence for the year ensuing; but the request being made by some Brother, the following list of the unsuccessful candidates, and the number of their votes, was also read:—

Adams ... 67	Andrews ... 77	H. S. Cooper... 81
C. Buckman 76	Potter ... 73	Prince ... 71
Alexander 60	D. Samuels 75	H. G. Warren 67

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The G. Secretary then read the Report of the relief afforded by the Board of Benevolence during the months of Sept., Oct., and Nov., which was as follows:—

Sept. 24, Brother Crohn in the Chair, 4 petitioners were relieved with sums amounting in the aggregate to £60.

Oct. 29, Brother John Hervey in the Chair, 10 petitioners were relieved with sums amounting in the aggregate to £117; £30 was ordered to be given to Brother John McLaren, of No. 264, and a recommendation to extend that grant was referred to G. L.

Nov. 26, Brother John Hervey in the Chair, 12 petitioners were relieved in sums which amounted in the whole to £121.

## THE CASE OF BROTHER McLAREN.

The M. W. the G. M. then put the question that £30 be granted to the wife of Brother McLaren, of No. 264, London, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence.

Brother Binckes moved, as an amendment, that the sum be £50 instead of £30, and said that he hoped his amendment would meet with the unanimous approval of G. L. The case was a very deserving one. It had been objected that they had better give £30 now, than, by consenting to this amendment, give £50 at a future date; but, from personal investigation into the case, he had found that such was not the fact. Mrs. McLaren would rather wait and have £50 than have £30 now. This was one of the most painful cases he had ever known; here were a mother and 8 children deprived of the support of their natural protector by one of the most awful visitations of Providence which could well be imagined. The father had been subjected to the loss of his reason, and was, in fact, at that moment the helpless inmate of a lunatic asylum. (Sensation). He (Brother Binckes) could not find any cause for believing that Brother McLaren had brought this upon himself, in any way, by intemperance, or excesses of any kind. (Hear, hear, and cheers). He had been a subscribing member 24½ years to the Lodge of Stability, and the Master of that Lodge had taken upon himself to see that the money granted should really be applied to the relief of the wife and children, and not be absorbed by the parochial authorities. The poor woman had been enabled to open a little shop, but was not doing very much, and this grant would enable her to open a better stocked shop in a more eligible locality. He hoped that the amendment would be agreed to.

Brother Potter agreed with all that Brother Binckes had said. This poor woman was moving in as respectable society as many of them were, not long ago.

The amendment that £50 instead of £30 be given was then put by the M. W. the G. M., and carried unanimously amidst loud applause.

## BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES' REPORT.

This Report, which was read by the G. Secretary, announced the insertion of Mr. Cookney's name on the lease of the Freemasons' Tavern in lieu of that of Mr. Bellinger, and also that the agreement had been prepared and executed accordingly, that a counterpart had been executed by the tenants and delivered into the custody of the G. Secretary. The Board also reported that, in pursuance of the resolution of the last Q. C. of G. L. referring back to the Board the subject of the purchase of certain houses adjoining Freemasons' Hall, by and with the advice and consent of the G. Sup. of Works. The G. Sup. of Works had accordingly inspected the said property and reported it to be worth £2,250. That sum had been offered to the owner of the property, subject to the decision of the G. Reg. as to the title deeds, which having been reported satisfactory, the purchase had been completed. The Report next set forth a statement of the receipts and disbursements on account of G. L. during the present quarter, as reported by the Finance Committee, up to their meeting, Nov. 21.

On account of the Fund of Benevolence, balance in hand Oct. 1, £974; subsequent receipts, £158 12s. 2d.; making total receipts, £1,132 12s. 2d. Disbursements, £152, leaving a balance on that account of £980 12s. 2d.

On account of the General Purposes' Fund.—Balance, Oct. 1, £2,105 17s. 1d.; since received, £534 5s.; gross receipts, £2,640 2s. 1d.; disbursements to the Boys' Institution, £1,000; to the Annuity Fund, £1,000; to the Widows' Fund, £500; total disbursements, £2,501 1s. 6d.; leaving a balance in hand of £139.

Moneys received for the appropriation of which directions have not yet been given, £430 13s. 1d.; total balance in hand, £1,556 5s. 10d. In the hands of the G. Treasurer, £105. Dated Freemason's Hall, November 25, 1856.

These Reports were ordered to be received. Letters were announced to have been received in acknowledgment of the grants above named to the Boys' School and the Annuity Fund.

## HAVE THE W. M. AND WARDENS POWER TO REFUSE ADMISSION INTO A LODGE?

An appeal from the members of Lodge No. 548, Sydney, New South Wales, as well as two petitions from the independent G. L. of Canada (one of which was sent in Nov. 1855), were referred to the Colonial Board, and then a communication from Lord Naas (accompanied by Resolutions of the G. L. of Ireland) was read. Lord Naas, who is the Irish representative at the G. L. of England, was unavoidably absent. His letter was addressed to the G. Secretary, and was dated November 22, 1856. The letter was, as nearly as we could catch it, in the following terms:—

"Sir,—I regret that I was not fortunate enough to find you at the Freemasons' Hall when I called the other day, as I was desirous of consulting you about the Australian Lodge. I beg you will make the following statement to G. L. on the first occasion which presents itself. Complaints have been preferred against the G. L. of Sydney acting under the G. L. of England, by Lodge, No. 266, holding under the Constitutions of the G. L. of Ireland, for refusing admission into any of the English Lodges of Brethren belonging to the Irish Lodge; and also for refusing to allow members of English Lodges to visit the Irish Lodge. The subject having been brought under the consideration of the G. L. of Ireland, I was requested by that body to place the question before the G. L. of England. While the subject was under the discussion of the Board of General Purposes, that Board availed itself of the presence of the D. P. G. M. of Australia, Bro. Williams, who happened to be in Dublin on a visit, and from him they understood that he considered the Lodges holding of the G. L. of England had a right to refuse the admission of a member of the Irish Lodge—though such Brother might not be under suspension—into any of their Lodges; and also that the P. G. Lodge had the power to forbid their members from visiting the Irish Lodge. You will, doubtless, observe that the principle involved in this opinion—the principle on which the Lodges under the English Constitution in Sydney appear to have acted—is most important, and deserves the consideration of the G. L. of England. At a meeting of the G. L. of Ireland, held in August last, the law of Masonry, as propounded by Bro. Williams, was discussed and dissented from as being contrary not only to the written rules, but to the spirit of the Order. The principles on which the English P. G. M. in Sydney has acted appeared to the G. L. of Ireland to be untenable, viz., that because Lodge No. 266 fraternizes with the St. Andrew's Lodge—which it clearly appears is a regularly constituted Lodge holding under the G. L. of Scotland—therefore the members of it (i. e. the Irish Lodge) are to be refused admission into the English Lodges—because certain members who appear to have been elected in the English Lodge were balloted for and elected in the St. Andrew's Lodge, which the P. G. M. for Sydney has not thought proper to recognize. Such a course of conduct the G. L. of Ireland considers has a tendency to cast a certain amount of stigma upon the Irish Lodges.

"I have the honour to enclose a copy of a communication forwarded by Bro. McPherson, and an extract from the Minutes of the G. L. of Ireland, at their meeting of August 7. These documents place the matter in the clearest possible light.

"I regret that I was not able to be present at the Q. C. of the G. L. of England in June.

"I can assure you that the G. L. of Ireland is most anxious that this subject should be discussed in a Masonic spirit, and that the difficulty should be so adjusted as to restore to the Australian Lodges, whether they are acting under the English, Scotch, or Irish Constitutions, that harmony and mutual good-will which so happily prevail in the Order in the mother country.

"I remain, with the greatest respect, &c. &c.

(Signed) "NAAS,

"Irish representative in the G. L. of England.

"W. H. White, Esq., Grand Secretary."

## ENCLOSURES.

The first enclosure was a communication dated Sydney, March 1, 1856, from the Lodge, No. 266, above named. It was as follows:—  
"At the formation of the St. Andrew's Lodge (Scotch), No. 358,

about four years ago a compact was entered into between the Lodges under the English Constitution, Nos. 666 and 257 under the Irish Constitution, not to recognize and acknowledge the said St. Andrew's Lodge till they had written authority in answer to a communication sent to the G. L. of Scotland respecting the same, as to their application for a warrant which was generally supposed to have been signed by unauthorized parties not recognized by any other Lodge. In due course an answer was received by the P. G. M. from the G. L. of Scotland, the particulars of which, however, were never disclosed. Eight months have elapsed, during which period we have made repeated applications to the P. G. M. and his Lodge for the letter alluded to or a copy thereof, but we have received no answer whatever. Surely in common courtesy, if not by right, we were entitled to expect a reply! We were made a party to the affair, and we have as much respect for the judgment and discernment in our Lodge as in any of the English Lodges. This conduct on their part is not, in our opinion, at all according to Masonic usage. Eight months having elapsed, and no answer having been returned, our Lodge passed a resolution appointing a Deputation of its members to inspect the Documents of the aforesaid St. Andrew's Lodge, and if found correct to acknowledge and fraternize with them; and the Lodge proving properly constituted, this was accordingly done. The English P. G. L. now laid hold of this proceeding to debar any and all persons under the Scotch and Irish Constitutions (except No. 267) from visiting their Lodges, and refused all communication with us. And further: they passed a resolution that any Brother visiting us should be suspended by them. The St. Andrew's Lodge has recently made an application to this P. G. L. to form a Committee to inspect its Documents, which the P. G. L. declined to do, on the plea that it has written home, and could not interfere till an answer is received. Such is a plain, unvarnished statement of facts which we wish to lay before the Board of General Purposes, in order that they may make a Communication to the G. Lodges of England and Scotland, and ask their advice and assistance. We may as well state that some of our Brethren have been told verbally that the answer of the G. L. of Scotland, was no answer," &c.

(Signed by the W. M. and Wardens).

Bro. Dobie said this was entirely a question of Colonial jurisdiction, and, as such, should be referred to the Colonial Board to discuss and report upon. As to the general principle, he was of opinion that the W. M. of a Lodge had power to refuse a visitor if he thought proper. It was monstrous to suppose that a convict, for instance, or other known bad character, could claim admission into a Lodge of gentlemen. (Hear, hear). As he believed the W. M. and Wardens had a right to admit whom they would, he should, to save the time of the Lodge, move a resolution affirming that principle, which he concluded by doing.

Bro. Aria dissented, and referred to the Prussian G. L. which excluded certain Brethren upon other grounds than those which had been referred to by the Grand Registrar. If such powers of exclusion were to be allowed there was no telling what abuses might creep in. As Masonry was universal, nothing but certain known facts against his character should exclude any Brother. Nothing should exclude a Brother from a Freemasons' Lodge which would not exclude him from any other Society of gentlemen. He trusted that this communication would receive due attention at the hands of G. Lodge.

Bro. Williams, D. P. G. M. from Sydney, was not very audible in his observations; but we understood him to say that the Lodge referred to had received Brethren suspended by the P. G. L. for unmasonic conduct, and he thought that was sufficient reason why they should hold no communication with it. Besides which, men guilty of certain offences \* \* \* \* were admitted into those Lodges which complained of being cut off from communication with the others. (Hear, hear).

The Rev. Brother Portal: As G. L. is still very imperfectly informed as to the details of this case, let it be referred to the Colonial Board. (Hear, hear).

Bro. Dobie and Bro. Aria assented to this proposition.

Bro. Havers said, the R. W. the D. G. M. for Sydney was about to return to that country, and it was, therefore, very desirable that he should carry back with him some resolution of G. L. upon this subject. There could, therefore, be no objection whatever to Bro. Dobie's motion; it bound G. L. to nothing, and only expressed a principle which must meet with universal approbation. (Applause). Bro. Aria had tried to lead them away from the real question by referring to a case in Prussia which was not at all analogous to the present case. (Hear, hear).

Bro. Binckes said it was no use to attempt to shirk specific case of difficulty merely by affirming general principles.

Bro. Newmarch contended that it was the duty of the Tyler to admit all Masons on proof; but this was assailed by cries of "No! no!" from all parts of G. L., and in fact it raised such a storm of disapprobation that the Bro. sat down and made no further observations.

The M. W. the G. M. read the law, "No visitor shall be admitted into a Lodge unless personally known, recommended, or well vouched for, and after due examination by one of the Brethren present; and during his continuance in that Lodge he shall be subject to the by-laws of the Lodge, and the Master of the Lodge is bound to enforce these regulations."

Bro. Gould said this was not a mere Colonial question. He disapproved of the course pursued by the P. G. L. of Sydney. A man proving himself to be a Mason ought not to be refused admission. The W. M. who refused such a Brother put himself in the position of a Court to try the Brother's character, and that without the Brother being heard in his own behalf. This was contrary to the spirit of Masonic law. A man once a Mason, till under some Masonic suspension, ought not to be refused admission. (Loud cries of "Oh! oh!" and various demonstrations of disapprobation from all parts of G. L.).

Bro. Roxburgh said it could not be tolerated that any man whatever his character, was to come to the door of your Lodge and demand admission whether you would or would not. (Loud applause). A man might be a good Mason at one period of his life, but afterwards he might commit himself. (Hear, hear).

The Rev. Bro. Westall thought the Scotch and Irish were not sufficiently particular. He had been P. G. Treasurer, and had found hundreds of pretended Masons who made a trade of it and lived by it, and out of all the cases he had known of these itinerant Masonic imposters, only two had English diplomas. (Applause).

Bro. H. G. Warren asked the G. M. if this was not such a motion as required notice to be given of it?

The M. W. the G. M. said, No, as it was simply in answer to the communication from the G. L. of Ireland. It was desirable that the opinion of G. L. should go forth at once to the Colonies, assuring them that G. L. justified them in refusing to receive Brethren of known bad character. (Applause).

The resolution was put in the following terms:—

"That it is the opinion of this G. L. that it is in the power of the W. M. and Wardens of any private Lodge to refuse admission to any visitor of known bad character."

Carried unanimously, and ordered to be communicated to Lord Naas.

This was the end of the orders of the day, and G. L. was about to proceed to the notices of motion, but it was eleven o'clock, and the G. M. enforced the by-law that after that hour no new business can be proceeded with. Considerable amusement was caused by the Brethren, some of them disputing the time and declaring it had not struck the hour, and ergo Bro. Portal was entitled to proceed. The minute or two spent in this way put the question beyond any doubt, so that when Bro. Portal at length rose it really had struck the hour, and the M. W. the G. M., on being appealed to, decided that G. L. must be closed.

Bro. Aria said he hoped the G. M. would call a G. L. of Emergency to go on with the arrears of business.

The M. W. the G. M. said he would think of it, but made no promise either way.

The G. L. was then closed in ample form with solemn prayer.

**L**OST, on Wednesday Evening, 3rd Dec., between the hours of 8 and 11, on the Dais of G. L., some TEMPER, much ARGUMENT, and all PRETENCE to IMPARTIALITY and LOGIC.—Whoever will restore the missing valuables will be duly REWARDED with OFFICIAL FAVOUR.—Address, GRAND REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

N.B.—The Articles in question will be easily recognized by a plausible but rather flimsy appearance.

**W**E understand that a Hand-book to the Grand Lodge for the use of Country Brethren will be shortly published under the patronage of the G. Registrar, the G. Secretary, and most of the Dais. We have been favoured with the following extracts :—

**AUTHORITY**—The just rights of an uncontrollable dictator.

**ADJOURNMENT**—An objectionable practice henceforth to be abrogated.

**BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS**—A series of laws which ought only to be quoted by the Dais. The landmarks of the Order were almost uprooted by its publication. It has the injurious tendency of informing the brethren of the constitutions to which they are pledged and the laws by which they are governed.

**COLONIES**—A corpus on which the Executive may experiment.

**D-BIE**—A good and wise Scotchman.

**EXECUTIVE**—A body who have purple aprons and “yellow minds.”

**FACION**—Everything opposed to the Executive.

**GRAND LODGE**—Once believed to represent the whole Craft, now only the G. M.

**H-RVEY**—Saucebearer and bottle-holder to the G. M.

**INTENTIONS**—The pavement of the Dais.

**KITPLE CATTLE TO SHOE**—A favourite expression of the G. Registrar when anticipating from the body of G. L. resistance to some arbitrary act.

**LAW**—The Constitutions as interpreted by Br. B-d-n.

**MASONRY**—A tradition of H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex.

**OFFICE**—The *summum bonum*.

**PETITIONS**—Documents of little value, which enter the G. Secretary's office, but never come out of it.

**REBELLIOUS**—The official epithet for the Canadian lodges (*vide G. L. Debate, June, 1856*).

**SECRETARY, GRAND**—A tub to the whale.

**TALKING AGAINST TIME**—An useful expedient to stave off inconvenient motions.

**VETO**—A favourite word with the G. M.

**WH-TE**—A very unfortunate wight.

**Z-TL-ND**—The representative of Masonry and the victim of his party.

#### “A TUB TO THE WHALE.”

“We understand it is in contemplation of some members of G. L. to oppose the confirmation of the minutes as far as relates to the appointment of the Colonial Committee, and to throw Bro. White's resignation as a sop to the Canadian Lodges.”—*Masonic Rumour, Dec. 1st, 1856.*

With APATHY steering, and PRIDE in command.

A gallant ship dashed o'er the sea,  
All trustful in sunshine, all heedless of storm  
And the breakers that surged on the lee.

But the waves they swelled higher, and louder the threat  
Of the gathering tempest became;  
Still PRIDE in his cabin continued to lounge,  
And the hand at the helm was the same.

Then the crew gathered aft, and they prayed with one voice  
At the low warning breath of the breeze,  
That to tried men and true might be trusted the ship,  
While APATHY dozed at his ease.

But the Captain he stormed, and the Captain he raved;  
“Why, there's mutiny sure in my ranks!”

So he clapped into limbo his able A. B.'s,  
And to APATHY gave his best thanks.

The cordage creaked louder, the breakers hissed near,  
And more fierce grew the voice of the wind,  
And fearful sea-monsters, foretellers of wreck,  
Came snorting and plunging behind.

Then the knees of the skipper were loosened with dread,  
And his cheek it grew terribly pale,  
And with wild superstition he sought for a man  
To throw out as a “tub to the whale.”

All crews have their toadies, all ships have their rats.  
And old APATHY's friends sheered away:  
Poor fellow! they fixed upon him to throw out  
To the monsters that loomed in the spray.

But there came to the captain a counsel more wise  
From the passengers gathered on deck:  
“Let him live, he is harmless, sir! yours is the sin  
If the good ship drives on to her wreck.

“Even now, on the verge of this terrible reef  
Let fresh men take the tiller in hand;  
And our duty, be sure, you will not have earned less  
That more wisely you've learned to command.”

Shout! shout! for the rescue! speed! speed the brave craft!  
She shall weather the wind and the wave;  
And old APATHY pensioned with grog shall narrate  
His escape from a watery grave.

#### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN BILL SYKES AND THE CREEPING CRACKSMAN ON MASONRY IN GENERAL AND G. L. IN PARTICULAR.

(ENCLOSURE I.).

forth o' Deesembur.

Vell, Bill, if this 'ere baint the rummest o' dodges  
As ever I see sin' I valked on the mill!

They vont let us pore convicks not enter no lodges,  
That 'ere blessed old registrar started it, Bill.

Now, ain't it cust 'ard, as a feller wot dresses  
As a gent 'ort to dress, Bill, like you or like me,  
Shood meet at a lodge with *Rejected* adresses  
Tho' they dubs 'im a Mason accepted and free?

Jest tip us a flimsy to say vot you think, Bill,  
(I've spouted my apern for kvorterns o' gin)  
It's all no use now, tho' you tips 'em the vink, Bill,  
So you'd best foller ditto and coller your tin.

Yure lovin

C. C.



(ENCLOSURE II.)

sicks dezer-

Aiteenfivtysicks.

Dear Creeper, I'd stand yer 3 arf pints o' porter  
 Not to feel, as vile in, ve vos nothink but fules,  
 Lor, the swag as ve'n mist, vy it makes my mouth vorter,  
 Them kollers, an' horders, an' allmity joo'ls !

But bles yer like brittns ve'll look on the brite side,  
 I've a cuzzen as gets in (e arn't bin took yet),  
 Gets into grand lodge, lad, an' wotes on the rite side,  
 An' agen e keps rite, oo noes vot he maint get ?

"Vell," e ses, "Bill," e ses, "ven the blue gents makes  
 moshuns

As our guvner don't like " (ere e kum to a paws),  
 "Vot d' yer think ? vy, e hax upon vun o' yure noshuns,  
 An' a stopper e clapps upon them 'ere gents jaws."

Vell, I'd eat a big brekfus, old pal, an' set laffing  
 Till I'd like to a' busted away on the spot ;  
 Vy they grabs all the grain, tho' they vont let the chaffin,  
 Kicks out the bad kracters, an' keeps the garotte.

Allers yours  
 W. S.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

## AN ENIGMA.

I am what this may be to you,  
 Strange, puzzling, wonderful, and new,  
 Sought out by those who know me not,  
 And soon as known, so soon forgot.  
 In me has been concealed the fate  
 Of young and old, of good and great ;  
 I shadow o'er a Prince's doom,  
 His shortened life and fated tomb :  
 The far-famed "Iron mask" to me  
 Owes half his sad celebrity ;  
 And ruined cities, proud and old,  
 My silent mantle round them fold,  
 Defying all the hopes of man,  
 Their origin and fate to scan.—  
 Long time ago man by my aid  
 A league with unknown ages made,  
 And undiscovered by the crowd,  
 Who yet my name proclaim aloud,  
 I hold o'er many a noble mind.  
 An influence to bless mankind.  
 E'en life so often hides in me  
 Its ever varying destiny,  
 That surely here you'll have a clue,  
 Reveal my name, and own me true.

Δ.

The following Resolutions have been adopted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West:—

Provincial Grand Lodge, C. W.  
 Toronto, October 23, 1856.

Resolved unanimously,

"That this P. Grand Lodge desires to express in the strongest terms their disapproval of the unjust and uncourteous treatment which they have experienced at the hands of the M. W. the Grand Master of England, and to express their conviction that most of the difficulty which has occurred in Canada has arisen from the loss or mislaying of documents transmitted by this Grand Lodge, in the Grand Secretary's office; and which, if they had been properly preserved and carefully read, would have removed that lamentable ignorance of Canadian affairs which has been exhibited by those high in office who ought to have been better acquainted with our position."

Resolved unanimously,

"That inasmuch as this P. G. Lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge of England through the M. W. the Grand Master, and in doing so imagined that they were paying the highest compliment to the M. W. the Grand Master; and inasmuch as the M. W. the Grand Master has refused to allow the Grand Lodge of England to be recognized in his person: Be it resolved, that this P. Grand Lodge do now present a petition to the Grand Lodge of England in the place of the one forwarded to the M. W. the Grand Master."

Resolved unanimously,

"That this P. Grand Lodge has been deeply pained that the Grand Master of England should have received in such a manner the constitutional conduct which this P. Grand Lodge has pursued throughout their difficulties and grievances; and their pain is rendered more intense that he should in any manner have blamed for unconstitutional conduct their Deputy P. Grand Master, who has, by the direction of the P. Grand Master, conducted the entire business of the Province, and whose zeal for Masonry, and whose efforts to maintain it in unsullied purity have gained for him the deepest respect of all true Masons of Canada."

Resolved unanimously,

"That the cordial thanks of this P. Grand Lodge be tendered to the Rev. Brother Portal for the interest he has taken in our affairs, and that he be requested to act as our representative in the Grand Lodge of England, and that the Grand Secretary be informed thereof."

FRANCIS RICHARDSON,  
 P. G. Secretary.

The following petitions have been received for presentation to G. L., but were inadvertently omitted by the Grand Secretary at the last Quarterly Communication:—

In favour of circulating business Paper—From lodges, Nos. 48, Bath—313, Dudley—349, Worcester—435, Tipton—689, Birmingham—772, Worcester—730, Dudley—819, Dudley—824, Stourbridge—838, Dudley.

In favour of granting petition of Prov. G. L. of Canada West—From lodges, Nos. 48, Bath—152, Southampton—313, Dudley—349, Worcester—435, Tipton—689, Birmingham—730, Dudley—772, Worcester—819, Dudley—824, Stourbridge—838, Dudley.

## Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MASONIC OBSERVER.

Dear Sir and Brother,

The remarkable contrast afforded by the Quarterly Communication of the 3rd instant, to the Special Grand Lodge of November 19th, cannot but be matter of congratulation to every true Mason. To what cause is to be attributed the conciliatory spirit which was undoubtedly evinced at the meeting first mentioned, it boots not to inquire. Whether the firm front presented by that largely in-

creasing body, both in number and influence, whose efforts are, and will continue to be, uncompromisingly directed to effect every rational improvement in Masonic Government, tended to produce the change; or whether it arose from the natural goodness of heart and amiability of disposition of the Noble Grand Master—to whom I gladly concede the possession of these qualities, and also the exercise of them when not under the control of irresponsible and mistaken, though doubtless well-intentioned, advisers—the result is equally satisfactory. It must not be thought for a moment, however, that our task is at an end. We must persevere with firmness and moderation till the “consummation so devoutly to be wished”—an entire change in policy with thorough efficiency in management, shall happily be arrived at. The resignation of the venerable Grand Secretary is undoubtedly a step in the right direction; though in saying this I intend no disrespect to that highly-esteemed Brother. His past services and great abilities well merit, and I trust will receive substantial recognition; but it would be false delicacy to shrink from the avowal of what is the almost universal opinion, that increasing years have rendered him unfit to cope with the laborious duties attached to his office. This is not the time to criticise the late proceedings, and I shall simply express the earnest hope that Bro. White may be spared to enjoy many years of that quiet and repose which his lengthened exertions have fairly earned for him. This, however, is not the only change that must be made. The remedy for the evils complained of consists not in the resignation or dismissal of this or that official—though there are Brethren occupying high stations whose retirement would not be deemed the greatest misfortune that could befall Masonry. What is wanted is the substitution of activity, energy, zeal, and courtesy, for carelessness, supineness, indifference, and irritability. The necessity of this will be duly estimated when the Canadian catastrophe is accomplished, as there is now but too much reason to fear will be the case. How easily this sad event might have been averted—how literally everything has been done to urge on its completion—will but too plainly appear on the publication of the Resolutions lately come to, and the proceedings subsequently taken, by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West.

It may suit those whose knowledge of Masonry is confined to what I think I may not unaptly call its externals, to brand the party to which I have alluded as “conspirators,” and to fasten upon them the stigma of “faction,” merely because they avail themselves of every legitimate opportunity to protest against what they believe to be a mistaken policy, and one fraught with danger to the best interests of an institution they revere and admire, and of which policy the unhappy results are, alas! but too patent. It is possible for those so maligned to survive such obloquy, being sustained by the consciousness of their own integrity and singleness of purpose: and they are quite willing to be judged by events. To this class of objectors there is no occasion for further reply. For another class, however, we entertain sincere respect. There are brethren of experience who have in every way evidenced their desire to promote the interests of our Order—whose opinion it is that dissensions under any circumstances must be productive of injury and mischief—that Freemasonry is an institution so peculiar in every respect, so delicate in its organisation, so different in its constitution from every other Society—that contact with the outer world should be studiously avoided, lest it lead to an examination into its nature and pretensions, of the consequences of which they are apprehensive. In short, they regard Masonry as a feeble, ricketty bantling, needing all fostering care and attention to keep it alive. While, on the other hand, I regard it as a strong, robust giant, able to grapple with any difficulties, to surmount any obstacles—only requiring to have his energies fully developed, his faculties freely cultivated, his abilities properly directed, to show how much good he is capable of effecting for the whole human race. I am in no way fearful of the result of any test to which Masonry may be submitted if only its government be sound, its direction efficient, its policy wise, liberal, and expansive. Equally sanguine am I of the results of the present movement. Doubtless, dissensions *are* to be lamented, but unity is often eliminated out of strife—and out of present evil future good may arise. Let those whose hearts are in the cause co-operate with those who have begun the good work, and when success shall have crowned our efforts let us not boast a victory, or vaunt a triumph, but prove by the moderation of our views that those efforts have been directed but to one end and aim—the promotion of the usefulness and efficiency of our Order.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDK. BINCKES,

W. M., No. 11.

Dec. 6th, 1856.

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## PROVINCIAL MESS.

IN order to facilitate the attendance of Provincial Brethren at the Quarterly Communications in London, the following arrangement has been made:—

1. Any Provincial Mason, on payment of £1 Annually, will be entitled to attend the Provincial Mess, at F. M. Tavern, on the day of each Quarterly Communication, when he will be provided with a plain dinner and a pint of wine.

2. All Country Lodges will be at liberty to subscribe at the same rate for any number of their members.

3. Provincial Masons who are not subscribers may attend the mess on payment of 7s. 6d.

4. Brethren attending in right of Lodge subscriptions, must bring a note from the W. M. of their lodge to authorize them in so doing.

5. Notice must be sent to “*The Landlord, Free Masons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, London,*” by every Brother intending to dine at the mess two days before each Quarterly Communication.

6. The chair will be taken at 5 p. m., by the Treasurer, or some Brother deputed by him.

7. Subscriptions must be paid in advance before the first Quarterly Communication, in each year, to the Treasurer, the Rev. George Raymond Portal, P. Prov. S. G. W., Oxon, 3, Wilton Crescent, London, by post-office order on the Knightsbridge Office.

The following WORKS have been recently published by  
R. E. PEACH, 8, Bridge Street, Bath.

TUNSTALL'S RAMBLES ABOUT BATH AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD. Illustrated with 14 Engravings and a Map of the Environs. New edition, price 5s.

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### NOTICE.

The MASONIC OBSERVER is published after each Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, and may be obtained direct from Bath; or from the London Publishers through any local bookseller. Communications must be addressed to the care of the Publisher, Bridge Street, Bath, not later than one week after each G. L.

Bath: Printed and Published by R. E. PEACH, 8, Bridge Street; and sold also by SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & Co., Stationers' Hall Court, London.